

Welcome!



**LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION**
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID

Southwest POP UP

**WHY IS THE LOUISIANA BAR FOUNDATION
GOOD FOR THE PROFESSION?**

Approved for 1 hour of Professionalism CLE



Hon. John C. Davidson, (Ret.)
2024-25 LBF President



**LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION**
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID

Mission

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) exists to preserve, honor, and improve our system of justice by funding, developing or otherwise promoting efforts which enhance the legal profession, increase public understanding of the legal system and advance the reality of equal justice under the law.

Who We Are and What We Do

For more than 30 years, Louisiana Bar Foundation has been a trusted authority and the state's largest funder of free **civil legal aid**. We serve Louisiana's poverty population.

Our goal is to make sure that all Louisianans, regardless of their background or income level, have access to free **civil legal services** that they need.

Our decades of experience as a **responsible steward** of funds along with our well-established partnerships across all **64 parishes** has allowed us to help hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents gain **access** to the legal system.



LBF 2024-25 Officers

What is Civil Legal

Aid and Why Does it Matter?



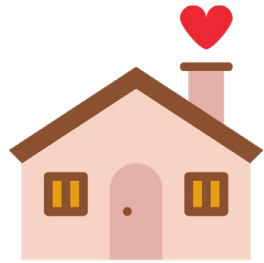
Civil Legal Aid is free legal assistance provided to help people facing non-criminal, civil legal challenges.

Access to an attorney is not a fundamental right in civil matters.

Civil Legal Aid helps people with a range of issues, including assistance for veterans and military families, domestic violence, senior and elderly services, child welfare services, housing, and employment.



STUDIES SHOW CIVIL LEGAL AID HELPS ADVANCE STATE POLICY & SAVE MONEY



**By reducing illegal
evictions**

**By reducing
domestic violence**



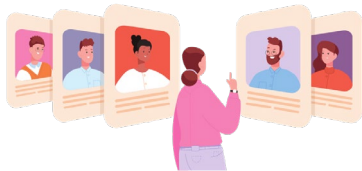
Civil legal help works

+

has economic benefits

**By removing obstacles
for jobseekers**

**By helping children
leave foster care quicker**



**By protecting patients'
health**



Access to **Civil Legal Aid** makes Louisiana's communities stronger by helping people to avoid foreclosure, protect themselves from domestic violence, gain custody of their loved ones, and safeguard their economic security.

Why We Help



40% of Louisiana's population earn incomes below **200%** of the Federal Poverty Level.

Louisiana has more than **1.7 million** people who are potentially eligible for free civil legal aid.

We currently have **1** civil legal aid attorney for every **11,230** eligible people.



Source: *Justice Gap the unmet civil legal needs of low-income Americans, April 2022*

Eligibility for Services

General guide for income eligibility for civil legal aid services.

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
125% Poverty (No Assets)	\$18,825	\$20,550	\$32,275	\$39,000	\$45,725	\$52,450
200% Poverty (No Assets)	\$30,120	\$40,880	\$51,640	\$62,400	\$73,160	\$83,920

Residents may be eligible for civil legal aid services if their family income is below 125% or 200% of federal poverty guidelines.

Asset limits may also apply. Limits may be higher for senior citizens aged 60+. This is a chart for general income guidance.

Legal aid offices do not discriminate on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or age in the delivery of services or in its employment practices.



Louisiana Census 2023

By the Numbers: How Louisiana Ranks Nationally

2nd
highest

Poverty

The overall poverty rate in Louisiana was 18.6% in 2022, down from 19.6% in 2021, the second highest in the nation. This means 829,565 Louisianans lived at or below the federal poverty line last year.

3rd
highest

Child Poverty

The share of children living in poverty in Louisiana remained high at 24.4%, down from 26.7% in 2021. This leaves 255,159 children - 1 in 4 - growing up in poverty in Louisiana.

3rd
lowest

Income

Household median income remained among the nation's lowest, falling slightly to \$55,416 in 2022 from \$56,301 in 2021, continuing a downward trend since pre-pandemic 2019 income levels.

6th
highest

Income Inequality

Income inequality remained high in Louisiana. That's largely due to the high concentration of poverty - not high accumulation of wealth.

