

Focus on *Access to Justice*

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

Legal Help Access Points Expanding Throughout Louisiana

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice (ATJ) Department recently traveled to Chalmette and DeRidder as part of continued efforts for the Justice for All Project.

On April 12, committed community leaders, members of the judiciary, civil legal aid organizations and non-profit agencies met in Judge Jeanne N. Juneau's courtroom to discuss the possibility of establishing a legal help access point in St. Bernard Parish.

On April 26, community leaders, library partners, civil legal aid organizations and members of the judiciary met in the Beauregard Parish Library in DeRidder to discuss establishing an access point in the DeRidder branch of the library.

The legal help access point is a

private space — either a private room or a telephone booth-style pod — equipped with desk, computer, printer, microphone and earphones that provides community members with easy-to-use technology to access a continuum of options for legal help. More specifically, access points allow the public access to self-help resources and automated court forms; find out if they qualify for free legal aid; get customized legal help and referrals through the Louisiana Bar Foundation and Lagniappe Law Lab's Civil Legal Navigator; meet virtually with an attorney in a confidential enclosed space; and attend a virtual hearing with participating courts via an online court program. Another important feature of the access points includes the availability of pertinent, concise materials and resources that community members could walk away

with in-hand to help learn more about their legal issues.

As part of the Justice for All Project (JFA), legal help access points have been established in Harrisonburg, Lake Providence and Vidalia. These areas were previously identified as civil legal resource deserts during the initial JFA grant work. Civil legal resource deserts are areas outside a 45-minute drive to an in-person civil legal resource like a civil legal aid office, law library or self-represented litigant desk. With the remaining grant funds, the ATJ Commission may be able to establish additional access points throughout the state. As this project expands into new parishes, locations still need to be finalized before setting up the equipment and officially launching. 📍

Louisiana "Law Talks" Educational Series Launched

The Louisiana Access to Justice Commission and Legal Education Assistance Program (LEAP) partners have launched a "Law Talks" educational series for the public.

Law Talks, originally established to provide programming for the Justice for All legal help access points, are virtual presentations on legal topics hosted quarterly by legal aid and attorney volunteers, and they give participants a chance to have their own questions answered. Presentations are live-streamed on the Louisiana Lawyers in Libraries Facebook page, plus all libraries throughout the state are invited to host in-person "Watch Parties" for their patrons. To date, presentations have covered topics such as divorce, successions, and custody,

visitation and grandparents' rights.

The latest Law Talks session was April 12 with attorney volunteer Barbara Juneau Mixon, with the law firm of Neblett, Beard & Arsenaault in Alexandria, discussing Social Security and Medicaid law. Moderated by Amanda Brown, attorney and executive director of Lagniappe Law Lab, the presentation covered the different types of benefits, including disability insurance benefits and coverage under Medicare and Medicaid. Public libraries from several parishes participated — Calcasieu, Concordia, Iberville, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Webster and Winn.

The next "Law Talks: Disaster Preparedness" will be 5:30-6:30 p.m. on July 19. More information can be found at: www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org. 📍

Report Your Pro Bono Hours!

Report your pro bono hours with the Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting Form. When seeking funding, pro bono and civil legal aid organizations are frequently asked, "What are attorneys doing to help?" Report your hours and double your impact by giving them information to answer the question. Complete the online "Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting Form" at: www.lsba.org/ATJ/ProBonoVoluntaryReporting.aspx. Or contact Bridget Berins at (800)421-5722, ext. 145. 📍



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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- 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.

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

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