

Attorneys Volunteer Talent for “Lawyers in Libraries” Service Programs

By Joanna Laidler

For the fifth consecutive year, Louisiana attorneys provided much-needed legal assistance to the public during the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) "Lawyers in Libraries" week of service, held in conjunction with National Celebrate Pro Bono Week. Between Oct. 22-27, Louisiana attorneys provided free, limited legal services to the public via libraries across the state, helping hundreds of Louisiana residents who likely would not otherwise have access to counsel.

In proclaiming Oct. 22-27 as "Celebrate Pro Bono Week" in Louisiana, Gov. John Bel Edwards noted that "access to civil legal aid attorneys can mean the difference between shelter and homelessness, economic stability and bankruptcy, positive work and unemployment." Currently, 19.7 percent of Louisianians live below the federal poverty line, the second highest poverty rate in the nation.

"The Lawyers in Libraries project and other access to justice initiatives are vital to ensure that people receive justice, are able to identify their legal options, and have access to the court system, regardless of financial circumstance," said Louisiana Supreme Court Justice James T. Genovese, co-chair of the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission.

There were many success stories during the "Lawyers in Libraries" week of service. This year, more than 115 attor-



Attorney Adolph B. Curet III, center, presented a program at the St. Mary Parish Library in Franklin. With him are Connie Durocher and Franklin branch staff.

ney volunteers provided legal assistance to hundreds of people, with 81 separate events scheduled in 60 parishes.

LSBA Secretary John E. McAuliffe, Jr. said there was an "unbelievable turnout" at Ascension Parish Library for attorney Linda S. Melancon's presentation on "Estate and Elder Law Planning." Ascension Parish Librarian Chriselle Henry concurred, saying the response to

Melancon's presentation was "huge."

In St. Bernard Parish, library staff member Janet Perez said attorney volunteers served 52 residents seeking advice and indicated that the total number of people served was "probably higher as several people were accompanied by a second individual." Perez, who worked closely with attorneys J. Van Robichaux, Jr. and Daniel W. Nodurft to coordinate the event in St. Bernard Parish, noted, "I am so very proud of what our attorneys do. It is my privilege to be able to assist them."

Launched in 2014, "Lawyers in Libraries" is part of the Legal Education & Assistance Program (LEAP), an ongoing collaboration between the LSBA's Access to Justice Department, the Law Library of Louisiana and Louisiana public libraries statewide. LEAP aims to provide support to public librarians throughout the state by providing them with appropriate training and resources to help patrons with their legal questions. Although librarians are unable to provide legal advice, they are well placed to provide critical legal information for people in search of legal assistance, including referrals to attorneys and legal aid organizations.



Attorney Lakethia B. Bryant, center, presented a program at the Assumption Parish Library in Napoleonville. With her are Librarian Alexis Richard, left, and Librarian Paula Blanchard.



Attorney Linda S. Melancon, left, presented a program at Ascension Parish Library in Prairieville. With her is Librarian Chriselle Henry.



Attorney Aaron R. Wilson, left, presented a program at the Webster Parish Library. With him is Library Assistant Director Savannah Jones.

The LSBA would like to acknowledge Louisiana libraries, the LSBA members who volunteered in their communities, and the pro bono agencies, bar associations, private practitioners and legal service providers who helped to coordinate events in individual parishes. Attorneys are encouraged to volunteer at their local libraries throughout the year. For more information on the program, go to: www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org.

“Lawyers in Libraries” Attorney Volunteers

Acadia Parish: Taylor M. Robinson.
Allen Parish: Adam P. Johnson.
Ascension Parish: Linda S. Melancon.
Assumption Parish: Lakethia B. Bryant.
Avoyelles Parish: Douglas L. Bryan and Charles A. Riddle III.
Beauregard Parish: Jodi C. Andrews.
Bienville Parish: Russell A. Woodard.
Bossier Parish: Pamela R. Jones.
Caddo Parish: Brittany B. Arvie, Monique I. Davis, Felicia M. Hamilton,

Ebonee R. Norris and Sherron Phae Williams.

Calcasieu Parish: Mark M. Judson.
Cameron Parish: Jennifer A. Jones and Shermin S. Khan.
Catahoula Parish: Walter P. McClatchey, Jr.
Claiborne Parish: Jerry Edwards and Charles E. Tabor.
Concordia Parish: Harrece C. Gassery.
DeSoto Parish: Aaron R. Wilson.
East Baton Rouge Parish: Andrea M. Agee, Joaquin M. Johnson, Chambolyn C. Terrance and Jane Arieux Thomas.
East Carroll Parish: Laurie Reis Brister.
East Feliciana Parish: Sarah J. Bradley.
Evangeline Parish: Alexander T. Hautot.
Grant Parish: Lewis M. Gladney.
Iberia Parish: Mckinley B. James, Jr.
Iberville Parish: Leah Poole and Perry W. Terrebonne.
Jackson Parish: J. Michael Rhymes.
Jefferson Davis Parish: Lauren C. Heinen.

