

Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit www.lsba.org/atj.

Leadership LSBA class presenting first legal aid hackathon, “Hackcess to Justice Louisiana”

The Leadership LSBA class has partnered with the *ABA Journal* to present the state’s first legal aid hackathon, “Hackcess to Justice Louisiana.” The March 21-22 event will be conducted at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. The hackathon presents an opportunity for participants to use their legal, entrepreneurial, coding and other skills to help create a technology-enabled solution for the numerous challenges faced by citizens who cannot afford a lawyer and the lawyers trying to serve them.

“Hackcess to Justice Louisiana” will bring together legal professionals and the tech community to address specific problems faced by legal aid providers. Programmers and devel-

opers will be asked to create technological solutions to increase and streamline access to justice. These solutions could be in the form of code, software, mobile applications, websites, blogs, etc.


Representatives from legal aid organizations throughout Louisiana will be on site to discuss the unique issues that they and their clients face and the types of solutions they seek. Anyone who has an idea on how to help legal aid lawyers and their clients can attend the hackathon and pitch their ideas to interested programmers. The judges will award three prizes to the winning teams: \$1,500 to the first place submission; \$1,000 to the second place submission; and \$500 to the third place submission.

Knowing the basics of coding is an in-

credibly valuable skill for any business professional, so the hackathon will also include a bonus session for those not competing.

R. Judson Mitchell, chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Access to Justice Tech Committee, will present a free “How to Code” session on March 22 for anyone interested in learning more about how to program websites, games and apps.

The public is invited to watch the pitch competition and judging beginning at 4:30 p.m. on March 22.

More information on “Hackcess to Justice Louisiana,” including a full description of the rules and a space to register online, can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/oa2uwf5>. 

ATJ Program announces launch of LEAP

The Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Access to Justice Program has announced the launch of the Legal Education & Assistance Program (LEAP). In partnership with public libraries across the state, LEAP will provide legal information and resources to the public via local libraries, training for library staff on how to respond to legal questions, and opportunities for attorneys to help their communities through “Lawyers in Libraries” events.

LEAP is a partnership of the LSBA, the Louisiana Library Association, the Law Library of Louisiana, the Louisiana State University Law Library, among others.


Librarians have always fielded legal questions from the public, but their ability to assist has been limited due to concerns of potential liability or cautions against providing legal advice — the unauthorized practice of law. Through regional training of public librarians, LEAP expands the ca-



capacity of librarians to identify reliable and free resources and their ability to connect the public to the private bar, legal aid and helpful materials.

Attorneys are encouraged to participate in local “Lawyers in Libraries” events, an important component of LEAP. This generally entails taking part in “Ask-a-Lawyer” sessions or giving presentations on a specific legal topic.

For more information, including pro bono resources, visit: www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org.

To offer services for “Lawyers in Libraries” events, contact Michael Schachtman in the Access to Justice Department at michael.schachtman@lsba.org. 

BAR 101 ONLINE VIDEO SERIES



To see Bar 101 videos, visit www.lsba.org/Members/bar101.aspx

The Bar 101 Video Series offers a quick look inside different aspects of the LSBA. Learn about new and noteworthy LSBA projects, free professional services offered by the Bar, and how the Association can aid in everyday practice management. Everyone can learn something new from this series, from the newest LSBA members to the most seasoned attorneys.



Registration open for April 17 Social Security disability CLE

Registration is still open for the Friday, April 17, CLE program, "Social Security Disability: Opportunities for Solo and Small Firm Practitioners." This third part of the Disabilities-Related Legal Series will be conducted at the Shreveport Bar Center, 625 Texas St., Shreveport.

The seminar is presented by the Shreveport Bar Association, in conjunction with the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee and the LSBA's Diversity Committee.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSD or SSDI) is vital to the well-being of disabled individuals who are unable to work. Lawyers play a vital role in this

process by advocating for clients' rights to awards and ensuring that cases are adjudicated properly. The demand for counsel in this area has risen in recent years, particularly in north Louisiana, as the median age of the state continues to rise and fewer attorneys enter this field.

This session will provide an overview of Social Security appeals and include practical tips for ensuring high-quality representation and soliciting immediate business. The information and resources provided are particularly pertinent to relatively new practitioners and/or those looking to expand their practice into this area.

Speakers include Hon. John Antonowicz, administrative law judge, Office

of Disability Adjudication and Review, Shreveport; Margherita McWilliams, Legal Services of North Louisiana, Shreveport; and attorney John Ratcliff, Shreveport.

Cost is \$100 for Shreveport Bar Association members; \$120, non-members of the Shreveport Bar; free to public interest attorneys; and free to attorneys who agree to accept a pro bono case on the seminar topic. Lunch will be served and is included in the fee.

Organizers have applied for 2 hours of CLE credit.

To register online, go to: www.lsbabar.org/CLE/CLESeminar.aspx?CLESeminar=b2dabd5d-e209-4380-acf2-577688cda269.

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