

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit [www.lsba.org/atj](http://www.lsba.org/atj).

## 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 Pel-tier and Luis Leitzelar  
East Carroll Parish: Laurie Brister  
East Feliciana Parish: Sara Bradley  
Evangeline Parish: Laura Picard  
Franklin Parish: Emily Shields, E. Mc-

Intyre, Scott Sartin and Caroline Hemphill  
Grant Parish: Gwenda Lamb  
Iberia Parish: Julie Rosenzweig  
Iberville Parish: Wendy Ramnarine 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  
Rapides Parish: Maria Losavio, Robert Levy, Barry Barnett, Ruby Freeman, Terry Aubin, Ted Roberts, Laurel White, Walter McClatchey and Amanda Westergard  
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 Ginart  
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  
Caldwell 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](mailto:nicole.louque@lsba.org).



## 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.

# 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, consist-

ing 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.

## Focus on Access to Justice

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