Who We Help



PEOPLE who are victims of domestic violence

CHILDREN who need a stable home or special education

ELDERLY whose economic security or health care is in jeopardy

CONSUMERS impacted by improper lending practices

FAMILIES facing loss of their homes

WORKERS denied lawful wages and benefits

DISABLED people denied opportunities

VETERANS with disabilities

COMMUNITIES devastated by natural disasters

In One Year, We Can Help

2,498

Domestic Violence Victims

1,521

Housing Matters

8,075

Family Law Matters

2,414

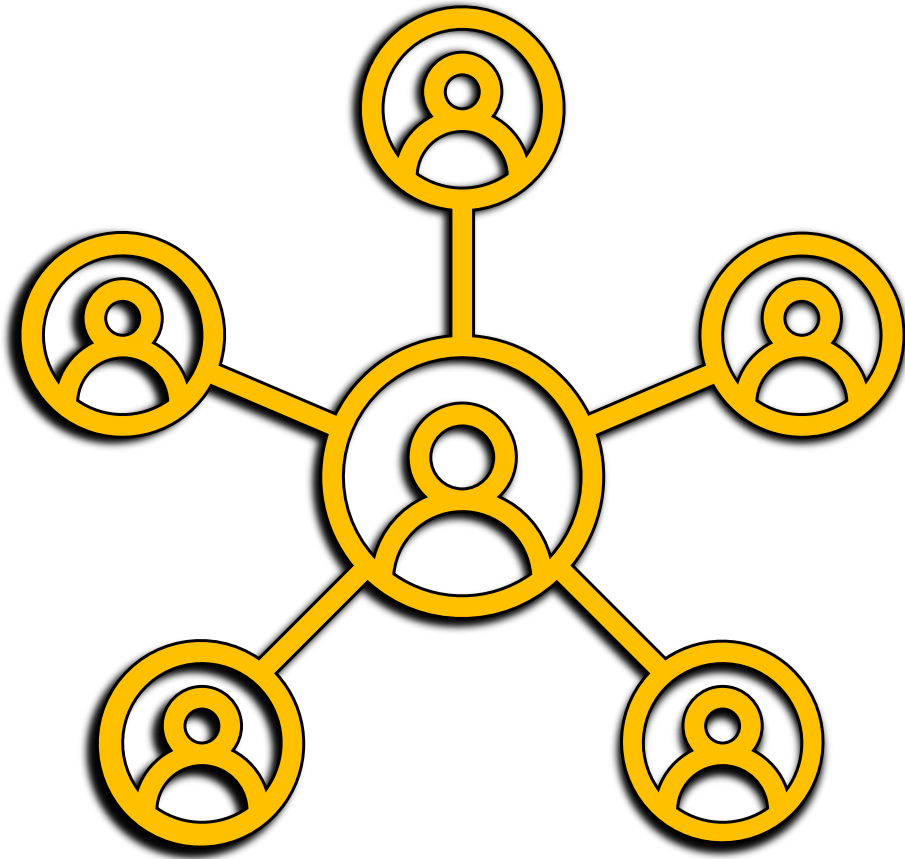
Children in Need of Care

2,246

Consumer Health & Protection Matters



How We Help



Louisiana's Civil Legal Aid Network

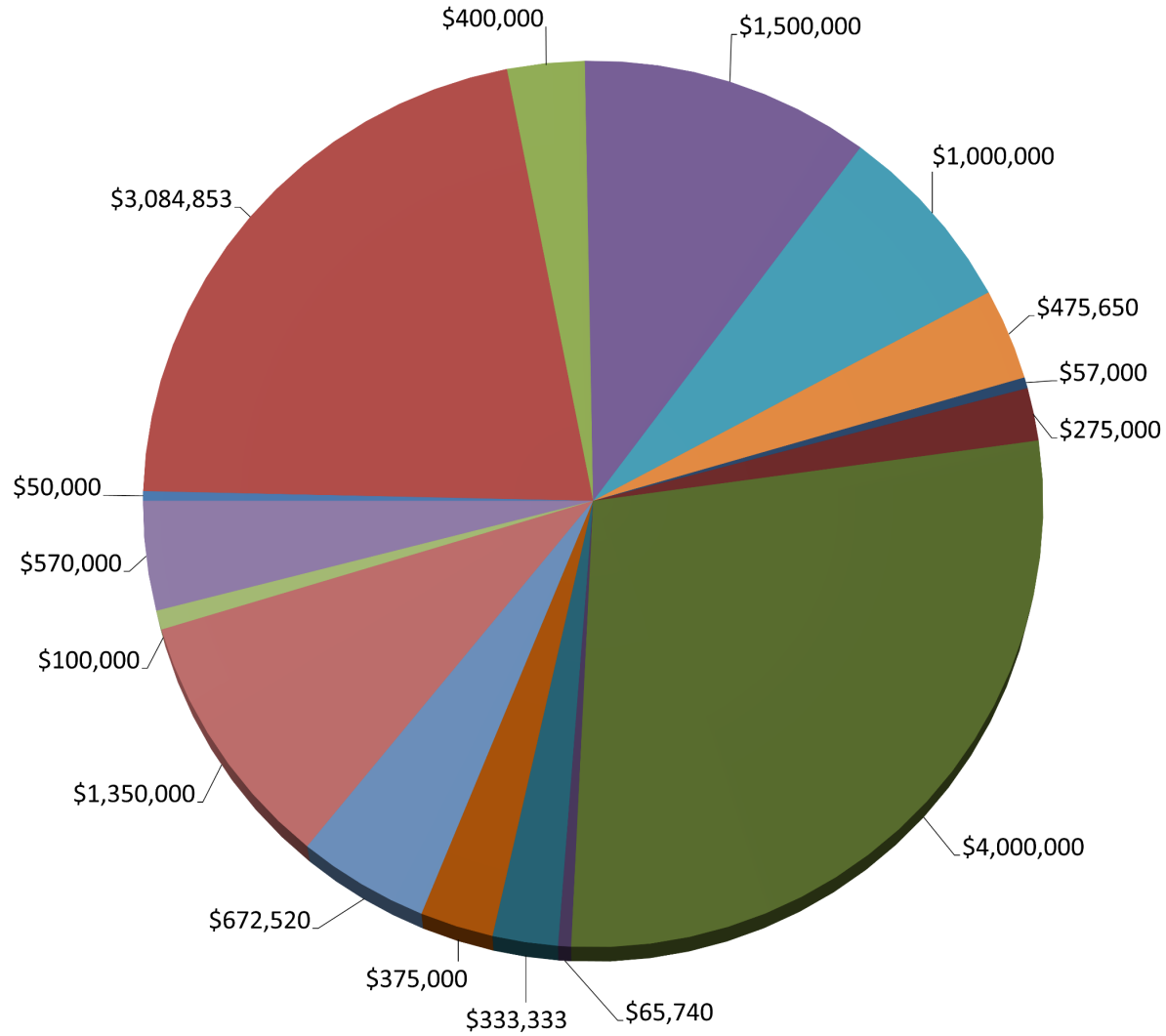
- The responsibility for meeting the civil legal needs of Louisiana's poor falls primarily on a network of nonprofit, civil legal aid organizations.
- LBF's robust network of well-established partnerships with more than 70 grantees across the state's 64 parishes is leading community-driven efforts to help hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents gain access to the legal system.
- In 2024-25 fiscal year we awarded \$14.6 million in grants.
- Since 1989 the LBF has provided more than **\$133.3 million** for civil justice initiatives.

We award funding in the following categories:

- Access to Justice Fund Grants
- Adult Civil Legal Aid Services
- Building Capital Development
- Child in Need of Care (CINC)
- Children's Legal Services
- Domestic Violence Programs
- Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants
- Kids' Chance Scholarships
- Law-Related Education
- Legal Services Corporations
- Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)
- Louisiana Housing Corporation Funding
- My Community Cares
- Other Specialized Legal Services
- Pro Bono Projects



