

Focus on *Access to Justice*

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

Naturalization CLE conducted in Alexandria for non-immigration practitioners


The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Department, the Central Louisiana Interfaith Immigration Center and the Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project co-sponsored a Feb. 18 immigration CLE seminar, "Naturalization 101: A Primer for Non-Immigration Practitioners." The seminar, conducted at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria, was an introduction for non-immigration attorneys to the world of naturalization, including immigration terminology, eligibility, requirements and forms necessary for navigating United States citizenship through naturalization.

"While Louisiana boasts a growing immigrant population, in particular, in the years post-Katrina, immigration representation rates in the state are among the lowest in the nation," said Glenda McGraw Regnart, executive director of the Central Louisiana Interfaith Immigration Center and a presenter at the seminar. "By providing naturalization training to attorneys



The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Department, the Central Louisiana Interfaith Immigration Center and the Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project co-sponsored a Feb. 18 immigration CLE seminar in Alexandria. From left, Debra Smith, Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project; Glenda McGraw Regnart, Central Louisiana Interfaith Immigration Center; Kathleen C. Gasparian, Gasparian Immigration; and attorney Graham Bateman.

in central Louisiana, an area where an immigration bar does not exist, we hope that those trained can assist clients with obtaining the rights of citizenship and become fully admitted to our political and economic community," Regnart said.

Other presenters were Kathleen C. Gasparian, with Gasparian Immigration, and attorney Graham Bateman. Attorneys with practices ranging from civil to criminal law from several parts of the state attended the two-hour program. 

LCJC launching "Justice Tour" this month

The Louisiana Civil Justice Center (LCJC) is setting out across Louisiana on a "Justice Tour" to address overwhelming legal need in the state's poorest and most underserved parishes. Beginning March 28, tour participants will make 15 stops in four geographical areas, helping residents of parishes experiencing extreme income inequality to overcome civil legal barriers by providing critical legal information, assistance and resources free of charge.

The LCJC will hold free civil legal clinics at parish libraries, providing low-income residents with much needed legal resources tailored to local need. The tour will make multiple stops in East Carroll Parish, the northeastern parish featured



on the CNN documentary "The Most Unequal Place in America;" according to the most recent census data, roughly 48 percent of the parish's population lives below the poverty line.

"With poverty comes inequality, and with inequality comes injustice," said

Jonathan M. Rhodes, executive director of the LCJC. "The Justice Tour will bring lawyers to the parts of our state that are in the greatest need with the goal of ensuring justice, equality and prosperity for all," Rhodes said.

In addition to holding free legal clinics, the LCJC will meet with representatives of local businesses, community organizations and legal services organizations to discuss the main legal challenges facing each parish and build awareness about the services that the LCJC offers. Moreover, the LCJC will use documentary footage of the tour to draw attention to the intersecting challenges of income inequality and

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legal need in the rural areas most impacted by Louisiana's growing justice gap.

The tour schedule includes these locations:

Northeast

- ▶ Concordia: March 28 clinic, 1-3 p.m., 408 Texas St., Vidalia.
- ▶ Tensas: March 29 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 135 Plank Rd., St Joseph.
- ▶ Madison: March 30 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 403 N. Mulberry St., Tallulah.
- ▶ East Carroll: March 31 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 109 Sparrow St., Lake Providence.

Southwest

- ▶ Cameron: April 18 clinic, 1-3 p.m., 501 Marshall St., Cameron.
- ▶ Iberia: April 19 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 445 E. Main St., New Iberia.
- ▶ Acadia: April 20 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 1125 N. Parkerson Ave., Crowley.
- ▶ Lafayette: April 21 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 301 W. Congress St., Lafayette.


Northern

- ▶ East Carroll: June 28 clinic, 1-3 p.m., 109 Sparrow St., Lake Providence.
- ▶ West Carroll: June 29 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 101 Marietta St., Oak Grove.

- ▶ Webster: June 30 clinic, time TBD, 521 East and West St., Minden.
- ▶ Caddo: July 1 clinic, time TBD, 424 Texas St., Shreveport.


Southeast

- ▶ Plaquemines: Oct. 10 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 35572 Highway II, Buras.
- ▶ Lafourche: Oct. 11 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 16241 E. Main St., Cut Off.
- ▶ Terrebonne: Oct. 12 clinic, 10 a.m.-noon, 151 Library Dr., Houma.

To learn more about the LCJC and the tour, go to: www.laciviljustice.org. 


Nomination deadline is March 31 for Kimball Award

The nomination deadline is Thursday, March 31, for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Catherine D. Kimball Award for Advancement of the Administration of Justice. The award, established to honor Catherine D. Kimball, the first woman to serve as chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, is open to both attorneys and judges who have conducted exceptional outreach activities that support the goals and purposes of the judicial branch.

For more information on the award and to download a nomination form, go to: <https://www.bit.ly/21Zz42n>. 


Nomination deadline is March 25 for Civics in Action Award

The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) is accepting nominations for its Civics in Action Award through March 25. The award recognizes a middle or high school student who exemplifies what it means to be an engaged citizen and who has made a difference or an improvement of the quality of life in his/her school, home or community through the use of civic engagement.

There are no restrictions on who can make a nomination. For more information and to access a nomination form, go to: www.lalce.org/awards.html. 

Professionalism Speakers' Workshop set for May 13


The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Committee on the Profession's Professionalism Speakers' Workshop is set for 1-4 p.m. Friday, May 13, at the Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans. Anyone interested in becoming a better speaker on professionalism topics should register for this free, highly interactive workshop.

For more information or to register, contact LSBA Professional Programs Counsel for Practice Assistance Bill King at (504)619-0109 or email bking@lsba.org. 

Members certified elected in 3 runoff races

Three Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members were certified elected for leadership positions following the close of runoff voting on Feb. 1.

Two Nominating Committee positions were filled — Frank A. Fertitta, District 2A; and Robert L. Bussey, District 3C.

Cristin F. Bordelon was elected to the First Board District seat on the LSBA Young Lawyers Division Council. 



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