



LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID

LBF: Strengthening Families, Communities, and the Legal Profession

Southwest Pop Up



Approved for 1 hour of Professionalism CLE



LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID



EDMUND J. GIERING IV
LBF PRESIDENT 2025-26

Who We Are

Why We Help

How We Help

Our Impact

- A grants-making organization that funds **free civil legal aid** across the state
- Largest state funder of civil legal aid, serving 64 parishes

The LBF is designated by the IRS as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3).

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.



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SINCE
1989

LBF has funded more than **\$147.6 Million**
for **free civil legal aid** initiatives.

1969: LBF Charter

1985: Reactivation of the Organization

IOLTA Program, Fellows Program Established

1989: First IOLTA Grants Awarded - \$153,057 to 18 organizations

1990: Mandatory IOLTA Program Order by LA Supreme Court



In 2025, we will award **\$14.4 Million**



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What is Civil Legal Aid?

A Powerful Tool!

Civil legal aid is free legal assistance provided to people who cannot afford an attorney for non-criminal legal issues.

It helps ensure that everyone—regardless of income—has access to justice when facing legal problems that impact their basic needs.



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Poverty

- Louisiana's overall poverty rate is approximately 18.9%, which places it among the **highest in the nation**.
- 829,565 individuals live below the federal poverty line.

Child Poverty

- **24.4% of children** in Louisiana are living in poverty.
- **255,159 children** are growing up in poverty in Louisiana.

Income

- Louisiana's median **household income** indicates a figure around **\$55,416** among the nation's lowest.

Income Inequality

- Inequality remains high in Louisiana largely due to the **high concentration of poverty—not high accumulation of wealth**.

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How Louisiana Ranks Nationally

2nd
highest

Poverty

3rd
highest

**Child
Poverty**

3rd
lowest

Income

6th
highest

**Income
Inequality**

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Grants

Annual Sustaining Grants

Primarily fund salaries for direct civil legal representation for 501(c)(3) organizations.



Children's Legal Services (CLS)

Helps to provide legal assistance to needy children in areas of law which affect their safety, well-being, and future development focusing on statewide or regional services.



Domestic Violence Programs (DVP)

These agencies enable people to leave abusive relationships and seek safety for themselves and their children. Essential services provided by these agencies are legal services, education of domestic/dating violence, and establishing collaborative relationships with law enforcement, judges, clerks of court, and prosecutors.

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Law-Related Education (LRE)

Grants are awarded for law-related educational programs benefiting children and/or the public. Law-related education is the teaching of legal rights, responsibilities, and the role of the citizen by bringing together teachers, community leaders, and legal professionals.



Legal Services Corporations (LSC)

Provides civil legal services to the indigent in each parish of the state. Attorneys and paralegals, provide free legal services in many areas of the law.

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My Community Cares (MCC)

A community-driven, neighborhood-based approach to strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect in the State of Louisiana. Services are provided to promote child and family well-being and prevent children from entering foster care. Funding is for full-time attorney positions fully dedicated to MCC work.



Other Legal Services (OLS)

Through staff attorneys and paralegals, these programs provide legal services of a special nature such as mental health and child advocacy mediation.

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Pro Bono Projects (PBP)

These programs are often operated by the local bar association. These projects utilize the local private bar to handle cases for the poor pro bono in many legal areas.



Building Capital Development (BCD)

Current LBF Grantees may apply for grants up to \$50,000, on a 50% to 50% ratio matching basis, with the purpose of assisting in the acquisition or renovation of an office building and/or property.

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Grants

Southwest Annual Grants 2025-26

Agencies that serve statewide or more than one geographic region of Louisiana

Acadiana Legal Service Corporation	\$2,035,624
Beauregard Community Concerns	\$49,000

Agencies that serve the Southwest Region

Family and Youth Counseling Agency, Inc.	\$40,000
Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse	\$25,480
Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence	\$49,000
St. Frances Cabrini Immigration Law Center	\$80,000
Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation	\$128,290
Southwest Louisiana Law Center	\$30,000

TOTAL: \$2,437,394



Tamiko Chatman

Deputy Director

WHAT DO WE DO?

OUR MISSION

We provide exceptional civil legal services by advocating for fairness, protection, and justice for our disadvantaged client community.

OUR VISION

Our disadvantaged client community has easy and timely access to exceptional civil legal assistance.

- Civil cases only
 - Low-income population
 - No charge for our assistance
- Everyday legal problems



IF YOU DON'T CHARGE CLIENTS, HOW DO YOU STAY OPEN?

LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Grants from other non-profit entities such as:

- Legal Services Corporation from Congressional Appropriation
- **Louisiana Bar Foundation**
- Other private foundations and corporations

State Appropriation

Other small contracts, for example:

- Federal funds channeled through local Councils on Aging to serve our senior citizens
- Partnerships with medical providers to qualify patients for health care coverage

Small filing fee charges in a few courts

Donations

**LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION**
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID

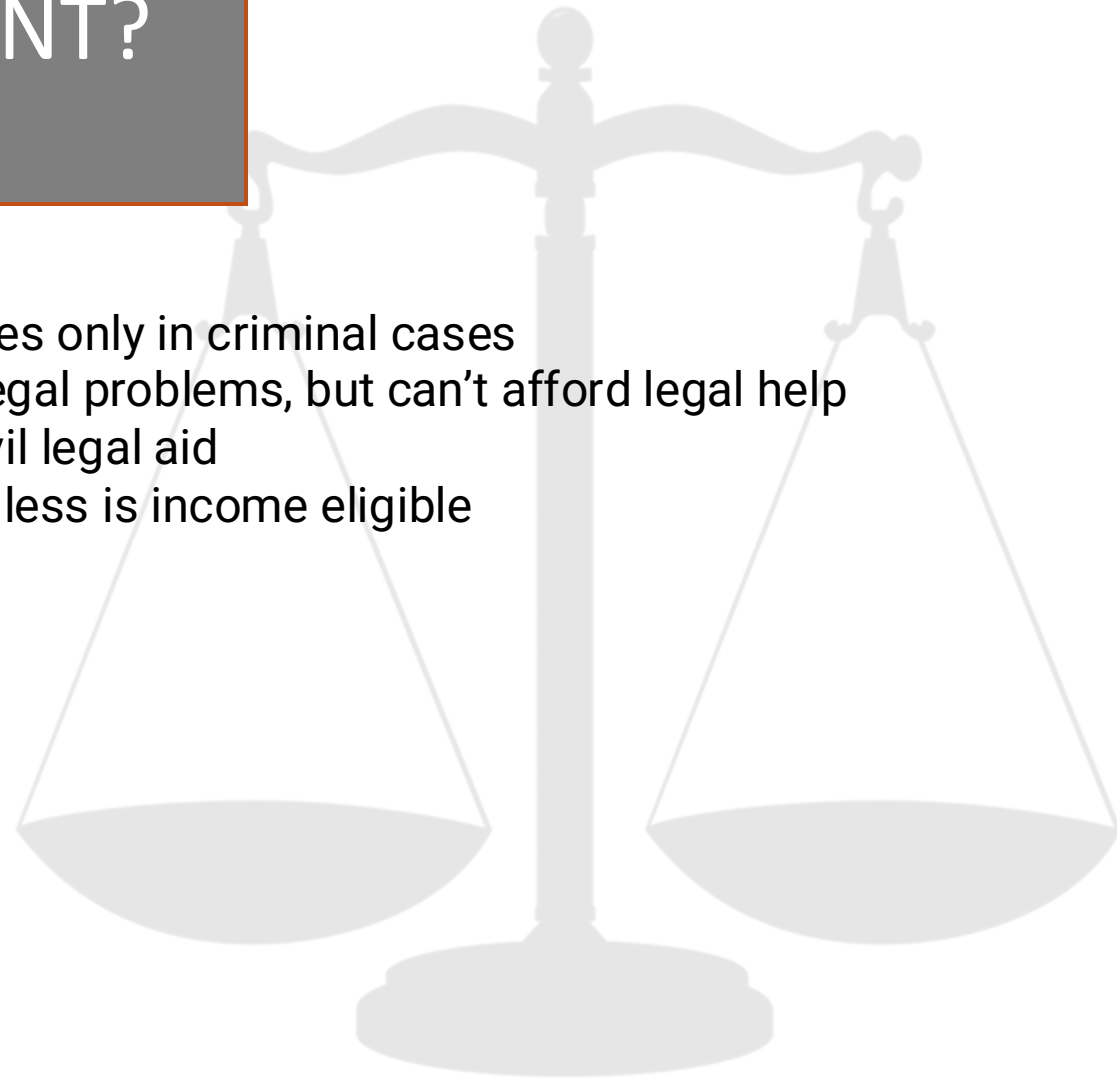
WHY IS CIVIL LEGAL AID IMPORTANT?

The challenge:

- The Constitution's guarantee of Right to Counsel applies only in criminal cases
- Large numbers of low-income constituents face civil legal problems, but can't afford legal help
- At least 20% of Louisianians are income-eligible for civil legal aid
- Family of 4 with total household income of \$40,188 or less is income eligible



ACADIANA LEGAL SERVICE CORPORATION
— EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL



Our Services

ALSC offers free civil legal services to qualified low-income and elderly individuals through a streamlined intake process and dedicated, specialized law units, delivering high-quality legal representation and community education.