2024-25 Grant Funding



**\$14.6
Million**

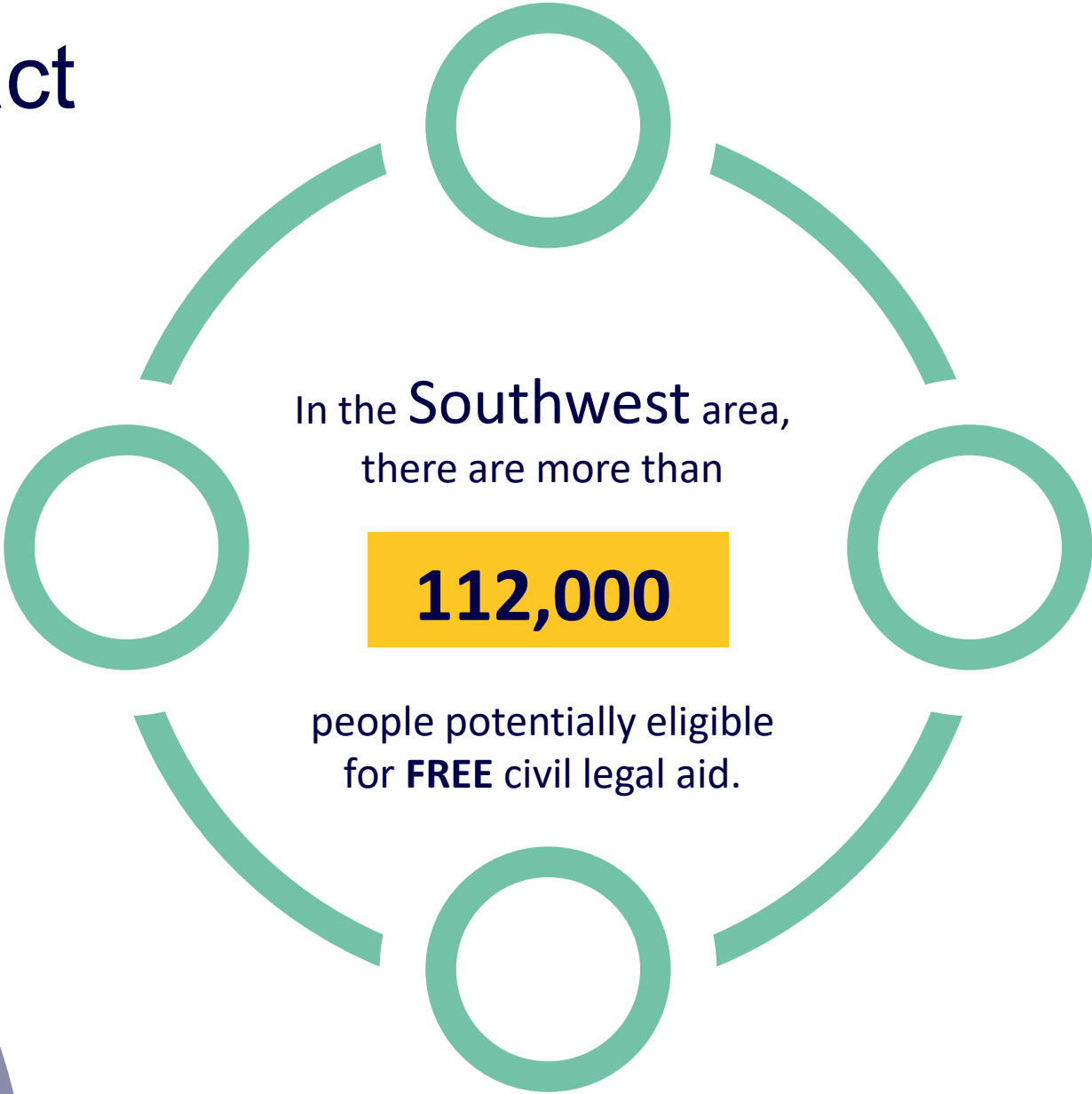
- Access to Justic Grants
- Domestic Violence Programs
- Kids Chance Scholarships
- Loan Repayment Assistance Program
- Other Legal Services Grants
- Special Program and Project Funding*
- Child In Need of Care
- Adult Civil Legal Aid Services
- Law-Related Education Grants
- Louisiana Housing Corporation
- Pro Bono Projects
- Children's Legal Services Grants
- Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants
- Legal Service Corporations
- My Community Cares
- Pro Hac Vice

2024-25 Statewide Grants

Access to Justice Fund Grants	\$50,000
Disability Rights Louisiana	\$135,000
The Ella Project	\$16,000
Emergency Legal Responders	\$10,000
Innocence Project New Orleans	\$20,000
Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants	\$475,650
Kids' Chance Scholarships	\$67,000
Lagniappe Law Lab	\$370,000
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$65,740
Louisiana Appleseed	\$334,400
Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education	\$57,500
Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division	\$12,500
NO/AIDS Task Force dba CrescentCare	\$79,200
Pro Hac Vice	\$102,790
Speak Out for Justice! Focus On Civil Legal Aid	\$10,000

STATEWIDE \$1,805,780

Local Impact



2024-25 Grants Benefiting Southwest

Acadiana Legal Service Corporation	\$5,355,433
Beauregard Community Concerns	\$50,000
Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse	\$26,000
Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence	\$50,000
Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation	\$128,290
St. Frances Cabrini Immigration Law Center	\$50,000
Family and Youth Counseling Agency, Inc.	\$27,000
Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana	\$157,365

TOTAL \$5,844,088



oasis

*a safe haven for survivors of
domestic and sexual violence*

Kathy Manuel

Executive Director

Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual
Violence



Hon. Cynthia Clay Guillory
Southwest
Community Partnership Panel Chair

Community Partnership Panels

We have nine Community Partnership Panels (CPP) that each work to identify regional areas of need for LBF funding. The panels foster collaboration, respond to arising community needs and encourage local involvement in the designation of grant funds.

