Focus on Access to Justice

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

Thanks to SLLS and LSBA YLD Disaster Hotline Volunteers!

One of the duties of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division (LSBA YLD) and the Access to Justice Committee’s Disaster Response Subcommittee is to help operate the ABA/YLD Hotline in the wake of a federal disaster. Since September 2021, numerous LSBA YLD volunteers have donated their time to Hurricane Ida survivors by providing legal information and brief legal advice to those who call the disaster hotline in need of assistance. Working with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS), the calls are triaged and callers who qualify for their services are quickly and efficiently taken into SLLS’s intake process. Other callers are then routed to the LSBA Access to Justice Program for referral to YLD and other private attorney volunteers. Since the implementation of the hotline in the wake of Hurricane Ida, nearly 100 calls have been routed to the 18 attorneys listed below.

A special thanks to the following SLLS and the LSBA YLD Disaster Hotline volunteers:

Blake M. Allen
Whitney M. Antoine
Madeline M. Bailey

Carlesia C. Bibbins
Justin S. Brashear
Quinn K. Brown
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Kaitlin M. Mayeux
Amy L. Pirtle
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Graham H. Ryan
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20 in 2022 Pro Bono Campaign Launched

Louisiana pro bono programs and the Access to Justice Commission have joined forces to launch a pro bono campaign this year — encouraging all attorneys to provide at least 20 hours of pro bono work in 2022.

“Rule 6.1 sets an aspirational goal of providing 50 hours of pro bono work each year. And we want that! However, less than 1% of attorneys reported doing any pro bono last year. With this campaign, we hope to encourage attorneys to get involved and challenge them to do at least 20 hours and report them,” said C.C. Kahr, executive director of The Pro Bono Project.

In the wake of several natural disasters and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, attorney volunteers are needed now more than ever to address the growing number of unmet legal needs of Louisiana’s most vulnerable populations. Whether you are a newly licensed attorney, one who has been practicing 15 years, or are thinking of switching to emeritus status, there is a pro bono opportunity for you that will accommodate your schedule and experience while also meeting a critical legal need.

For a list of statewide pro bono programs that can provide you with training, mentorship and guidance, go online to: www.lsba.org/documents/ATJ/ProBonoOpportunities2.pdf.

In addition, register with www.probono.net/la/ to find a plethora of online pro bono resources, including forms, practice manuals and recorded CLE sessions.

For more information about this campaign or to learn more about getting involved with pro bono, contact ATJ Projects Counsel Rachael M. Mills, (504)619-0104 or email rachael.mills@lsba.org.
Although, we have all been asked to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19, you can still help those in need with their legal issues. LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org offers a quick, easy way to help low-income, elderly and those affected by COVID-19 during these difficult times.

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org 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

To volunteer, contact Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel, by emailing rachael.mills@lsba.org or calling 504.619.0104.