1 PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- TANF
- SSI
- SSA
- Veteran Benefits

2 DISASTER RECOVERY

- Contractor Fraud
- Title Clearing
- Succession Planning
- Insurance Claims

3 HOUSING ISSUES

- Landlord/Tenant
- Evictions
- Foreclosure
- Subsidized Housing

4 FAMILY LAW

- Adoption
- Custody/Child Support
- Divorce/Support
- Domestic Abuse

5 CONSUMER ISSUES

- Bankruptcy
- Collections
- Garnishments
- Repossessions

5 CINC

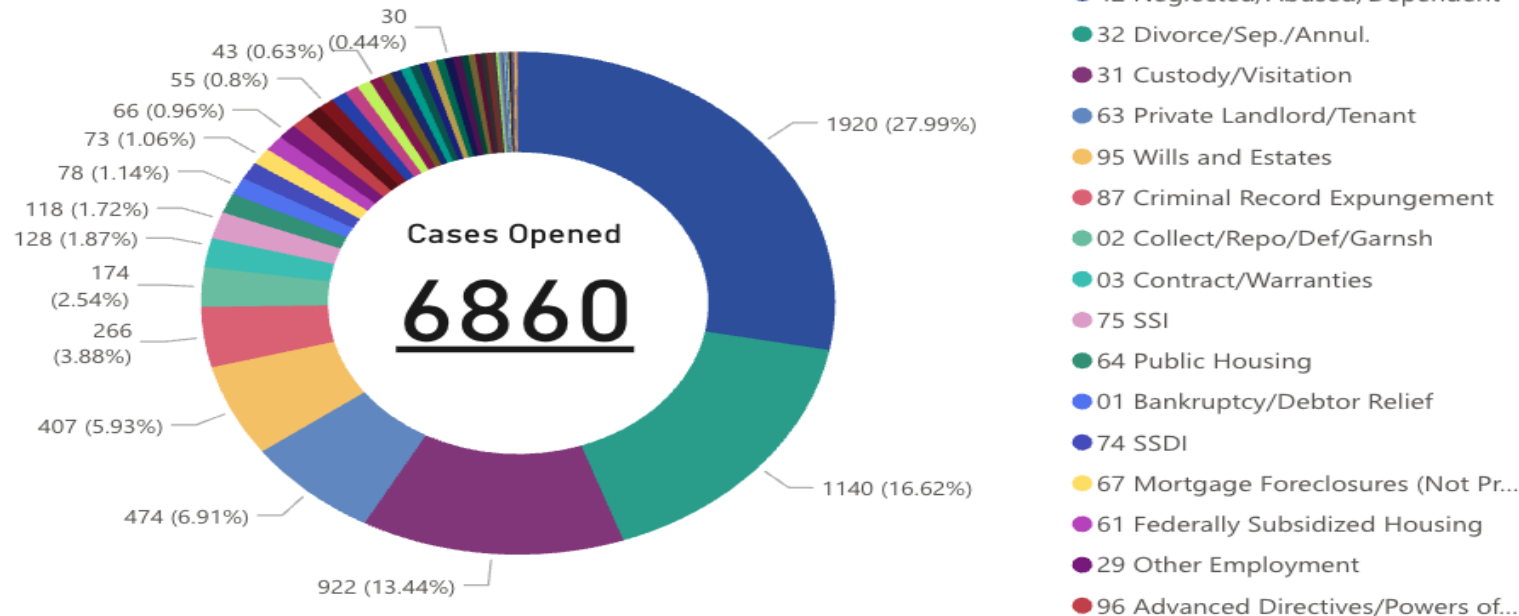
- Child in Need of Care
- Parental Termination

5 PRO BONO

- Private Attorney Involvement
- Wills
- Divorce
- Workforce Enhancement Through Expungement