Southwest Community Partnership Panel

Hon. Cynthia Clay Guillory, Chair

Jonathan Johnson, Board Liaison

Hon. Guy Bradberry

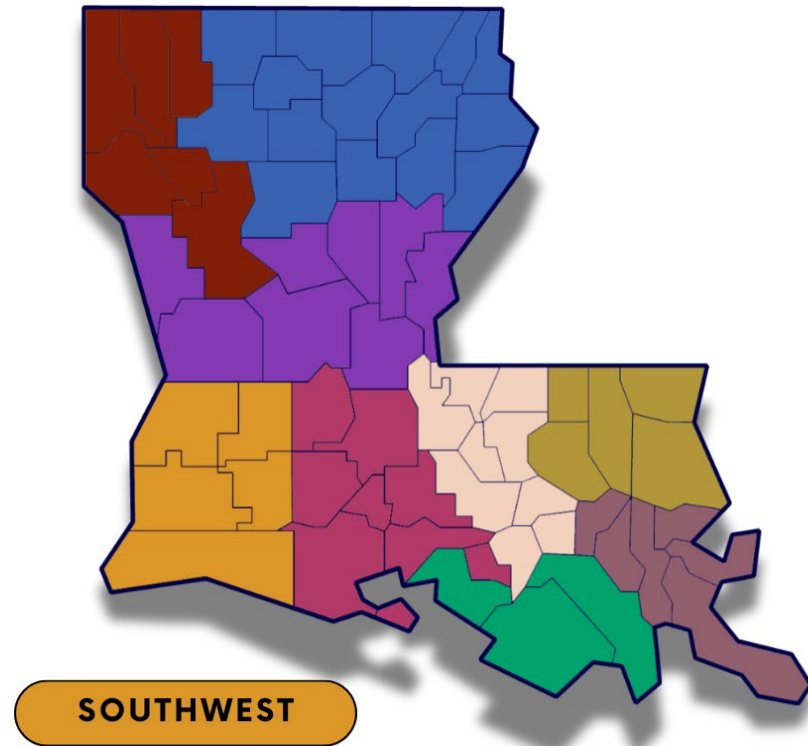
Hon. Charlotte Bushnell

Ashley Freeman

Elizabeth Hollins

Jim A. Watson

Hon. Robert L. Wyatt



Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants

The nine CPPs act as regional chapters of the Foundation identifying needs in their community and fund efforts to address those needs. This year, each panel awards up to \$52,850 in Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants.

The grants are awarded to 501(c)(3) organizations in need of assistance to initiate or expand an activity that meets at least 1 of the following 3 criteria:

- 1) Provides direct legal services to the poor;
- 2) Provides law-related education; and/or
- 3) Provides for the administration of justice.

Southwest 2023-24 Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants

Southwest Family and Youth Counseling Agency \$25,000

CIVIL LEGAL AID IS A SMART INVESTMENT

LBF Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment for Fiscal Year 2022

\$1 = \$17.99

For every \$1 invested in Louisiana's civil legal aid services, these programs deliver \$17.99 in immediate and long-term financial benefits.



\$148,755,000

The net economic impact value resulting from Louisiana civil legal activities during the 2022 fiscal year.

1,799%

Return on investment



27,992

Total services provided in Louisiana during fiscal year 2022.

100

Types of civil legal problems



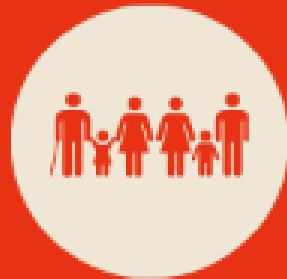
SOUTHWEST ROI

MEASURING IMPACT



ECONOMIC BENEFIT

There were **\$679,375.08** in direct economic benefits obtained by providing Civil Legal Aid in the Southwest region.



PEOPLE

In 2022, Civil Legal Aid handled **526 cases** in the Southwest region, thereby helping **1,273 people**.

SOUTHWEST DATA



LEGAL ISSUES

In 2022, the top 3 case types of Civil Legal Aid clients in the Southwest region were **Family** (42%), **Housing** (14%), & **Income Maintenance** (9%).

Source: The Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment of Civil Legal Aid Services in the State of Louisiana 2023 by the Community Services Analysis LLC.

Partnerships, Programs, and Projects

We partner with a variety of organizations who have similar missions. We believe society benefits when everyone has equal access to justice.





Lagniappe Law Lab

In partnership with Lagniappe Law Lab, we launched the Justice Bus, a rolling legal resource bringing civil legal services to those who need them most through virtual self-help tools and physical resources.

