

President's Message

Partnership with Pelican Center and Updates on Other Projects

By President Hon. C. Wendell Manning

I am pleased to announce that, as of July 1, 2014, the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) and the Pelican Center for Children and Families (Pelican Center) have formed a unique partnership to support the training of attorneys representing children and indigent parents. This partnership presents an opportunity to create a statewide training and education curriculum that will benefit Louisiana's most vulnerable children and families. The training being developed will include a focus on best practices for those involved in Child in Need of Care (CINC) and Families in Need of Services (FINS) cases. Training will be made available to all those involved, including legal aid attorneys, district attorneys, child welfare agency attorneys, judges and other key stakeholders in the Louisiana child welfare system.

The LBF's support of this partnership will augment ongoing training for attorneys who provide representation to abused and neglected children and whose work directly affects the safety, permanency and well-being of children in the foster care system. The LBF will provide in-kind support to the Pelican Center through office space and other business amenities.

"The Pelican Center will provide comprehensive training and education opportunities for child welfare practitioners across systems — legal, executive and community. A first for the state, this represents a tremendous asset for the state of Louisiana. The mission and vision of the Pelican Center will be accomplished through the design and delivery of a state-of-the-art curriculum that incorporates the latest scholarship and research, evidence-based and best practices, and brings child welfare practitioners information in a consistent and accessible manner through a variety of learning modalities," said Judge Ernestine S. Gray, chief judge of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court and Pelican Center president.

"The Pelican Center shows promise

to become a national model for how states can best respond to the legal needs and judicial involvement of abused and neglected children and their families. It demonstrates a long-term commitment to having the courts meaningfully collaborate with key child welfare system stakeholders, while assuring that federal, state, private and other funding can be pooled to help assure maximum positive impact for the state's underserved children and families," said Howard Davidson, director of the ABA Center on Children and the Law.



Hon. C. Wendell Manning

Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid

The Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid is moving "full steam ahead." In my last report to you, I addressed this unified statewide campaign and the various stages of implementation. Focus is now upon the next level of the campaign bringing awareness to the local and specialty bar associations throughout the state. Our efforts are to enlist the support of all local and specialty bars, with many having already adopted resolutions in support of the campaign. The campaign will address awareness among the state's judiciary at the annual Fall Judges' Conference in October. See the Louisiana Bar Foundation's website for more information on how you can help with this very important work in supporting the critical needs of civil legal aid in Louisiana.

Training for Legal Aid Grantees

In support of our efforts to provide leadership and organizational support to our grantees, the LBF offered board training for Louisiana's three legal service corpora-

tions (Acadiana Legal Services Corp., Legal Services of North Louisiana, Inc. and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services) and the state's seven pro bono projects. The board trainings, held in July, provided tools, resources and guidelines to help ensure that board members and executive directors are equipped to meet their fiduciary obligations while ensuring proper delivery of civil legal services to the state's indigent. The LBF leadership will follow up in December with onsite audits to ensure that clients are receiving the maximum amount of services with the funding the LBF provides. Special thanks go to Skip Phillips, chair of the LBF Grants Subcommittee for civil legal aid, John Davies and Edmund Giering, both with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, and Jane Sherman, LBF treasurer, for their hard work in conducting the trainings.

Updates on Other Projects

The LBF announces the appointment of Professor Alain A. Levasseur (LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center Hermann Moyses, Sr. Professor of Law and Henry Plauché Dart Professor of Law) as the 2014-16 Scholar-in-Residence. His work will focus on an in-depth analysis of the Louisiana Civil Code with emphasis upon the reasoning and methodologies employed by the various Louisiana courts. Also, the Oral History Project has produced 60 oral histories of retiring judges, bar leaders and other legal personalities that can be viewed on our website.

Special thanks to Professor Paul R. Baier (LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center George M. Armstrong, Jr. Professor of Law and Judge Henry A. Politz Professor of Law and the first LBF Scholar-in-Residence) who has graciously agreed to donate the proceeds from the sale of his new book, *Speeches*, to the LBF. Email Prof. Baier directly at paul.baier@law.lsu.edu for more information on how to obtain a copy of his book.