LIFT Fellowship Program helping new lawyers build their careers

The Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT) Fellowship Program, a project of the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, has been established to provide a one- to two-year fellowship for young lawyers (with zero to five years of practice experience) seeking to develop an innovative, public interest-oriented solo or small firm practice.

The LIFT program is designed to support these lawyers in developing cutting-edge practices, sustaining profitable careers and serving the public interest through excellent legal services.

In partnership with the Louisiana State Bar Association, LIFT Fellows are supported in reaching these goals through resources such as mentoring, CLEs, practice management training, networking and referrals.

For more information on the program and application procedures, go to: www.laciviljustice.org, then click on “Programs/Young Lawyer Incubator.”

Children’s Law Committee completes “Child in Need of Care” video

The Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Children’s Law Committee has produced a new film titled “Who’s Looking Out for Me? An Introduction to the Court System.” The film is targeted to children who are entering the “Child in Need of Care” legal process. The film is available to all courts, attorneys and agencies who work with children or parents.

“‘Child in Need of Care’ legal proceedings are extremely difficult for all parties involved, especially children. Not only is the subject matter often traumatic, but the proceedings are quite complex. The child, the parents and the state all have separate representation. There are also many procedural steps and time restraints required by law. The film will guide the children through the proceedings,” said Cherrilyynne W. Thomas, LSBA Children’s Law Committee co-chair and Orleans Parish assistant district attorney.

“The film’s script was written to effectively convey this information to children as an orientation to the courtroom. Additionally, several young adults who experienced these proceedings as youth graciously and courageously provided candid interviews about their experience. It is our hope that the addition of young adults in the film will help young people feel more comfortable about the process,” added Committee Co-Chair Judge Sandra C. Jenkins of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal.

“Who’s Looking Out for Me?” was produced following the success of the Children’s Law Committee’s previous film on foster care. In addition to many courthouses, the offices of child advocacy attorneys and organizations around the state, the video can be found online at: www.lsba.org/childrenslaw.