Justice Bus Impact Report, since April 2024

85
Events

19
parishes

4,018
impressions

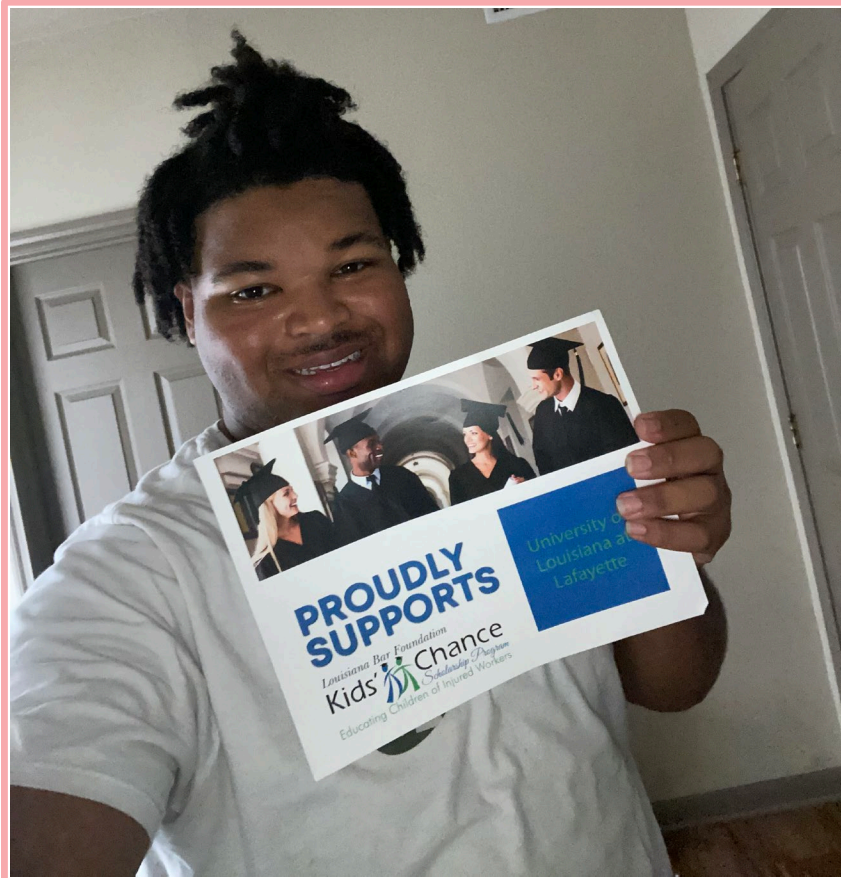
1,093
directly
served

6,000+
handouts
distributed

Louisiana Bar Foundation

Kids' Chance

Scholarship Program
Educating Children of Injured Workers



The **Louisiana Bar Foundation Kids' Chance Scholarship Program** is the state chapter of a national organization that awards scholarships to the children of Louisiana workers who have been killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident compensable under a state or federal Workers' Compensation Act or law.

These work accidents often result in difficult challenges for the family as they struggle to overcome the financial burden of these losses.

Often a child's dream of going to college is crushed because of unexpected income loss and/or the necessity to forfeit an education for work to financially support other family members.

Since 2004, the program has awarded 337 scholarships totaling \$863,100.

Governor Jeff Landry proclaimed November 18-22, 2024 Louisiana Bar Foundation Kids' Chance Awareness Week in Louisiana.



Children and Families Justice Clinic

Loyola Law School and LBF have partnered to create the Children and Families Justice Clinic.

Student practitioners in the clinic will play a key role in developing trauma-informed training opportunities for lawyers, judges, court personnel, community partners, and court-involved mental health professionals.

Law Schools Outreach

We are working directly with law schools to engage and educate law students; establish clinical programs that focus on civil legal aid and create a pipeline for aspiring public interest attorneys.

More Partnerships, Programs, and Projects

Local & Specialty Bars

We partner with local and specialty bars on speaking and educational opportunities.

Louisiana Appleseed

Louisiana Appleseed solves our state's toughest legal problems at the root cause by advocating for access to justice, opportunity, and education.

Louisiana State Bar Association

The LBF is the visible public service organization of Louisiana attorneys and brings members of our profession together, maximizing our efforts to better the profession, our communities, and ourselves. We partner with the LSBA in many areas including our access to justice efforts to improve the delivery of legal representation across the state.

Louisiana Supreme Court

We thank the Louisiana Supreme Court for their continued commitment to ensure access to equal and fair representation of the poor in Louisiana.

Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation

LWCC is our longest standing partner and fundraiser for the Kids' Chance Scholarship Program.

State of Louisiana

Through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the **Office of the Louisiana State Treasurer**, LBF receives funding for legal representation of children in child protection cases and adult civil legal aid. LBF awards grants through agreements with ALSC and SLLS in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the **Louisiana Housing Corporation**, LBF receives funding for direct representation of impoverished citizens in matters of title clearing (homeowner foreclosure), foreclosure prevention, mediation, and mortgage loan modifications., education, counseling. LBF has agreements with ALS, SLLS, Louisiana Appleseed and Lagniappe Law Lab to provide statewide services.

IOLTA PROGRAM



LBF administers the **Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program (IOLTA)** on behalf of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Finance staff works with financial institutions on eligibility, compliance, and rates.