2024 By the Numbers

Total Cases Opened by Legal Problem Code



Open Date

Year

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
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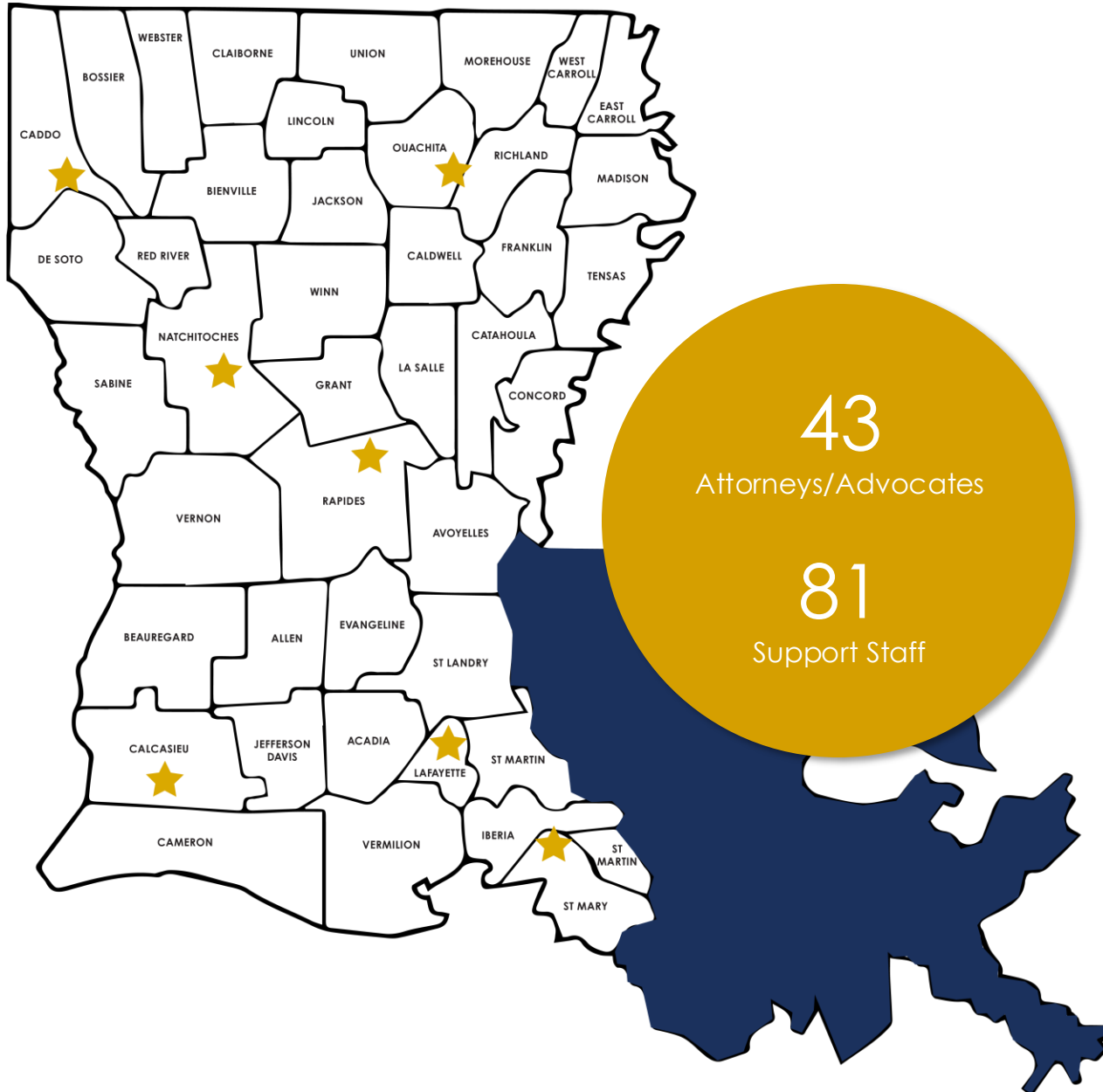
*The cases shown on this page are cases opened in the year(s) selected above.
If no selection is made, all cases opened 1/1/2019 or later are shown.

Unit	Case Count
CINC	1920
FLU	1573
GLU	1398
HU	717
IU	526
ALU	336
Pro Bono	234
DU	155
Executive	1
Total	6860

**2024 ECONOMIC
IMPACT: \$6,214,431.33**

TOP CASE TYPES:
CINC
Family Law
Housing





OFFICE LOCATIONS

Shreveport

720 Travis Street
Shreveport, LA 71101

Monroe

3016 Cameron Street
Monroe, LA 71201

Natchitoches

134 St. Denis Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Alexandria

1808 Jackson Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

Lafayette

1020 Surrey Street
Lafayette, LA 70501

Lake Charles

2911 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Franklin

1407 Barrow St., Suite H-1
Franklin, LA 70538

CALL US TOLL FREE

1-866-ASK-ALSC
(275-2572)

2026 Challenges

- Realignment due to anticipated reduced funding
- Continued business improvement processes
 - Intake
 - Delivery of Services

When Help Arrives, Everything Changes.



