

President’s Message

Investing in Civil Legal Aid Technology

By 2019-20 President Amanda W. Barnett

Technology is fundamentally changing the way the world operates, and the legal system has not escaped this fate. Across the United States and the world, legal service innovators are experimenting with new service delivery models and technologies that aim to narrow the ever-growing justice gap; Louisiana is no exception.

At its 2017 strategic planning meeting, the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) identified as a priority to identify and implement technology that would serve our grantees and our communities. Taking steps toward that goal, in 2018, the LBF hired a technology consultant to support the development of an online legal information access portal, the Louisiana Civil Legal Navigator, to direct civil legal aid clients to the best, most relevant legal information, forms and referral sources.

Building on that momentum and recognizing the need to support this program and others like it, the LBF is excited to share that it is investing in the future of civ-

il legal aid technology through a special grant to Lagniappe Law Lab.

Lagniappe Law Lab was founded in May 2019 by Amanda Brown and is a new technology-focused non-profit poised to deliver services to Louisiana’s civil justice system. The Lab will provide in-house service delivery consulting to civil legal aid organizations, and will facilitate the design, development and implementation of new legal aid technology projects. It will also provide a home for and maintain existing technology programs, such as the Louisiana Civil Legal Navigator. Through the use of technology, design thinking and operations principles, Lagniappe Law Lab aims to put people back into the center of the legal process and bring a more streamlined legal service experience to



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Louisiana’s underprivileged populations. Through this work, Lagniappe Law Lab will help our service providers scale their impact on our community, increasing access to justice for all.

“Lagniappe Law Lab’s existence is purely motivated by the goal of improving the justice system and the legal profession in Louisiana. All services provided are in direct support of expanding access to justice to all. Day-to-day, Lagniappe Law Lab will work to improve service providers’ case velocity and/or outcomes and provide and maintain legal information resources for the public. These efforts will ideally advance the reality of equal justice under the law through increased public understanding of the legal system and a more streamlined delivery of legal services,” Brown said.

For more information on Lagniappe Law Lab, contact Amanda Brown at (504)561-1046 or email amanda@lagniappelawlab.org. Visit the website at: www.lagniappelawlab.org.

LBF Announces New Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation welcomed the following new Fellows:

- Taylor Alexander Lake Charles
- Bethany B. Breaux Lafayette
- Hon. Laurie R. Brister Lake Providence
- Lenzi C. Hebert Lake Charles
- Monique Y. Metoyer Shreveport
- Alexandra Camille Patti New Orleans
- Hon. Robin D. Pittman New Orleans
- Mary Katherine Price Winnfield
- Kelly M. Rabalais Mandeville
- Tina L. Suggs Metairie

LBF Grant Application Available Online

The Louisiana Bar Foundation’s (LBF) grant application for 2020-21 funding is now available online. Deadline for submitting grant applications is Dec. 2, 2019.

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) application for 2020-21 funding is now available online. Deadline for submitting the LRAP application is Feb. 7, 2020.

For more information and questions, contact Renee LeBoeuf at (504)561-1046 or email renee@raisingthebar.org. Grant applications will be available at: www.raisingthebar.org.

Save the Date!

Louisiana Bar Foundation
34th Annual Fellows Gala
Friday, April 3, 2020
• Hyatt Regency New Orleans

Discounted rooms are available Thursday, April 2 and Friday, April 3, 2020 at \$259 a night. To make a reservation, call the Hyatt at 1(800)233-1234 and reference Louisiana Bar Foundation or go to: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/MSYRN/G-LGAL>. Reservations must be made before Friday, March 13. For more Gala information, contact Danielle J. Marshall at (504) 561-1046 or danielle@raisingthebar.org.