

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN

2011-2012

Revised by the ATJ Technology Subcommittee on December 2, 2011

Accepted by the Louisiana Legal Services Project Directors on December 15, 2011

Approved by the LSBA Access to Justice Policy Committee on December 16, 2011

To provide direction for Louisiana's technology planning, the Access to Justice Technology Subcommittee adopted the following vision statement:

Our vision is to develop uses of technology to promote both self-help and high quality representation to clients and to increase statewide communication and collaboration in order to enhance access to justice for citizens of Louisiana.

In support of the vision statement, the ATJ Technology Subcommittee will review the technology plan as needed to re-evaluate goals. The following constitutes the Plan of this subcommittee through the end of the 2011-2012 Bar year.

A. Support for statewide technology: The LSBA supports the efforts of the legal service and pro bono programs in their mission to provide access to justice for all. To improve the ability to share information and resources among legal service providers, the LSBA has encouraged the use of technology as one method to assure that Louisiana citizens can obtain legal services with minimal duplication of effort. Because technology can be used to equalize partners' ability to assist the poor and maintain effective and efficient delivery, the subcommittee will select goals and action items with the intent of benefitting all members of the non-profit legal provider community.

Goal 1. Identification and evaluation of technology- Subcommittee will identify and evaluate technology currently in use or new technology of interest for use in non-profit legal firms

Action Items:

- a. Members will identify software or hardware used in their office which has been used to improve services or increase staff efficiency.
- b. Members will identify new technologies of interest which have potential to benefit service delivery in the state justice community
- c. Members will develop an evaluation method for testing and create reports noting the products' pros, cons, cost, features, and a recommendation.

Goal 2. Technology Training- To ensure that all SCMS users benefit from the features of the SCMS and other technologies, the Subcommittee will assist programs in determining possible new, useful technologies and whether further training of current technologies is recommended.

Action Items:

- a. Complete a technology needs survey using SurveyMonkey or similar web-based survey tool.
- b. The Subcommittee will recommend technology training topics based on survey results to:
 - i. the SCMS Steering Group as well as
 - ii. Technology topics for the 2012 annual Justice Conference

Goal 3. *The subcommittee will support efforts to obtain technology grants to assist civil justice community partners in developing and maintaining technological advancements.*

Action Items:

- a. The Subcommittee will schedule brain storming sessions to discuss possible technology projects and potential partners by February 15 for TIG Letter of Intent submissions.
- b. The list of potential projects will be sent to the LSC programs for consideration for actual TIG proposal.
- c. If requested, subcommittee members will assist in preparing portions of the grant application.
- d. Upon approval of the LSBA, the Technology Coordinator will support the grant application process or project development of statewide technology projects.

B. Statewide Technology Plan: *The Subcommittee will periodically re-evaluate the Statewide Technology Plan and adjust its focus as reflected in the feedback from non-profit legal providers and requests from the ATJ Policy Committee.*

Action Items:

- a. The Subcommittee will *re-evaluate the plan by the end of April to determine if revision is needed.*
- b. The Plan will be *posted on LSBA.org and probono.net/la.*

To conclude, this subcommittee has supported and will continue to support the statewide websites, active TIG projects as well as other self-help and pro se support projects in which technology is a component. Over time, on-going support efforts have become a routine part of our members' access to justice efforts and we do not see those efforts weakening. One aspect of this support has been provided through the LSBA ATJ Department which has arranged for payment and recording of annual justice conference sessions and making links available to the probono.net/la website; ATJ will continue this support as long as support funding continues.

Jane A. Thomas
Chair, ATJ Technology Subcommittee
Date