 MEET NICOLE

Imagine that \$20 could prevent you from getting a job, moving into a home, or entering a trade program that could change your life. **Nicole** unknowingly used counterfeit money, received from a friend, to pay a bill, and that incident resulted in her getting a felony arrest that turned her life upside down. After completing probation, she should have received a First Offender Pardon, but an oversight left the arrest on her record. When she sought legal help, our attorneys found that the problem was an unpaid \$14.20 fee that blocked her pardon. With persistent advocacy, the issue was fixed, the arrest was removed, and **Nicole** avoided hundreds of dollars in court costs. Her story shows how legal aid helps people overcome barriers and restore their ability to contribute to their community.



 MEET CHARLES

Charles, a gunshot victim, applied for disability after being shot three times. While in the hospital, he experienced a stroke and was in a coma for a week. **Charles** was devastated when his disability claim was rejected. ALSC secured life-changing disability benefits and peace of mind by helping him file for reconsideration. Awarded over \$20,000 and monthly benefits, **Charles** can now live without worrying about his future.





Hon. Cynthia Clay Guillory

Chief Judge-14JDC

Southwest Community Partnership Panel Chair

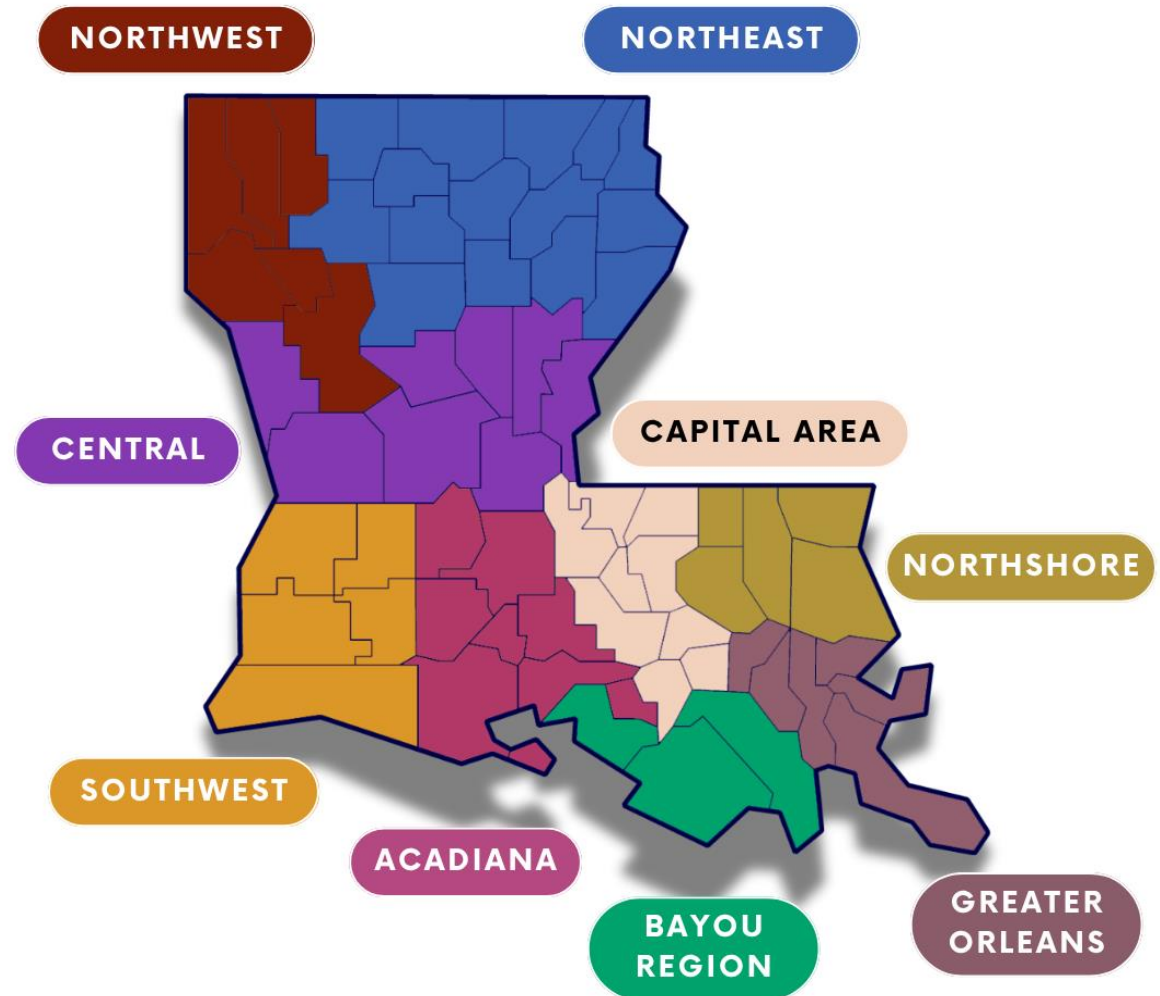
Community Partnership Panels

The **Community Partnership Panels** work to:

- identify areas of need for LBF funding
- foster collaboration
- respond to arising community needs
- encourage local involvement in the designation of grant funds

SOUTHWEST Community Partnership Panel

Hon. Guy E. Bradberry
Hon. Charlotte Bushnell
Ashley Freeman
Hon. Cynthia C. Guillory, Chair



Who We Are

Why We Help

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Our Impact

Grants

Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants

Eligible nonprofits or current LBF grantees may apply for CPP funding for new services or expansion of an existing service.

