Louisiana attorneys volunteer time and talent for “Lawyers in Libraries” Day of Service

Louisiana pro bono attorneys provided much-needed legal assistance during the Oct. 29 “Lawyers in Libraries” Day of Service program. The 133 attorney volunteers conducted 73 events, reaching more than 600 people. “Lawyers in Libraries,” an ongoing collaboration between the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Access to Justice Department and the Louisiana Library Association, directly connects the public with counsel and makes people aware of resources available to them.

The LSBA would like to acknowledge the LSBA members who volunteered on Oct. 29 at libraries in their communities and the agencies helping to coordinate the volunteers.

“Lawyers in Libraries” Volunteers
Acadia Parish: Greg Landry
Allen Parish: Adam Johnson
Ascension Parish: Artis Ulmer
Assumption Parish: Leah Poole
Avoyelles Parish: Cory Roy, Ben James, Doug Bryan, Charles Riddle and Brandon Scott
Beauregard Parish: Lawanda Gibson
Bienville Parish: Melanie Shrell
Bossier Parish: Felicia Hamilton and Dayan Ryan
Caddo Parish: John Frazier
Calcasieu Parish: Tom Shea
Caldwell Parish: Dina Domangue
Cameron Parish: Jennifer Jones
Catahoula Parish: Christie Wood
Claiborne Parish: Jerry Edwards and Charlie Tabor
Concordia Parish: Amelia Hoppe and Jonathan Rhodes
DeSoto Parish: Hon. Gary Evans
East Baton Rouge Parish: Annette Petitier and Luis Leitzelar
East Carroll Parish: Laurie Brister
East Feliciana Parish: Sara Bradley
Evangeline Parish: Laura Picard
Franklin Parish: Emily Shields, E. McIntyre, Scott Sartin and Caroline Hemphill
Grant Parish: Gwenda Lamb
Iberia Parish: Julie Rosenzweig
Iberville Parish: Wendy Rammarine and Thomas McCormick
Jackson Parish: Mike Rhymes
Jefferson Parish: Jeremy Epstein, Jacqueline Epstein, James Maguire, Shayna Beevers, Thomas Robbins and Martha Maher
Jefferson Davis Parish: David Marcantel
Lafayette Parish: Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers
Lafourche Parish: John Sirois
LaSalle Parish: Carmen Ryland and Brian Frazier
Lincoln Parish: Paul Lensing
Livingston Parish: Sam Pleasant
Madison Parish: Edwin Moberley
Morehouse Parish: Jay Mitchell
Natchitoches Parish: Lewis Gladney
Orleans Parish: Kelsey Jarrett, Elizabeth Meneray, Kimya Holmes, Charles Nelson, Jason Freas, Michelle Semmes, John Bihm, Margaret Woodward, Roy Bellina, Leandro Area, Bonnie Dye and Thomas Dunn
Ouachita Parish: Clint Hanchey and Dayna Ryan
Plaquemines Parish: Chris Ralston and Ashley Heilprin
Pointe Coupee Parish: Don Cazayoux and Lane Ewing
Red River Parish: Nina Coleman
Richland Parish: Myrt Hales, Jr. and Josh Strickland
St. Bernard Parish: Van Robichaux, Jr., Brian Page, Daniel Nodurft, Lisa Borne, Paul Tabary III, David Serio, Cory Grant, Cullen Tonry, Alan Bouterie and Michael Ginar
St. Charles Parish: Michelle Stross
St. Helena Parish: Sean Brady
St. James Parish: David Handelman
St. John the Baptist Parish: Greg Hughes
St. Landry Parish: Travis Broussard and Rick Keating
St. Martin Parish: Jennifer Maybery
St. Mary Parish: Adolph Curet
St. Tammany Parish: Dorian Tuminello, Cindy Petry, Kim Sanders Vanderbrook, Shanda Redmon, Teresa Robertson, Thad Minaldi, William Cass and William Magee
Tangipahoa Parish: Greg Webb and Denise Lee
Tensas Parish: McCaleb Bilbro
Terrebonne Parish: John Sirois
Union Parish: Brian Dollar
Vermilion Parish: Burton Guidry
Vernon Parish: S. Christie Smith IV, Elvin Fontenot, Tiffany Ratliff, Willie Banks, Jr., and Wes Bailey
Washington Parish: Janet MacDonell and Lam Tran
Webster Parish: Justin Courtney
West Baton Rouge Parish: Julie Payer
West Carroll Parish: Clay Hamilton
West Feliciana Parish: David Opperman
Winn Parish: James Mixon

“Lawyers in Libraries” Agencies
Acadiana Legal Services Corp.
Baton Rouge Bar Foundation’s Pro Bono Project
Calhoun Parish Bar Association
Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project
DeSoto Parish Bar Association
Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers
Legal Services of North Louisiana
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
Northshore Pro Bono Project
Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation
St. Landry Parish Bar Association

More “Lawyers in Libraries” events will be scheduled throughout the year. Attorneys wanting to volunteer their time and talent for future events should email Nicole Louque at nicole.louque@lsba.org.
Supreme Court establishes Access to Justice Commission

The Louisiana Supreme Court, by court order, recently established the Louisiana Access to Justice (ATJ) Commission, said Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson.

The mission of the ATJ Commission is to ensure continuity of policy and purpose in the collaboration between the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), the courts and the civil justice community in furtherance of the goal to ensure that all Louisiana citizens have access to equal justice under the law.

"Recognizing the importance of civil equal justice to the proper functioning of our democracy, and the need for leadership and effective coordination of civil justice efforts in our state, the Supreme Court was pleased to support the outstanding work of the LSBA's Access to Justice Committees and to encourage the continuation of that ongoing work with the creation of this commission. Through the ATJ Commission, the Supreme Court and the LSBA will work in concert, promoting effective and economical civil legal services delivery for low and moderate income citizens of Louisiana," Chief Justice Johnson said.

The ATJ Commission will operate as a standing committee of the LSBA, consisting of 21 voting members appointed by the LSBA president and the Supreme Court chief justice. Members will represent diverse ethnic, gender and geographic communities of Louisiana. Lawyers serving on the commission will have demonstrated a commitment to access to justice issues and will reflect the various types of legal aid providers in Louisiana.

Some of the commission’s goals are:

► educating the people of Louisiana about the importance of equal access to justice and the challenges many face in effectively accessing the civil justice system in Louisiana;
► developing a strong statewide civil legal services delivery system by licensed attorneys;
► developing and recommending initiatives intended to maximize resources and funding for access to justice in civil matters and to encourage efficient use of the available resources;
► recommending initiatives to reduce systemic barriers to access to justice, including enhancing resources for self-represented litigants; and
► encouraging members of the bar to provide pro bono legal services as a regular component of their practices.

Civil Legal Aid Awards Presented at Justice Conference

The 12th annual Louisiana Justice Community Conference in October in Baton Rouge focused on innovation and technology. Welcome remarks were given by Louisiana State Bar Association President Mark A. Cunningham, at podium, and Louisiana Bar Foundation President H. Minor Pipes III, left. R. Judson Mitchell, right, clinical professor and creator of the Technology and Legal Innovation Clinic at Loyola University College of Law, delivered the keynote address.

Two awards were presented at the 12th annual Louisiana Justice Community Conference. Sachida R. Raman, left, managing attorney of the Family Law Unit at Acadiana Legal Services Corp., received the Legal Service Excellence in Advocacy Award for his dedication to representing vulnerable clients for more than 20 years. Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, represented by Jay Welch, right, received the Legal Service Innovation Award for its Single Stop Project that offers direct legal services on-site at Delgado Community College to at-risk students.