Our **Prime Partners** are institutions that go above and beyond eligibility requirements to foster the IOLTA Program. These institutions pay 60% of the Fed Funds Target Rate and are committed to ensuring the success of the IOLTA program and increased funding for legal aid.

Our **statewide Prime Partner** banks are Chase, First Horizon, Hancock Whitney, and Regions. A list of **local Prime Partner** banks are on the LBF website.





Membership/Fellowship

Shayna L. Sonnier
LBF Board

Membership/Fellowship

The LBF is the visible public service organization of Louisiana attorneys and brings members of our profession together, maximizing our efforts to better the profession, our communities, and ourselves.

- At the LBF, our members are called “Fellows”
- LBF Fellows are leaders in their profession and demonstrate their commitment to the communities they serve through their support of the Foundation
- Professionals who become Fellows believe in the Foundation’s mission and are committed to fostering Louisiana’s legal environment to be open, accessible, and understandable for all





Benefits of Membership

- Access to LBF networking events.
- Participation in annual nominations for Louisiana's distinguished jurist, attorney, and professor awards.
- Eligibility to participate on committees and leadership positions to steer the LBF into the future.
- Opportunities for Continuing Legal Education.
- Advocate for Louisiana's disadvantage citizens.
- Be a critical part of our mission to fund civil legal aid.

LBF dedicated members are judges, lawyers, academics, and individuals whom we call Fellows. These volunteers are critical to our mission to fund civil legal aid.

Fellowship Levels:

General Fellow - \$240 a year

The General Fellowship is for working lawyers interested in promoting access and equity throughout the local justice system.

Community Supporter Fellow - \$120 a year

This discounted Community Supporter Fellowship level is for the general public, retired legal professionals, and young lawyers getting started in the industry.

Judicial Fellow - \$150 a year

The Judicial Fellowship level is for a full-time federal or state judge, magistrate, commissioner, administrative law judge, or hearing officer.

New Admit – FREE for the first year

Young Lawyers' first year of membership is free

Jonathan Johnson

LBF Board



Annual fellows Gala



LOUISIANA BAR FOUNDATION
39th Annual Gala

The Four Seasons Hotel New Orleans

Friday, April 11, 2025

Become a Sponsor



2024 Honorees

Distinguished Jurist
Cynthia T. Woodard (Ret.)
Third Judicial District Court

Distinguished Professor
Dean Madeleine Landrieu
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

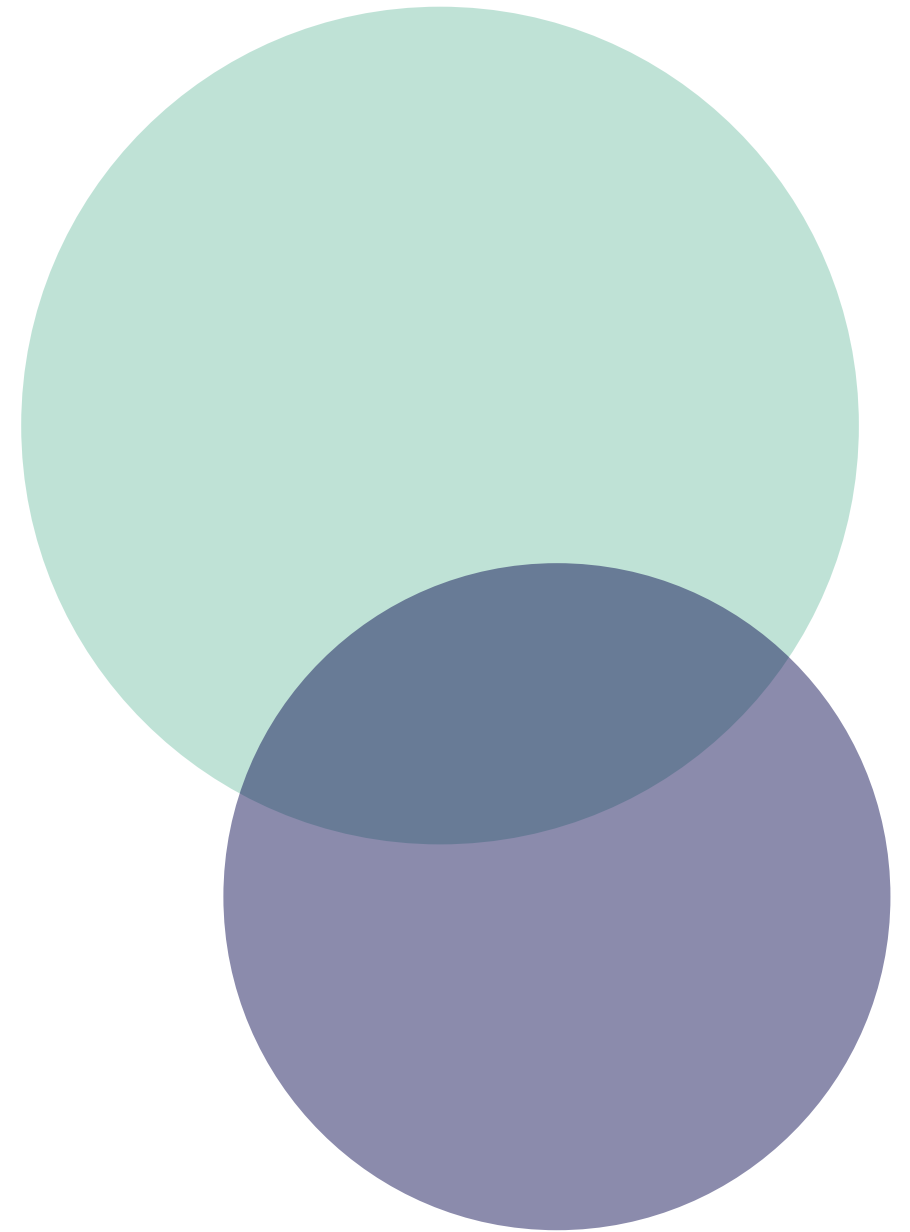
Distinguished Attorney
Glenn J. Armentor
The Glenn Armentor Law Corporation

