

LSBA to recognize exceptional Louisiana pro bono work at May 20 virtual ceremony

The 36th annual Pro Bono Publico & Children's Law Awards Ceremony is scheduled for May 20. Traditionally held at the Louisiana Supreme Court, this year's ceremony will be conducted virtually. Presiding over the ceremony will be Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer and Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President Alainna R. Mire.

Each year, the LSBA honors attorneys and other public interest professionals who have gone beyond their professional duties to provide or support pro bono services. Their work, ever more critical during the instability of the pandemic, helps ensure that those without the means to hire an attorney can access justice

through the legal system.

The following individuals will be recognized at the ceremony:

▶ **David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award:** Christopher K. Ralston.

▶ **Career Public Interest Award:** Andrea M. Jeanmarie.

▶ **Children's Law Award:** Ramona G. Fernandez; and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Child in Need of Care Unit.

▶ **Law Student Pro Bono Award:** Aber M. Farid, Southern University Law Center; Constantino Raya, Jr., Tulane University Law School; Cara Sullivan Tippett, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; and Jimmy Whitehead, Loyola University College of

Law.

▶ **Friend of Pro Bono Award:** Kathleen A. Crapanzano, MD, MACM; and Lindsay Meador Young.

▶ **Pro Bono Publico Award:** Patricia R. Bonneau, Andretta Breaux Atkins, Kyle M. Brennan, Jonathan T. Jarrett, Derrick McCorey, Robert A. McKnight, LaKendra D. Sampson, Frances M. Strayham and James J. Zito.

▶ **LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org Award:** Brian R. Johnson.

▶ **Century Club Award:** Kyle M. Brennan, W. Scott Brown, Joseph J. Cerise, Philip A. Franco, Ana E. Lopez, Derrick McCorey, Robert A. McKnight, Alysson L. Mills, Beau P. Sagona, Hugh R. Straub and James J. Zito. 📧

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offered by self-help centers and law libraries.

"Access to civil legal services for people unable to afford an attorney can have a significant impact on individuals and our communities," said Louisiana State Bar Association President Alainna R. Mire. "Especially in times of crisis, civil legal aid stabilizes individuals, families and entire communities by improving economic security and increasing access to basic necessities like housing, healthcare,

government benefits and disaster services. To address these issues, we must work together across organizational boundaries to find solutions."

The "Justice for All in Louisiana" study suggests a set of actions to remove barriers to justice for those living in areas identified as civil legal resource deserts. Courthouses in the state could increase the civil resource area by adding self-help centers, navigator programs (in-person and online), virtual meeting spaces or courtroom assistants. State government leaders can build a stronger culture

of limited scope representation across the state through programs such as the Modest Means Program. Partnerships with libraries, places of worship, higher education, health care and other institutions can help create community-led initiatives that will give people access to new online and in-person services in locations accessible to communities where the need is greatest.

To review the full report and GIS-data-based story map, go to: www.bit.ly/JFAStoryMap. 📧



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