CPP grant applications are accepted on a flexible, rolling period.

Fund 501(c)(3) organizations to initiate or expand an activity that meets at least 1 of 3 criteria:

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

\$55,000

**to be awarded for
fiscal year 2025-26**

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Grants

Southwest Community Partnership Panel 2024-25 Grants

Family and Youth Counseling Agency

\$17,500

Sulphur Christian Community

\$17,850

The Whistle Stop & Family

\$17,500

TOTAL: \$52,850

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Grants

Special Program Grants

Nearly \$5 million awarded for fiscal year 2025-26



Kids' Chance Scholarship (KCS)

Provides 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.



Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

Provides forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per year to attorneys working in a public interest position.



Louisiana Appleseed

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



Amanda Brown
Executive Director

Our Mission

Lagniappe Law Lab's purpose is to narrow the Access to Justice Gap by ensuring the Louisiana Civil Justice System is operating at its full potential.

Legal Help, Simplified.

Find reliable legal information, self-help forms, and professionals across Louisiana to guide your next step with confidence.

[GET STARTED](#) 


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Inform

Empower

Connect

Court Kiosks



1

Tablet computer & lockable freestanding case with internal cord management

2

Wireless black & white laserjet printer

3

3-tier printer stand with charging station & adjustable shelf

The Justice Bus



Justice Bus Events

Community Events



Lagniappe Events

Networking Events



Recent Event Highlights



Justice Bus Impact Since April 2024

**123
Events**

**19
parishes**

**6,769
impressions**

**1,798
directly
served**

**11,291
handouts
distributed**

Please Consider Joining us on the Journey!



Sign up for our monthly newsletter by scanning the QR Code

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For every **\$1**

invested in Louisiana Legal Aid,
the citizens of Louisiana received

\$13.28

of immediate and long-term
financial benefits.

Social Return on Investment

Total net value: \$162,988,000

- **37,399** civil legal aid cases completed
- **\$12,277,000** total tax-based funding for civil legal aid operations
- **\$59,219,000** immediate gross direct value of services
- **\$119,621,000** long-term gross consequential value
- **1,328%** social impact return on investment

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Our Impact



Access to basic needs

By providing civil legal aid, individuals navigate complex legal processes to secure essential needs such as **housing, food assistance, and healthcare**, which are critical for overall well-being.



Economic stability

Preventing **eviction, wage theft, and improper benefit deductions** through legal intervention can help individuals maintain stable employment and income, contributing to economic security.



Family stability

Civil legal aid helps families facing **domestic violence or child custody issues** access protection and stability within their households.



Community impact

When individuals resolve legal issues impacting their daily lives, it leads to a **more cohesive and functioning community**.



Reduced government costs

By proactively addressing legal issues, civil legal aid can potentially **reduce the need for costly social services later**, such as emergency housing or healthcare.

Who We Are

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Measuring Impact Locally: Southwest

People Helped

664 cases
1,632 people

Direct Economic Benefits

\$644,729

Top Legal Issues

Family (43%), **Housing** (17%), and **Consumer** (6%)

Source: Louisiana Appleseed "Civil Legal Aid Supports Louisiana"

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Strategic Partners

Organizations with similar missions

● Louisiana Supreme Court

LBF administers the **Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA)** on behalf of the Court and reports annually on activities and progress.

● Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA)

LBF partners with the LSBA in many areas including access to justice efforts to improve the delivery of legal representation across the state.

● Local and Specialty Bars

LBF partners with local and specialty bar on speaking and educational opportunities.

● State of Louisiana

Through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of the Louisiana State Treasurer, LBF administers funds for the representation of children in need of care and adult civil legal aid.

● Louisiana Law Schools

We work with the Louisiana law schools to create a pipeline for public interest attorneys.

● Louisiana Department of Child & Family Services (DCFS)

LBF works with DCFS to pull down federal Title IV-E dollars and reimburse the Louisiana legal service corporations for Child in Need of Care cases.

