



Six Legal Professionals Participating in 2018-19 Distinguished Access to Justice Pro Bono Fellows Program

By Mark C. Surprenant

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Commission, co-chaired by Louisiana Supreme Court Justice James T. Genovese and Lafayette attorney Jeffrey K. Coreil, introduced its 2018-19 class of six Distinguished Access to Justice (ATJ) Pro Bono Fellows and partner host organizations at a ceremony at the Supreme Court in November 2018. These six new ATJ Fellows follow in the footsteps of the original 2017-18 class of five Fellows.

This LSBA program, launched in 2017 and only the second of its kind in the country, is for judges and lawyers willing to devote at least 20 hours per month in access to justice service. Each Distinguished ATJ Fellow partners with a host entity as they work together on their common goal of ensuring that each Louisiana citizen has

meaningful access to the judicial system regardless of their economic status.

"Access to justice is of critical importance to all of our citizens to ensure their right to fairly and impartially avail themselves of our judicial system," said LSBA 2018-19 President Barry H. Grodsky. "The work of these Distinguished Access to Justice Fellows shows just how important these rights are. The LSBA is very proud of what they have accomplished and we know that many will benefit from their continued efforts. They lead by example and the Bar hopes that others will follow this lead to help those who often are not able to help themselves. Congratulations to all of these Distinguished Access to Justice Fellows," Grodsky added.

The 2018-19 Distinguished ATJ Fellows, with their partner host organizations, are profiled below.

Terrel J. Broussard, Judge Pro Tempore / Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

Terrel J. Broussard has served as judge *pro tempore* on the Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal. He also has been a mediator at Broussard Dispute Solutions, L.L.C.; a partner at the New Orleans law firm of Montgomery Barnett, L.L.P.; and the general counsel for Hammerman & Gainer, Inc. He has served on the Board of Regents of Our Lady of Holy Cross College and on the board of directors for both Catholic Charities in New Orleans and the New Orleans Business Development District. He was an adjunct professor at Dillard University for 28 years and has been an ordained deacon in the Catholic Church for the past 19 years. As a Distinguished ATJ Fellow, Broussard will partner with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) and take a leadership role in helping

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Commission, co-chaired by Louisiana Supreme Court Justice James T. Genovese, second from right, and Lafayette attorney Jeffrey K. Coreil, far left, introduced its 2018-19 class of six Distinguished Access to Justice (ATJ) Pro Bono Fellows at a November 2018 ceremony at the Supreme Court. Fellows and others attending, from left, Coreil; 2017-19 LSBA Secretary John E. McAuliffe, Jr.; LSBAATJ Director Monte T. Mollere; Fellow Donald W. North; Fellow Frank X. Neuner, Jr.; Fellow Judge Harry R. Randow; Fellow Linton W. Carney; Fellow Joseph R. Oelkers III; Justice Genovese; and Mark C. Surprenant, chair of the LSBA Distinguished Access to Justice Pro Bono Fellows Program Committee. Not in photo is Fellow Terrel J. Broussard.

SLLS extend its outreach to senior citizens who often are unaware of how to address their legal concerns and needs. In addition, among other potential meaningful tasks, he will help SLLS develop a relationship with church-related entities which provide pro bono legal workshops for the poor in their parishes and neighborhoods. He will serve in a liaison role connecting those needy individuals and families to the services of SLLS.

Linton W. Carney / The Pro Bono Project

Linton Carney served as the first chief legal officer for The Pro Bono Project from 2009-16. He has continued to provide his knowledge and experience to The Project, its staff, clients and volunteers in all needed ways since his retirement. In 2016, Carney received the LSBA President's Access to Justice Award. Before joining The Project, he served as the executive director of AIDS Law after a successful career as a partner at the New Orleans law firm of Monroe & Lemann. He was a member of the LSBA's Access to Justice Committee for many years and served on the board for the initial LSBA Access to Justice Commission. As an ATJ Fellow, Carney will continue to provide his assistance and experience to The Pro Bono Project and its clients.

