

President’s Message

The Louisiana Civil Legal Navigator Project

By 2018-19 President W. Michael Street

I am happy to report on one of our new projects, the Louisiana Civil Legal Navigator. To improve accessibility, effectiveness and efficiency of legal services in Louisiana, the Louisiana Bar Foundation is creating an integrated civil legal aid service delivery portal that leverages artificial intelligence and subject matter expert (SME) contributors. The project, which is derived from a Legal Services Corporation (LSC) pilot program, aims to direct Louisiana’s low-income and under-served communities to the most appropriate resources within the civil legal network.

In 2016, the LSC announced efforts to establish statewide access to justice portals. Since then, the LSC has partnered with Microsoft and Pro Bono Net to design, test and develop an intelligent technology platform that enables those falling within the “justice gap” to find actionable information and resources. Ultimately, the driving force is aggregat-

ing legal information and community and social resources in a meaningful way, empowering low-income and marginalized members of our community to take the first steps in addressing their most pressing legal needs.



W. Michael Street

As the project’s two pilot states — Alaska and Hawaii — continue efforts to bridge their own justice gaps, the access to justice community in Louisiana has moved forward with identifying our state’s highest needs and creating and collecting the information critical to the success of the platform. A survey of legal aid programs, unmet needs data and Louisiana Law Help web traffic revealed that landlord tenant, family and workers’ rights issues were among the highest priorities for the people that make up our

community. Armed with this knowledge, we’re already making strides in content creation and the data gathering that form the backbone of this project.

It truly takes a village to support a statewide initiative like this. To that end, we’ve already begun forging partnerships with great institutions like Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, Entergy and Suffolk University Law School Legal Innovation and Technology Lab.

The hope is that community-wide investment in this initiative will ensure its success now and in the many years to come. That’s why we also need you. Attorney volunteers with experience in workers’ rights, housing and family law are needed now. To learn more about volunteering, visit our website at www.raisingthebar.org and look for information on the Louisiana Civil Legal Navigator.

Annual LBF Fellows Membership Meeting Set for April 5

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) Annual Fellows Membership Meeting will begin at noon on Friday, April 5, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Ave. This luncheon meeting is an opportunity for Fellows to be updated on LBF activities and to elect new board members. The President’s Award will be presented and recognition will be given to the 2018 Distinguished Honorees and the Calogero Justice Award recipient.

All LBF Fellows in good standing will receive an official meeting notice with the board slate and a committee selection form in early March. For more information, contact Laura Sewell at (504)561-1046 or email laura@raisingthebar.org.

Louisiana Bar Foundation Announces New Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation welcomes the following new Fellows:

Ashley E. Armstrong.....	Denham Springs	Gregory D. Hopkins	Gretna
Kelsey L. Balzli	Baton Rouge	Rebecca R. Indest	Baton Rouge
Kristina V. Bison.....	New Orleans	Macy Lauren Ledet	Luling
Kristal A. Bourgeois	Prairieville	Christopher P. Leger	Metairie
Marlerie L. Bulot.....	New Orleans	Georges M. Legrand.....	New Orleans
Rachel Chappell.....	Baton Rouge	Anne C. Lemoine	New Orleans
Joshua L. Critselous	Ruston	Lorriane E. Lucas	Terrytown
Jumoke Joy Dara	Pineville	Victoria E. McIntyre.....	Pittsburg, PA
Jacquelyn L. Duhon.....	New Orleans	Jared Elijah-Akeem Nelson.....	Abbeville
Macy R. Esneault	Convent	Erin L. Pedrami	Prairieville
Ashley N. Freeman.....	Lake Charles	Hon. Candyce G. Perret.....	Lafayette
Landon P. Gauthier.....	Gonzales	Haddy Khaled Rikabi	Metairie
Antoinette C. Gouaux.....	Lockport	P. Nelson Smith, Jr.....	Minden
Tiffany L. Green	Baton Rouge	Hon. Robert L. Wyatt	Lake Charles
Jessica F. Hawkins.....	Baton Rouge	John M. Zazulak II	New Orleans