

## 4th Judicial District Court and LSBA launch Legal Self-Help website

The 4th Judicial District Court, in conjunction with the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), recently launched a new self-help website for Ouachita and Morehouse parishes. The “Virtual Self-Help Resource Center” provides the public with legal information, helpful resources and information to help identify local non-profit and governmental agencies that may be able to provide representation or assist with both legal and non-legal issues. The center may be accessed online at: [www.4thjdcselfhelp.com](http://www.4thjdcselfhelp.com).

“We are seeing in our courts an increasing number of people appearing without counsel, primarily in family law matters,” said Judge C. Wendell Manning of the 4th Judicial District. “These individuals often cannot afford counsel, yet need to have their issues addressed. This website will help those with a legal problem identify other resources in the community which may be of assistance. We want to thank our project partners who have assisted in the creation of this website.”

The Virtual Self-Help Resource Center is the first website to provide legal information and forms for domestic matters to northeast Louisiana residents unable to afford an attorney. The website provides



Attending the ceremony launching the 4th Judicial District Court’s self-help website were, from left, Hon. C. Wendell Manning, Ouachita Parish Clerk of Court Louise Bond, Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr., 4th JDC Bar Association President Shereba L. Diaz, LSBA ATJ Self-Represented Litigation Counsel Michael W. Schachtman and 4th JDC Hearing Officer Vicki L. Green.

help with common civil legal issues, but is not designed to cover every aspect of the law nor replace the role of an attorney. In fact, the only legal “advice” contained on the site is that litigants are always better off

with an attorney.

Information is also available via mobile devices. Those who need help accessing the website or printing out materials can visit their local library for assistance. 📱

## LSBA President Shea encourages participation in “Day of Service”

Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President Joseph L. (Larry) Shea, Jr. is encouraging Louisiana lawyers to recognize Thursday, Oct. 23, as a “Day of Service” to the public by volunteering for the LSBA’s “Lawyers in Libraries” initiative.

The initiative advances both the Legal Education and Assistance Program

(LEAP) and Louisiana’s participation in the National Pro Bono Celebration Week (Oct. 19-25).

“Lawyers in Libraries,” an important component of LEAP, was designed in partnership with the Louisiana Library Association to deliver legal information and resources through public libraries.

“The goal for our Day of Service will

be to have an attorney in a library in each parish to address the public on various legal issues through public education or advice sessions,” Shea said.

For more information on the event or to volunteer, contact LSBA Access to Justice Director Monte T. Mollere at (800)421-5722, ext.146, or (504)619-0146; or email [mmollere@lsba.org](mailto:mmollere@lsba.org). 📱

Procrastination, file stagnation & neglect, inability to meet professional or personal obligations or deadlines

Inability to open mail or answer phones, "emotional paralysis"

Feelings of bafflement, confusion, loneliness, isolation, desolation and being overwhelmed

Persistent apathy or "empty" feeling

Drug or alcohol abuse

Changes in energy, eating or sleep habits

Trouble concentrating or remembering things

Loss of interest or pleasure, dropping hobbies

Guilt, feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, worthlessness, or low self-esteem

A Johns Hopkins study found that lawyers suffer from depression at a rate 3.6 times higher than the general employed population.

# We Can Help.

The signs of depression aren't easy to read. No one is completely immune. If you or a colleague experiences signs of depression, please call.



**L · A · P**

**LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INC.**

Your call is absolutely confidential as a matter of law.

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