

Focus on *Access to Justice*

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



Attending “Civil Legal Aid Day” on April 18 at the Louisiana Capitol in Baton Rouge were, from left, Donna Cuneo, executive director, Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF); Valerie Briggs Bargas, LBF past president; Gregory L. Landry, executive director, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.; Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Director Monte T. Mollere; Laura Tuggle, executive director, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Jeffrey K. Coreil, ATJ Commission co-chair; Valerie T. Schexnayder, LSBA Board of Governors; Christy F. Kane, executive director, Louisiana Appleseed; Joseph R. Oelkers III, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.; Julie Baxter Payer, LSBA Board of Governors; and Judy Perry Martinez, American Bar Association.

ATJ Commission participates in “ATJ Day at the Capitol” in Baton Rouge

Members of the Access to Justice Commission’s Funding Committee, with the help of Louisiana Appleseed and the Louisiana Bar Foundation, planned and participated in “Civil Legal Aid Day” on April 18 at the Louisiana Capitol in Baton Rouge.

The group hosted a breakfast for Louisiana legislators to explain the importance of funding for Louisiana’s civil legal aid programs. After the breakfast, the group staffed a table in the rotunda that provided legislators and visitors to the capitol with information about Louisiana’s civil legal aid network.

During this time, Rep. Walter J. Leger, Jr. and Sen. Eric LaFleur announced on their respective floors that it was Civil Legal Aid Day and spoke of the importance of civil legal aid for the state, including the significance of its economic impact. Gregory L. Landry, executive director of



Speaking with legislative staff and Capitol guests about the importance of civil legal aid on “Civil Legal Aid Day” were, from left behind table, Judy Perry Martinez, Laura Tuggle and Gregory L. Landry.

Acadiana Legal Service Corp., and Laura Tuggle, executive director of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, were also introduced on both House floors.

To learn more about the ATJ Commission’s

Funding Committee, email Louisiana State Bar Association ATJ Projects Counsel Rachael M. Mills at rachael.mills@lsba.org.

LSBA ATJ representatives attend Louisiana Library Convention

Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice (ATJ) Department staff members Rachael M. Mills and Michael W. Schachtman traveled to Alexandria in March to staff an information table at the annual Louisiana Library Association Conference, as part of the LSBA's Legal Education and Assistance Program (LEAP).

Mills and Schachtman provided the librarians with information about LEAP and the numerous self-represented litigant (SRL) resources available to library patrons throughout the state. Mills educated librarians about the new online pro bono program, *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org*, which allows low-income residents to ask civil legal questions through the website.

Also, David J. Lanser with the Louisiana Civil Justice Center (LCJC) informed conference attendees about the services provided by LCJC through its legal hotline.

Sara V. Pic, a librarian with the Law Library of Louisiana, demonstrated the numerous ways the Louisiana Law Library can assist library staff and patrons with legal questions.

For more information about the LEAP program or how the ATJ staff partners with public libraries, email ATJ SRL Counsel Michael W. Schachtman at michael.schachtman@lsba.org.



Staffing an information table at the Louisiana Library Association Conference were, from left, Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Projects Counsel Rachael M. Mills; David J. Lanser, attorney, Louisiana Civil Justice Center; LSBA Access to Justice Self-Represented Litigant Counsel Michael W. Schachtman; and Sara V. Pic, librarian, Law Library of Louisiana.

ATJ Commission hosts SRL Summit

The Access to Justice Commission hosted a Self-Represented Litigant (SRL) Service Provider Summit on April 11 in Lafayette for judges, clerks of court, judicial administrators, legal aid and local bar organizations, and other community partners working to meet the legal needs of those who cannot afford counsel.

Self-represented litigants appear in every municipal and district court in Louisiana. Also,

an increasing number of people are confused after purchasing invalid forms online. The sessions highlighted common hurdles faced by courts and self-help service providers, best practices for providing assistance, and the many free and reliable resources available to courts and the public. For more information or meeting materials, email michael.schachtman@lsba.org.



The Access to Justice Commission hosted a Self-Represented Litigant Service Provider Summit on April 11 in Lafayette. From left, Sachida R. Raman, deputy director of Acadiana Legal Services Corp.; and LSBA Access to Justice Self-Represented Litigant Counsel Michael W. Schachtman.

Children's Law Committee hosts Adoption 101 CLE

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Children's Law Committee hosted an "Adoption 101" CLE on April 20 at the Louisiana Bar Center. Jennifer L. Womble led the session that covered

best practices for all types of adoptions in Louisiana — intrafamily adoptions, agency adoptions and private adoptions.

The CLE sold out quickly and the committee is making plans to repeat the

session in other jurisdictions and/or offer an "Adoption 102" follow-up. For more information, email nicole.louque@lsba.org.