

## President's Message

# LBF's Strategic Planning Goals for 2018

By 2018-19 President W. Michael (Mike) Street

**T**he responsibility for meeting the legal needs of Louisiana's poor falls on a network of nonprofit, civil legal aid organizations who serve our poorest citizens. The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is dedicated to funding civil legal aid through these organizations. I am proud to announce that the LBF board approved \$5.8 million for social justice initiatives for the 2018-19 fiscal year. A detailed list of our grants can be found on our website: [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org).

I recently had the pleasure of meeting many of the representatives from these civil legal aid organizations as I spent my first month as LBF president traveling the state to our regional Annual Fellows events. Our grantees are organizations that provide free representation or other legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable people who cannot otherwise afford legal help. These organizations make a difference in the lives of countless Louisiana citizens who have limited means. These events, hosted by our local Community Partnership Panels, also allowed me the opportunity to meet many of our Fellows. Our Fellows are some of

the most inspiring, giving and hardworking individuals from across the state. They demonstrate their commitment to legal representation for the poor and improving our system of justice on a regular basis. These dedicated volunteers truly exemplify the highest ideals of our profession.



W. Michael Street

This year the LBF will continue our commitment to serving all Louisiana households in poverty and we are working hard to make this a reality. During the recent LBF Strategic Planning, the LBF leadership outlined a detailed plan to evaluate and maximize resources and outcomes for future years, find more sustainable forms of income to support civil legal aid initiatives and current grantees, and to better fund the legal services corporations.

Strategic Planning goals for 2018 include:

1. Create a membership drive plan that would collaborate with the Louisiana

State Bar Association for its endorsement and joint event attendance, and remove the nomination requirement to become a new Fellow;

2. Create a capital campaign for operations support;

3. Create a marketing and branding campaign;

4. With the ATJ Commission Funding Committee, obtain new legislative appropriation and transfer the Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid to the Funding Committee;

5. Enhance the grantee outreach program to include online audits, onsite visits and operation policy review.

Investing in civil legal aid helps people solve critical problems and prevents events that are personally harmful and expensive for society. Funding for civil legal aid will have a ripple effect, impacting not only the families served, but the community at large. Schools, businesses, government agencies and the state as a whole benefit from resolving civil legal problems. For more LBF information, go to: [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org).

## Renegar Receives LBF President's Award

Dona Kay Renegar, the 2017-18 president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), received the Louisiana Bar Foundation's (LBF) President's Award from 2017-18 LBF President Valerie Briggs Bargas.

Renegar, a member in the firm of Veazey Felder & Renegar, L.L.C., in Lafayette, was recognized for her support, dedication and advancement of the LBF's

mission and goals. She has been a LBF fellow since 2000, served on the LBF board of directors and on several committees and chaired a grants subcommittee for many years. She is dedicated to advancing the LBF's goals of funding civil legal aid and promoting access to justice and accomplishes these goals through her work on the LSBA's Board of Governors and the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission.



Dona Kay Renegar, right, the 2017-18 president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, received the Louisiana Bar Foundation's (LBF) President's Award from 2017-18 LBF President Valerie Briggs Bargas.