

Focus on Access to Justice

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

LIFT Honors Graduate for Advancing Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors

Ashley Johnson-Alford was recognized at the LA Justice Community Conference for completing the Legal Incubators For Tomorrow (LIFT) Domestic Violence Project. The LIFT Program is designed to equip new lawyers with the knowledge and skills necessary to build a sustainable, public-interest focused law firm. Ashley was a fellow in the Domestic Violence Project which was in collaboration with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) and focused on addressing the unmet civil legal needs of domestic violence survivors. As a LIFT Fellow, Ashley handled cases in New Orleans, Thibodaux, and Houma. Ashley is a strong advocate for domestic violence survivors. She also showed great entrepreneurial spirit by expanding her law practice to handle Child In Need of Care (CINC) cases and was a fierce advocate for her young clients. Ashley is a wonderful example of what the LIFT program can do for young attorneys that want to establish their own law firms. Ashley gained invaluable experience arguing cases in



court shortly after joining the program, and she took every opportunity to network and market her law firm. She attended various continuing legal education trainings and was able to complete over sixty hours of pro bono casework and volunteer at The Haven, a domestic violence shelter. Ashley's firm A.B. Johnson-Alford, LLC continues to flourish due to the affordable legal services that she is able to offer. ♦



A FREE ONLINE FORUM FOR CIVIL LEGAL QUESTIONS

Allows volunteers to:

- Log in whenever/wherever
- Choose the question you answer and respond anonymously
- Receive training and access to resources
- Be covered by malpractice insurance

For more info, contact

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ATJ Projects Counsel

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or call 504.619.0104.

VOLUNTARY PRO BONO REPORTING



Snap the above with your mobile device or click to visit www.lsba.org/ProBono/ProBonoVoluntaryReporting.aspx

Rural Justice Legal Incubator Project: Now Accepting Applications for Second Cohort

The LIFT Rural Justice Legal Incubator Project is now accepting applications for its 2025 cohort. This innovative initiative supports new and early-career attorneys in launching solo practices with a public interest focus while expanding access to legal services for low- and moderate-income residents in some of Louisiana's most underserved rural communities.

Through the program, participating attorneys receive mentorship, training, and resources from seasoned attorneys at Acadiana Legal Service Corporation (ALSC). In return, they commit to serving clients in rural parishes where legal assistance is critically lacking.

Target Parishes Include: Avoyelles, Alexandria, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne,

Concordia, De Soto, East Carroll, West Carroll, Franklin, Grant, LaSalle, Madison, Monroe, Natchitoches, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, and Vernon.

Practice Areas May Include: Successions, Family Law, Expungements, Advanced Directives, Social Security/Disability, Child in Need of Care (CINC), and Housing and Consumer Issues.

This opportunity is ideal for attorneys seeking to make a meaningful impact while building sustainable, community-oriented law practices. To apply, go to www.lsba.org/LIFT. **Application Deadline:** December 5, 2025.

For more information, contact **Emily Belanger**, ATJ Projects Counsel, at emily.belanger@lsba.org. ♦



LSBA's "25 in 2025" Initiative Inspires Year-End Momentum with LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org Clinic



A group photo of the Entergy attorneys and paralegals that paired with attorneys from Baker Donelson and law students from Loyola University College of Law to answer questions on LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org on Tuesday, October 21st

As we approach the end of the calendar year, there is still time to participate in the LSBA's 25 in 2025 pro bono campaign. This pro bono initiative kicked off in January 2025, encouraging attorneys to provide 25 hours of pro bono to those in need across the state. With only one civil legal aid attorney for every 11,250 Louisianans eligible for free civil legal aid through our state's civil legal aid network, pro bono attorneys are desperately needed across the state to help vulnerable Louisianans with their civil legal issues. The latest statistics from the Legal Services Corporation and their report titled "The Justice Gap" state that 92% of low-income Americans do not receive any or enough legal help for their civil legal problems.

Considering the sheer number of people across the state who need civil legal assistance, there are many ways to get connected to pro bono and give back. Pro bono programs, opportunities, and a calendar of events can be found on

www.probono.net/la. Pro bono programs across the state have numerous projects that you can get involved in and that will fit your expertise and time constraints.

There is also the virtual pro bono platform called LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org, a site created by the ABA and administered locally by the LSBA ATJ Department. Low-income Louisianans can ask civil legal questions through the site, and volunteer attorneys then select the questions they would like to answer. It is a way to provide valuable legal information and advice to those in need without ever leaving your office or home.

As a part of National Celebrate Pro Bono Week, the 25 in 2025 campaign, and using the LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org platform, Entergy hosted a hybrid in person and virtual clinic with their in-house counsel, numerous law firms, paralegals, and law students to

answer questions across the Free Legal Answers platform in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Maryland. This was the fifth year of Entergy hosting a multi-state Free Legal Answers clinic.

In Louisiana, Entergy attorneys and paralegals paired with attorneys from Baker Donelson and law students from Loyola University College of Law answered 30 questions on the site, greatly reducing the number of open questions on the site.

Keep in mind, it does not have to be Celebrate Pro Bono Week to volunteer your time and services. Year-round opportunities to give back exist, and those programs would be happy to support you in your efforts to give. To learn more about pro bono opportunities in Louisiana, visit www.probono.net/la or contact Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel, at Rachael.mills@lsba.org. ♦

**ATTENTION
ATTORNEYS**

**EXPAND YOUR IMPACT.
GROW YOUR PRACTICE.
JOIN THE MODEST MEANS ONLINE
LEGAL DIRECTORY TODAY**

1.4 million Louisianans fall into the "justice gap"—they earn too much to qualify for free legal aid but cannot afford traditional legal fees. You can help. The LSBA Modest Means Directory connects these individuals with attorneys who provide affordable services, such as flat fees, sliding scale rates, limited scope representation, or other reduced-cost options. If you're in good standing and want to serve clients below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level, we invite you to join the Modest Means Directory where you can make a difference while expanding your client base.

FIND OUT MORE! CONTACT
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Or for more information online, visit
www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx