

Focus on *Access to Justice*

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

ATJ Department's Top 10 List of Accomplishments for 2021

As the year 2021 comes to a close, the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice (ATJ) Department would like to thank its supporters and partners for helping to ensure access to justice for all. While these past 12 months have brought unique and ever-changing challenges, our combined efforts have allowed us to successfully support access to justice through our many joint accomplishments. Below are the Top 10 accomplishments:

1. Completed an Inventory Assessment and Strategic Plan for the ATJ Commission's Justice for All (JFA) Project. Received an additional \$100,000 grant from the National Center for State Courts to implement solutions to increase access to civil legal aid in areas identified as "civil legal resource deserts."

2. Implemented the Disaster Response Subcommittee's Disaster Response Plan post-Hurricane Ida by employing the American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division's Disaster Response hotline with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and by providing CLE presentations on FEMA applications and appeals and insurance claims, as well as a training session on evictions and eviction diversion programs in partnership with the Louisiana Judicial College.

3. Provided education to the courts, the profession and the public with publications including the Building Bridges Committee's "What is New for Child Support Issues?" brochure; the Language Access Committee's "Do You Need a Court Interpreter?" brochure, available in six languages; and the Self-Represented Litigants (SRL) Committee's Post-Disaster Evictions Bench Card.

4. Assisted the Louisiana Supreme Court's Office of Language Access and its Stakeholder Committee with the statewide Language Access Plan (LAP), and supported implementation of the LAP by suggesting a priority list of vital documents for translation and recommending changes to court rules for requesting interpreters.

5. Celebrated five years of hosting L.A.FreeLegalAnswers.org, Louisiana's online pro bono resource which provides free legal advice to low-income Louisiana residents. This past year, the site's 244 attorney volunteers provided legal advice to approximately 1,550 site users, including to numerous individuals affected by recent natural disasters.

6. Conducted the sixth class of the Access to Justice Internship Program, inspiring future civil legal aid leaders by providing interns a unique all-encompassing view of Louisiana's Civil Legal Aid Network through its six-week summer program. New this year as a sponsor, Irwin Fritchier Urquhart & Moore, LLC, joins the working group to sponsor a student from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

7. Increased access to affordable legal services with the release of the Limited Scope Representation Toolkit and CLE. These tools assist attorneys listed in the Modest Means Directory and individuals using the directory who cannot afford an attorney at market rate.

8. Provided more than 100 hours of programming to 3,000 people representing public interest law firms, private law firms, state agencies, law schools, libraries, court staff, the public and esteemed members of Louisiana's justice community.

9. Hosted more than 90 lawyer volunteers in 177 statewide events and assisted more than 750 people with legal problems through the Legal Education & Assistance Program (LEAP) and its annual Lawyers in Libraries week of service.

10. Commenced partnership between the SRL Committee, the Technology Committee and the Supreme Court's Technology Commission on the Automated Forms Project, which included creating the Top 10 forms for SRLs and the automation of the Name Change and 103 Divorce forms.

These accomplishments can only be made with the devotion of hundreds of volunteers and the dedication of the civil legal aid and pro bono organizations, known as Louisiana's Civil Justice Community. The Louisiana State Bar Association continues its commitment to work with this Community. 📌

Thanks to Internship Program Sponsors!

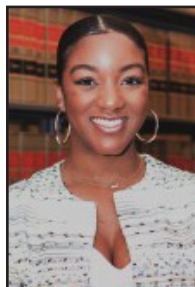
The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice (ATJ) Department thanks the 2022 ATJ Developing Leadership Intern Sponsors. ATJ intern sponsors provide mentorship and a stipend to the four ATJ interns while they learn about Louisiana's civil legal aid network during the six-week program. This year's sponsors include Entergy Services, LLC; Irwin Fritchier Urquhart & Moore, LLC; Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; and Phelps Dunbar, LLP. 📌

New Attorney Joins LIFT Legal Incubator Flood Proof Project

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Program announces that attorney Bria Lynne Joshua has joined the LIFT Legal Incubator Flood Proof Project in Baton Rouge.

Joshua, a new solo practitioner, is dedicated to increasing access to legal services for people affected by the 2016 catastrophic flooding in Baton Rouge. Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS), Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center (LSU), Southern University Law Center (SULC), the American Bar Association Center for Innovation (ABA) and the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) LIFT program have partnered to offer program participants support to develop and grow their solo practices to address the continued demand for heirship and property title work for disaster survivors.


Joshua is a graduate of Southern University Law Center and the founder of B.



Bria Lynne Joshua

Josh Law Co., LLC, a boutique law firm serving the Greater Baton Rouge area and across Louisiana. Her practice is focused primarily on family, real estate, successions and tax law matters.

The partners of the project will work with Joshua through the 12-month period. During the project, she will receive financial support through generous funding from the Louisiana Bar Foundation, free access to case management software and legal research programs, training, mentorship, and case shadowing opportunities.

To learn more about this and other LSBA legal incubator projects, go to: www.lsba.org/lift. Or email Amy Duncan at amy.duncan@lsba.org. 

Nominations Now Being Accepted for 2022 Pro Bono, Children's Law Awards

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice (ATJ) Department has opened the nomination process for 2022 Pro Bono and Children's Law Awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievement in several categories, listed below. Nominations can be made online at: www.lsba.org/ProBono/ProBonoAwards.aspx. Nominations must be received by Monday, Feb. 7. The recipients will be honored in a ceremony hosted by the Louisiana Supreme Court in May.

The **Children's Law Award** recognizes an attorney or organization that has provided outstanding services in the field of children's law.

The **Law Student Award** recognizes law students who have demonstrated a dedication to providing legal services to the poor.


The **Friend of Pro Bono Award** recognizes individuals or groups that have provided services other than casework to support pro bono efforts.

The **Pro Bono Publico Award** recognizes attorneys and firms who have provided more than 50 hours of pro bono services per year, and who have demonstrated exceptional support of the ideal of access to justice.

The **Century Club Award** recognizes attorneys who have provided 100 or more hours of volunteer service in the past year.

The **Career Public Interest Award** recognizes an individual who has devoted at least 10 years of his/her career to public interest legal work and who has demonstrated excellence and leadership in his/her service to the poor and disenfranchised.

The **David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes an individual who has been in practice at least 15 years and whose work demonstrates a life-long commitment to the provision and enhancement of legal services to the poor.

For additional assistance, email Access to Justice Department Coordinator Jordan Maier at jordan.maier@lsba.org. 

LSBA Member Services

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law. The LSBA offers many worthwhile programs and services designed to complement your career, the legal profession and the community.

In the past several years, the legal profession has experienced many changes. The LSBA has kept up with those changes by maturing in structure and stature and becoming more diverse and competitive.

Find out more about upcoming events, your membership and many other topics by visiting the LSBA website.



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visit www.lsba.org