Jefferson Parish: Herman L. Bastian, Jr., David W. Birdsong, Jeremy S. Epstein, Keren E. Gesund, Robert A. Kutcher, James G. Maquire and Dayal S. Reddy.
Lafayette Parish: Aaron D. Beyt, Stuart R. Breaux, Claire B. Edwards and Courtney H. Guillory.
Lafourche Parish: David C. Peltier.
LaSalle Parish: Christie C. Wood.
Lincoln Parish: Tracy W. Houck.
Livingston Parish: Amanda L. Brown.
Madison Parish: Angela L. Claxton.
Morehouse Parish: Kandice N. Guice.
Natchitoches Parish: O. Edwin Dunahoe, Jr., C. Edward Harrington and K. Jacob Ruppert.
Orleans Parish: Andrea M. Agee, Dara L. Baird, A. Patrick Dehon, Jr., Veleka Eskinde, Amanda J. Hunt, James A. Lightfoot, Leonor E. Prieto, Matthew S. Smith and Mark A. Vicknair.
Ouachita Parish: Shereba L. Diaz and LaKeisha J. Johnson.
Plaquemines Parish: Elizabeth S. Meneray.
Pointe Coupee Parish: Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr., J. Lane Ewing, Jr. and Scott L. Smith, Jr.

Rapides Parish: Michael S. Koch, Chris J. Roy, Jr. and H. Gregory Walker, Jr.

Red River Parish: Aaron R. Wilson.

Richland Parish: Myrt T. Hales, Jr. and Joshua L. Strickland.

St. Bernard Parish: Eric A. Bopp, Lisa Borne, Michael C. Ginart, Jr., Daniel W. Nodurft and J. Van Robichaux, Jr.

St. Charles Parish: Scott J. Falgoust and Michele C. Stross.

St. Helena Parish: Sean P. Brady.

St. James Parish: Monique M. Edwards.

St. John the Baptist Parish: Nghana Lewis Gauff.

St. Landry Parish: George F. Severson.

St. Martin Parish: Neal C. Angelle.

St. Mary Parish: Adolph B. Curet III.

St. Tammany Parish: Clayton J. Borne, Jason M. Freas, Janet L. MacDonell, Michael W. Margiotta, Jr., Daniel A. Oppenheim, Patrice W. Oppenheim, Frances M. Strayham, Michelle D. Sunseri and Angela Cox Williams.

Tangipahoa Parish: Elsbet C. Smith and Chehardy Sherman Williams.

Tensas Parish: J. McCaleb Bilbro.

Terrebonne Parish: Michael J.



Attorney Shereba L. Diaz, third from left, presented a program at the Ouachita Parish Library. With her are, from left, Jade Wheeler, head of reference; Holly Priestly, main branch manager; and Leslie Plauche, IT assistant.

Billiot, Lakethia B. Bryant, Maria E. Dugas and Linda A. Mitchell.

Union Parish: Kandice N. Guice.

Vermilion Parish: Burton P. Guidry.

Vernon Parish: Michael S. Koch, Paul J. Tellarico and H. Gregory Walker, Jr.

Washington Parish: Cynthia F. Schmidt.

Webster Parish: Aaron R. Wilson.

West Carroll Parish: Sophia Dixon Brown.

West Feliciana Parish: Gregory L. Hughes.

Winn Parish: Lewis M. Gladney.

Continued next page



Attorney Michele C. Stross, left, presented a program at St. Charles Parish Library in Destrehan. With her is Librarian Lauren Pitz.



Attorney Leonor E. Prieto, right, presented a program at Orleans Parish's Rosa Keller Library. With her is Librarian Rachel Bailey.



Attorneys, from left, Michael C. Ginart, Jr., J. Van Robichaux, Jr., Lisa Borne and Daniel W. Nodurft presented a program at the St. Bernard Parish Library in Chalmette.

“Lawyers in Libraries” Organizations

Acadiana Legal Service Corp.
 Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project
 Crescent Care Legal Services
 Family Justice Center
 Lafayette Bar Association

Legacy Estate & Elder Law of Louisiana, L.L.C.
 Loyola University Law Clinic
 Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
 Southwest Louisiana Law Center
 Terrebonne Parish Bar Association

Joanna Laidler is the administrative assistant for the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Access to

Justice Department. She works with the access to justice director to coordinate and facilitate the work of the Access to Justice Committee, including the “Lawyers in Libraries” project. (joanna.laidler@lsba.org; 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130)



Important Reminder: Lawyer Advertising Filing Requirement

Per Rule 7.7 of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, all lawyer advertisements and all unsolicited written communications sent in compliance with Rule 7.4 or 7.6(c) — unless specifically exempt under Rule 7.8 — *are required to be filed* with the LSBA Rules of Professional Conduct Committee, through LSBA Ethics Counsel, prior to or concurrent with first

use/dissemination. Written evaluation for compliance with the Rules will be provided within 30 days of receipt of a complete filing. Failure to file/late filing will expose the advertising lawyer(s) to risk of challenge, complaint and/or disciplinary consequences.

The necessary Filing Application Form, information about the filing and evaluation process, the required

filing fee(s) and the pertinent Rules are available online at: <http://www.lsba.org/members/LawyerAdvertising.aspx>.

Inquiries, questions and requests for assistance may be directed to LSBA Ethics Counsel Richard P. Lemmler, Jr., RLemmler@LSBA.org, (800)421-5722, ext. 144, or direct dial (504)619-0144.