

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit [www.lsba.org/atj](http://www.lsba.org/atj).

## LSBA Supports Civil Legal Aid Attorneys at the 18th Annual Justice Community Conference

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) hosted the Louisiana Justice Community Conference (LJCC) on Oct. 14-15. The event was held virtually again this year and brought together civil legal aid attorneys and staff members from non-profit organizations across the state to have discourse on relevant poverty law issues which are not often taught in for-profit trainings.

This year's theme was "Mindful Lawyering," focusing on mental health and wellness of the attorneys and clients in the access to justice community. The sessions promoted the well-being of the civil legal aid community and supporting clients with legal care during uncertain times in the face of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cleo Scott Brown, a national speaker and writer whose commentary focuses on issues of race relations, voting and class, kicked off the conference with a powerful keynote address. As founder of the History Matters Institute, Brown uses history to help people better understand the present with the goal of creating introspection, empathy and change. Her speech emphasized the difference one person can make in the lives of many and how this impact can have a rippling effect, not just in Louisiana, but throughout the world.

The conference offered five sessions on a variety of topics and practice areas including trauma-informed lawyering, recent developments in family law, Social Security disability advocacy for trauma survivors, and sexual harassment prevention in the workplace. Featured speakers included Jamie Beck, Free to Thrive; Prof. Monica H. Wallace, Loyola University College of Law; Jesse P. Lind, CrescentCare Legal Services; and Michael B. Victorian, Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Additionally, the LSBA Pro Bono Subcommittee hosted a two-hour summit



Above: Stephen I. Dwyer, LSBA president-elect, addresses the virtual Louisiana Justice Community Conference (LJCC) in the Louisiana Bar Center's Founders' room to facilitate the LJCC awards ceremony.



Left: Hon. Bernadette G. D'Souza, Chief Judge Veronica E. Henry and Laura Tuggle during the awards ceremony.

to discuss strategies to support pro bono efforts by attorneys in Louisiana.

Two civil legal aid awards were presented by LSBA President-Elect Stephen I. Dwyer at the conference. The Legal Service Innovation Award was presented to the New Orleans First City Court's Eviction Diversion Project, a collaborative project between the City of New Orleans, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center and the court designed to prevent evictions. The Legal Service Excellence in Advocacy Award was presented to Morgan P. Lamandre, legal director at Sexual

Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR) whose work has focused on civil legal representation and advocacy for sexual assault victims.

The conference hosted participants from the state's legal service programs and non-profit public interest firms, including Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Advocacy Center, CrescentCare Legal Services, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, Legal Aid of North Louisiana, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Mental Health Advocacy Center, Pro Bono Project, Project Save and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services. 📺

# Disaster Law and Eviction Trainings Now Available on *Probono.net/la*

A virtual, 3.5-hour CLE focusing on disaster law and evictions was broadcast on Sept. 22 to Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members and the judiciary. The first two hours of the CLE were sponsored by the Access to Justice (ATJ) Disaster Response Subcommittee, the LSBA Young Lawyers Division and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and focused on issues related to FEMA applications/appeals and insurance claims. These trainings assisted volunteers in their efforts returning calls on the ABA/YLD Hotline and answering Hurricane Ida-related questions on *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org*.

In conjunction with the disaster law trainings, the rescheduled “Traversing the Maze of COVID-19 Eviction Moratoriums: Understanding Emergency Rental Assistance & Diversion Programs” took place in the last hour and a half of the day’s program. This CLE, a collaboration between the Judicial College and the ATJ Commission, was geared towards judges, justices of the peace and attorney volunteers who handle evictions.

All 3.5 hours of the program were recorded and have been uploaded to *www.probono.net/la*. 📺

## Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore, LLC, Joins ATJ Internship as Sponsor

Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore, LLC, is the latest law firm to join the Access to Justice (ATJ) Developing Leadership Intern Program as a sponsor.

The ATJ Developing Leadership Intern Program provides 1L law students with the opportunity to see a bird’s-eye view of Louisiana’s civil legal aid network. During the six-week program, interns spend time with district court judges, legal non-profit organizations and their sponsoring firm. Sponsoring firms provide leadership, mentorship and a stipend to participating interns. One intern is selected from each of Louisiana’s four law schools.

If your firm or organization is interested in sponsoring an intern for 2022, contact ATJ Projects Counsel Rachael Mills at (504)619-0104 or email [rachael.mills@lsba.org](mailto:rachael.mills@lsba.org). 📧

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org*



## A FREE ONLINE FORUM FOR CIVIL LEGAL QUESTIONS

*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

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel, by emailing [rachael.mills@lsba.org](mailto:rachael.mills@lsba.org) or calling 504.619.0104.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
***WWW.LSBA.ORG/ATJ***  
OR CALL (504)619-0104

