

Focus on *Access to Justice*

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

Reentry Legal Clinic, New Orleans attorney receive LSBA Civil Legal Aid Awards

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Program presented two Civil Legal Aid Awards during the 16th annual Louisiana Justice Community Conference. The Reentry Legal Clinic received the Legal Service Innovation Award and New Orleans attorney Joshua L. Holmes received the Legal Service Excellence in Advocacy Award.

In 2015, the LSBA's Board of Governors established the two awards to provide much-deserved recognition to the commitment and dedication of legal aid attorneys and organizations providing access to critical civil legal services. The Legal Service Innovation Award recognizes an innovative program or service that effectively meets the legal needs of vulnerable populations in Louisiana. The project must serve as a replicable model for other advocates in the justice community. The Legal Service Excellence in Advocacy Award recognizes an individual advocate who has displayed the highest level of dedication, passion and professionalism in representing vulnerable clients

The Reentry Legal Clinic, established in early 2019, is a collaborative project between Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, The First 72+, Orleans Public Defenders, the City of New Orleans RISE Program and the Justice and Accountability Center to address formerly incarcerated people's most pressing legal issues. By addressing these civil legal needs, the Clinic ensures that participants can successfully transition back into the community rather than becoming further ensnared in court cases, fines and fees that often lead to recidivism. In less than one year, the Clinic has served 51 clients and provided more than 250 hours of pro bono legal assistance. The program offers



The Reentry Legal Clinic in New Orleans is the recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice Program's Legal Service Innovation Award. Accepting the award from Loyola University College of Law Professor Luz M. Molina, far right, were members of the Reentry Legal Clinic team, from left, Chad Stevens, The First 72+; Tenisha Stevens, City of New Orleans RISE and Office of Criminal Justice Coordination; Alexis Erkert, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Harrece C. Gassery, Orleans Public Defenders; and Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana.

an innovative model of how attorneys can leverage access to civil justice to create positive change in the criminal justice system and the community.

Joshua L. Holmes, with CrescentCare Legal Services in New Orleans, has practiced as a public interest attorney since 2009, investigating and enforcing claims of privacy violation and of gender and disability-based discrimination in housing, healthcare, employment and education. He is a former editor-in-chief for the *Louisiana & HIV Human Rights Reporter*, a former board member of the City of New Orleans' Human Relations Commission and a former chair of the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network. He was recognized for his 10 years of dedicated public interest service to people impacted by HIV/AIDS in the New Orleans area.

Nominations for the 2020 Civil Legal Aid Awards will be accepted in



Joshua L. Holmes, left, with CrescentCare Legal Services in New Orleans, is the recipient of the Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice Program's Legal Service Excellence in Advocacy Award. With him is Loyola University College of Law Professor Luz Molina.

July 2020. Nominations of individuals or organizations should be based on the criteria in the application. For more information, email Jordan Maier at jordan.maier@lsba.org.

LSBA committees provide interview skills training

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee and the Children's Law Committee provided interview skills training to students at Tulane University Law School and Loyola University College of Law on Sept. 18. This event at Tulane was co-hosted by the Tulane Disability Rights and Health Law Society and the Tulane Public Interest Law Foundation.

Students were taught practical skills for interviewing vulnerable populations from specialists Margot E. Hammond, Debra J. Weinberg, Parris A. Taylor and Professor Luz M. Molina. Students also practiced interviewing clients using small-group interview simulations.

The LSBA committee members hope to offer this training to students at all Louisiana law schools. 📱



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Representing Clients with Disabilities – *What You Don't Know Can Hurt You* Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee



Friday,
November 22, 2019

Eastern District of Louisiana Federal Court,
New Orleans

Save the Date: Disability Law CLE on Nov. 22

Attorneys who do not have a disability law practice often encounter people with disabilities, and what you don't know when representing a person with a disability can hurt you. The Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee is sponsoring the seminar on Friday, Nov. 22. Attorneys will get an overview of their ethical and legal obligations in representing people with disabilities. Attendees will be eligible for 4 CLE hours, including 1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of professionalism. To register online, go to: www.lsba.org/cle. 📱

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.



Louisiana
State Bar
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Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.

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.

For more information,
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