Calogero Justice Award
Frank X. Neuner, Jr.
NeunerPate



Moving Forward

- Continue our work with the law schools to establish clinical programs that focus on civil legal aid and create a pipeline for aspiring public interest attorneys.
- Continue to fund the expansion and reach of the **Legal Navigator** and the **Justice Bus**; seek out partnerships to establish organized pro bono projects in legal deserts.
- Plan for sustained **grant funding** with inevitable rate cuts over the next three – five years.
- Find a **home** for the LBF that will serve future needs.
- Educate LBF stakeholders across the state through the **Pop Up Tour**.
- Nurture the LBF partnership with **LSBA** leadership and staff.
- **Continue partnerships** with Louisiana Supreme Court, Louisiana State Bar Association, Access to Justice Commission, State of Louisiana, and Louisiana Legislature to improve the delivery of civil legal aid across the state.



Why is the LBF Good for the Profession?

The LBF is the visible public service organization of Louisiana attorneys and brings members of our profession together, maximizing our efforts to better the profession, our communities and ourselves.

Membership in the LBF is a statement of commitment to fairness and equal access for all in the justice system.



Why Should I Get Involved?



Because it is the right thing to do!

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Executive Director/ CEO



Jacie Lemon
Operations Support Manager



Amanda Lucas
Office Administrator

Communications



Dennette Young
Chief Communications Officer



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Chief Financial Officer



Tina M. Ferrera
IOLTA/ Senior
Accounting Manager



Jack Harvey
Accounting Specialist

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Brianna Foster
Development Associate



Uyen Dinh
Development Coordinator

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Renee B. LeBoeuf
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Faith Southerland
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-25



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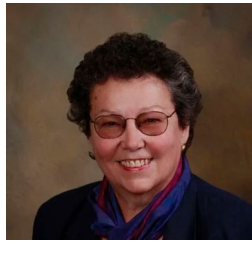
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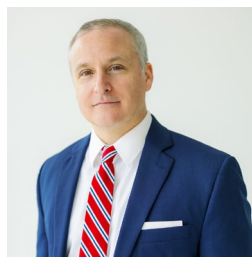
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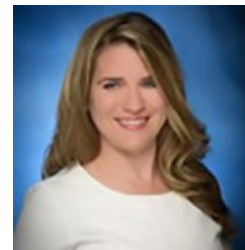
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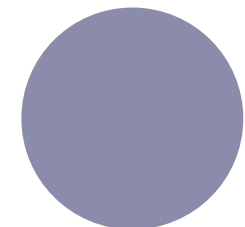
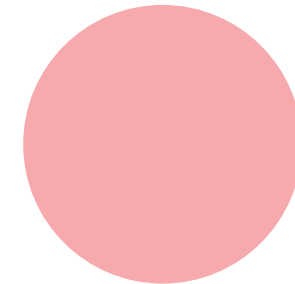
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Vernon Bice



Paula E. Miles
Louisiana Public Defender Board



Anthony J. Staines
Staines, Eppling & Kenney, LLC





Louisiana_bar_foundation



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Louisiana Bar Foundation



/raisingthebar.org



Be Social With Us!

www.RaisingtheBar.org

Thank you for coming!



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