● Louisiana Division of Administration

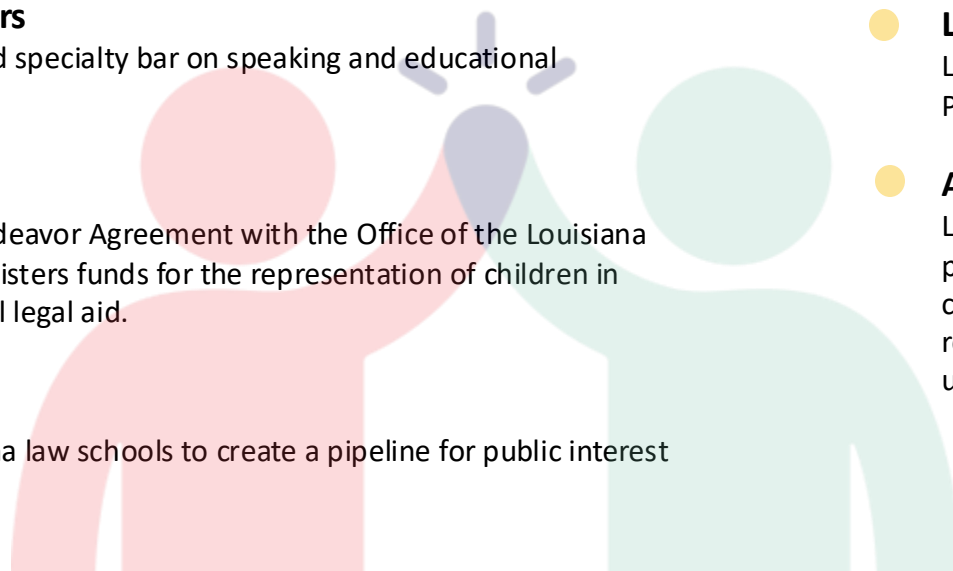
LBF works with the Office of the Commissioner on funding for Child in Need of Care and adult civil legal aid.

● Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation (LWCC)

Long standing partner and fundraiser for the Kids' Chance Scholarship Program.

● Access to Justice Commission

LBF partners with the Commission to “assure continuity of policy and purpose in the collaboration between the private bar, the courts, and the civil justice community to further the goal of assuring that Louisianans, regardless of their economic circumstance, have access to equal justice under the law.”



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Louisiana Law School Partnerships



The **Child Welfare & Domestic Violence Clinic** is fully operational this academic school year and is led by Professor Tim McEvoy.



The **Clinical Legal Education Program** will enhance the quality of legal educational training and expand services to the community.

Next Steps:

LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, 2025-26

Tulane University School of Law, 2026-27

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Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program

The LBF IOLTA Program was **established by the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1985.**

LBF administers IOLTA on behalf of the Court.

The IOLTA Program **requires** lawyers and law firms to establish interest bearing accounts for client deposits which are nominal in amount or expected to be short-term.

Because **IOLTA is tied to interest rates** paid by the banks holding IOLTA deposits, IOLTA income **fluctuates** as rates change in response to rates set by the Federal Reserve and other factors.

- ✓ LBF provides technical assistance to participating financial institutions and attorneys
- ✓ LBF handles establishment of IOLTA accounts, program compliance, and rate negotiation
- ✓ LBF maintains a list of eligible banks

Resources for banks and attorneys are available on the LBF website.

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Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program

Increasing and **sustaining** IOLTA revenues through periods of economic recession or stress remains an imperative for IOLTA programs contending with the persistently high level of unmet legal need among persons living in poverty.

Unclaimed Funds are client or third person funds on deposit in an IOLTA account for **at least two years** that after reasonable due diligence the owner cannot be located or the owner refused to accept the funds. *A lawyer who either remits funds in error or later ascertains the ownership of remitted funds, or the owner thereof, may make a claim to the Louisiana Bar Foundation, which after verification of the claim will return the funds to the lawyer or owner, as appropriate.*

Unidentified Funds are funds on deposit in an IOLTA account for **at least one year** that after reasonable due diligence cannot be documented as belonging to a client, a third person, or the lawyer or law firm. A lawyer who learns of Unidentified Funds in an IOLTA account must remit the funds to the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

Resources for banks and attorneys are available on the LBF website.

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Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program

Prime Partners are institutions that 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.

Statewide Prime Partner Banks:

Chase
First Horizon
Hancock Whitney
Regions

Southwest Prime Partner Banks:

First Federal Bank of LA
Lakeside Bank
The Bank

Local Board Member



Jonathan Johnson
The Johnson Firm

Membership

- **New Bar Admit (Free)**

We invite newly admitted attorneys to learn more about civil legal aid and how to get involved with LBF without any obligation to donate for their first year of practice.