Frank X. Neuner, Jr. / Legal Services Corporation

In June 2018, Frank X. Neuner, Jr. was appointed by President Trump to serve on the board of directors of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans. Acadiana Legal Service Corp. and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services are the LSC-funded entities in Louisiana. Neuner is the founder and managing partner of the NeunerPate law firm in Lafayette. Among his many accomplishments, he served as LSBA president in 2005-06; chaired the Louisiana Public Defender Board from 2008-13; received the Louisiana Bar Foundation Distinguished Attorney Award in 2013; and received the David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 because of his outstanding volunteer work in the access to justice arena throughout his career. As an ATJ Fellow, Neuner's leadership role with the LSC will be invaluable to Acadiana Legal Service Corp. and Southeast Louisiana

Legal Services as they deal with funding and other issues which can jeopardize the work they do for those in need.

Donald W. North / Southern University Law Center

Donald North has been a highly regarded member of the faculty of Southern University Law Center since 1998. He was the law school's clinical education program director for 14 years. He is presently in charge of the law school's pro bono program which not only educates students about access to justice needs, issues and concerns, but also places them within the access to justice world with various courts, legal services providers, state agencies and public defender offices. Before becoming a member of the Southern University Law Center faculty, North served in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General Corps. After leaving active duty, he worked for the Louisiana Department of Justice as an assistant attorney general, serving as a prosecutor in the criminal and Medicaid fraud divisions. He also is a current member of the LSBA's Board of Governors as the representative from Southern University Law Center. He frequently offers pro bono legal services to the public defender office in Baton Rouge. As an ATJ Fellow, he will continue the work he does daily for the students at Southern University Law Center as he grows and develops the next generation of ATJ leaders.

Joseph R. Oelkers III / Acadiana Legal Service Corp.

Joseph R. Oelkers III was the founder and executive director of Acadiana Legal Service Corp. (ALSC) from 1978-2016. Since 2016, he has continued to volunteer countless hours and provide his wisdom, experience and advice to ALSC in all requested and needed ways. In 2017, he received the Calogero Justice Award from the Louisiana Bar Foundation. Over his career, Oelkers has held many leadership positions. He is a former president of the Lafayette Bar Association and chaired the LSBA Access to Justice Committee for 10 years. He also was on the board of the first Access to Justice Commission. As an ATJ Fellow, he will continue his relationship with ALSC as they work to assist Louisiana individuals and families in need.



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice James T. Genovese, co-chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Commission, addressed attendees at the ceremony introducing the 2018-19 class of Distinguished Access to Justice Pro Bono Fellows.

Judge Harry F. Randow / Louisiana Access to Justice Commission

After a successful private practice, Judge Harry F. Randow was first elected to the 9th Judicial District Court in Rapides Parish in 1998. He was re-elected in 2002 and in 2008. He also served as chief judge of that court. He is a member of the Louisiana District Judges Association. He has served as a board member of the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission from its beginning and was a former member of the LSBA's Access to Justice Committee. Judge Randow has been involved in several projects of the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission over the years. He is an example to other judges, either still on the bench or retired, as to the importance of community service and involvement in access to justice issues. He is the first former full-time district court judge as a Distinguished ATJ Fellow and is an excellent model for other judges to follow his lead and become part of this program. As an ATJ Fellow, he will continue his work with the Access to Justice Commission.

Future Fellows and Partner Host Entities

Anyone interested in participating in this program, either as a Fellow or as a partner host entity, should email Mark C. Surprenant at mark.surprenant@arlaw.com.

Mark C. Surprenant, a partner in the New Orleans office of Adams and Reese, L.L.P., is the chair of the LSBA Distinguished Access to Justice Pro Bono Fellows Program Committee. (mark.surprenant@arlaw.com; One Shell Square, Ste. 4500, 701 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70139)