

Focus on *Access to Justice*

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



Louisiana Supreme Court Justices and award recipients. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

LSBA Recognizes Exceptional Louisiana Pro Bono Work at Ceremony

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) held its 38th annual Pro Bono Publico & Children's Law Awards Ceremony on May 17 at the Louisiana Supreme Court in New Orleans. Louisiana's seven Supreme Court Justices presided over the ceremony in an official court session to demonstrate their fervent support for pro bono and the efforts of the volunteers being honored.

Opening remarks were given by LSBA 2022-23 President Stephen I. Dwyer, Louisiana Bar Foundation 2022-23 President Alan G. Brackett and Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer, who commended the award recipients for going above and beyond their professional duties to ensure access to legal services for low-income Louisianans, calling them "shining stars in the galaxy of the legal profession."

Award recipients are listed below. (More information and photos of the event will be included in the August/September 2023 issue of the Louisiana Bar Journal.)

2023 David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award

Catherine E. Lasky, New Orleans

2023 Career Public Interest Award

Douglas F. Carey, New Orleans

2023 Children's Law Award

Victor M. Jones, New Orleans
Loyola Law Clinic, New Orleans

2023 Pro Bono Publico Award

Cornelius Troy Hall, Baton Rouge
John Edward McAuliffe III, New Orleans
Cynthia Mauroner Petry, Covington
Stacey D. Williams, Shreveport

2023 LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org Award

Kathleen M. Legendre, Mandeville

2023 Friend of Pro Bono Award

Richard Gary Higgins, Jr., Covington
Jones Walker, LLP, New Orleans
Lafayette Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, Lafayette

Dorothy C. Oliver, Harrisonburg
Lawrence W. Pettiette, Jr., Shreveport
Krishanda H. Sanders, Lake Providence
Maggie Trahan Simar, St. Martinville
Amanda T. Taylor, Ferriday
Tulane Medicolegal Partnership, New Orleans
David E. Verlander III, Monroe

2023 Law Student Pro Bono Award

Madeline N. Meyer, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center
Max John, Loyola University College of Law
Theophile N. Kadia, Southern University Law Center
Raquel D. White, Tulane University Law School

2023 Pro Bono Century Club Award

W. Scott Brown, New Orleans
Erinn W. Neyrey, Mandeville
Amber C. Sheppard, Slidell
James F. Shuey, New Orleans
Hugh R. Straub, New Orleans
Christie L. Tournet, Mandeville

LSBA Modest Means Directory and Resources for Attorneys Offering Affordable Legal Options

Since the launch of the online Modest Means Directory (directory) in 2018, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) has received more than 14,000 inquiries to find affordable legal service solutions. While legal aid and pro bono organizations offer free legal services to families living at or below the 200% federal poverty line, many individuals who earn above that cannot afford legal services at the going rate and, therefore, need affordable legal service options.

The United Way's new ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report¹ emphasizes that much of the population in Louisiana that makes above the federal poverty level still do not earn enough income to meet a basic survival

budget.


Many ALICE and modest means families are turning to the directory to find affordable legal options from the 70 attorneys listed who provide services throughout the state. But due to the high demand, more attorneys are necessary to meet the needs of the approximately 250 individuals per month seeking legal services via the directory. Many attorneys already offer cost-effective legal services. For attorneys interested in joining the directory, the LSBA offers a host of tools and resources to support attorneys doing this work, including free CLE programs on LSR/unbundling legal services and substantive law training; Practice Aid Guides; and online Member Profile Cards.

In addition to the resources, the

directory presents an opportunity for new attorneys, specifically new solos, to grow their client base by increasing access to cost-effective services for the many people and families in Louisiana in need of affordable legal options.

To join or learn more about the directory, go to: www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx. Or email LSBA Access to Justice Training and Projects Counsel Amy Duncan at amy.duncan@lsba.org.

FOOTNOTE

1. Review the ALICE report, https://issuu.com/louisianaassociationofunitedway/docs/2023_alice_in_the_crosscurrents_covid_and_financia. 

OCTOBER 23-28, 2023

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