- **General Fellow**

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

- **Community Supporter Fellow**

This Fellowship option is for the general public, attorneys working for non-profit organizations or public service, retired legal professionals, and young lawyers getting started in the industry (first 5 years of practice).

- **Judicial Fellow**

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

*The Louisiana Supreme Court clarified in 2015 that Judicial Fellow dues may be paid through a judge's judicial expense fund. If you have questions regarding dues payments, please contact us at 504-561-1046.



LBF 40th Anniversary Gala!

Friday, April 17, 2026

Four Seasons Hotel New Orleans

The Gala is our flagship event, drawing 300+ attendees to celebrate and honor our Distinguished Jurist, Attorney, Professor, and Calogero Justice Award recipients.

Along with the award recipients, the 2026 Gala will commemorate the Foundation's legacy and enduring impact on civil legal aid over the past four decades!

Individual Tickets and Sponsorships
range from \$350 - \$7,500

2025 Distinguished Honorees:

Calogero Justice Award: Hon. Freddie Pitcher (Ret.)

Distinguished Jurist: Dana M. Douglas

Distinguished Attorney: Michael A. Patterson

Distinguished Professor: Monica Hof Wallace



LBF Strengthens Families, Communities, and the Legal Profession

Louisiana Bar Foundation is the state's **largest funder** of **free civil legal aid**.

Civil Legal Aid makes **Louisiana communities stronger** by helping people avoid foreclosure, gain custody of their loved ones, and safeguard their economic security.

When families are stable, housed, and safe, **communities thrive**.

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.



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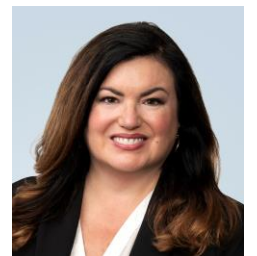
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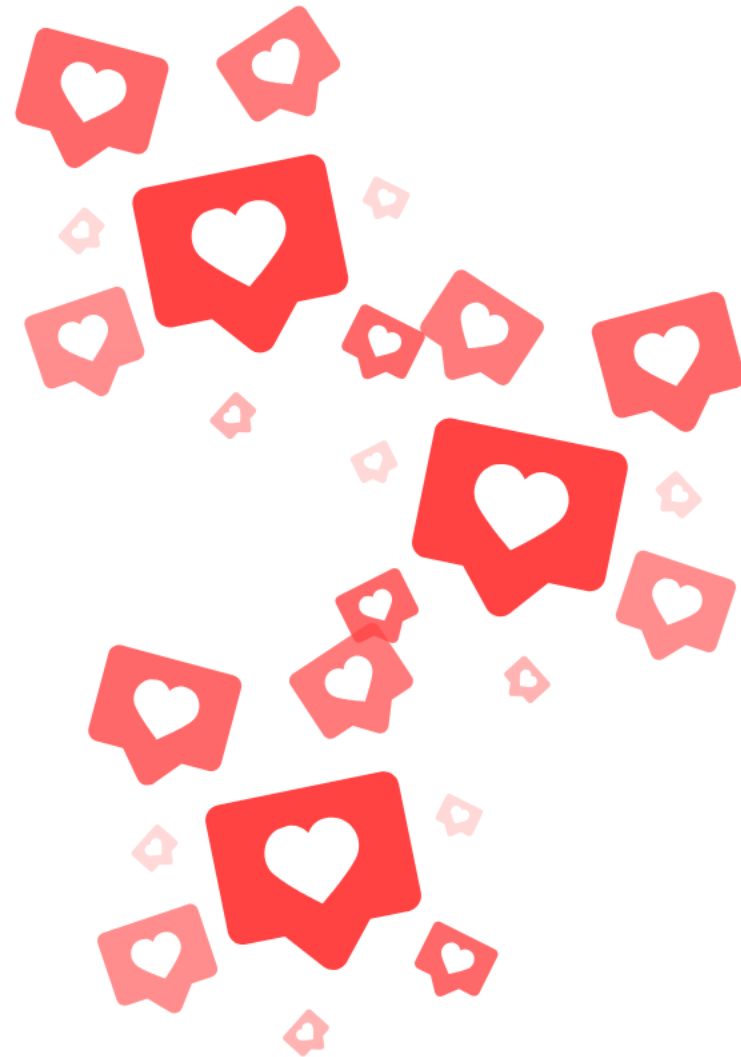
Facebook:

raisingthebar.org

YouTube:

labarfoundation

www.RaisingtheBar.org



We Moved!

LBF moved to the Pan Am Building

601 Poydras Street, Suite 1777
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

effective November 3, 2025.



Thanks for joining us!

This presentation is approved for
1 hour of Professionalism CLE.

You must register for the CLE at
the registration table to receive
the credit.

