LOUISIANA BAR FOUNDATION
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID

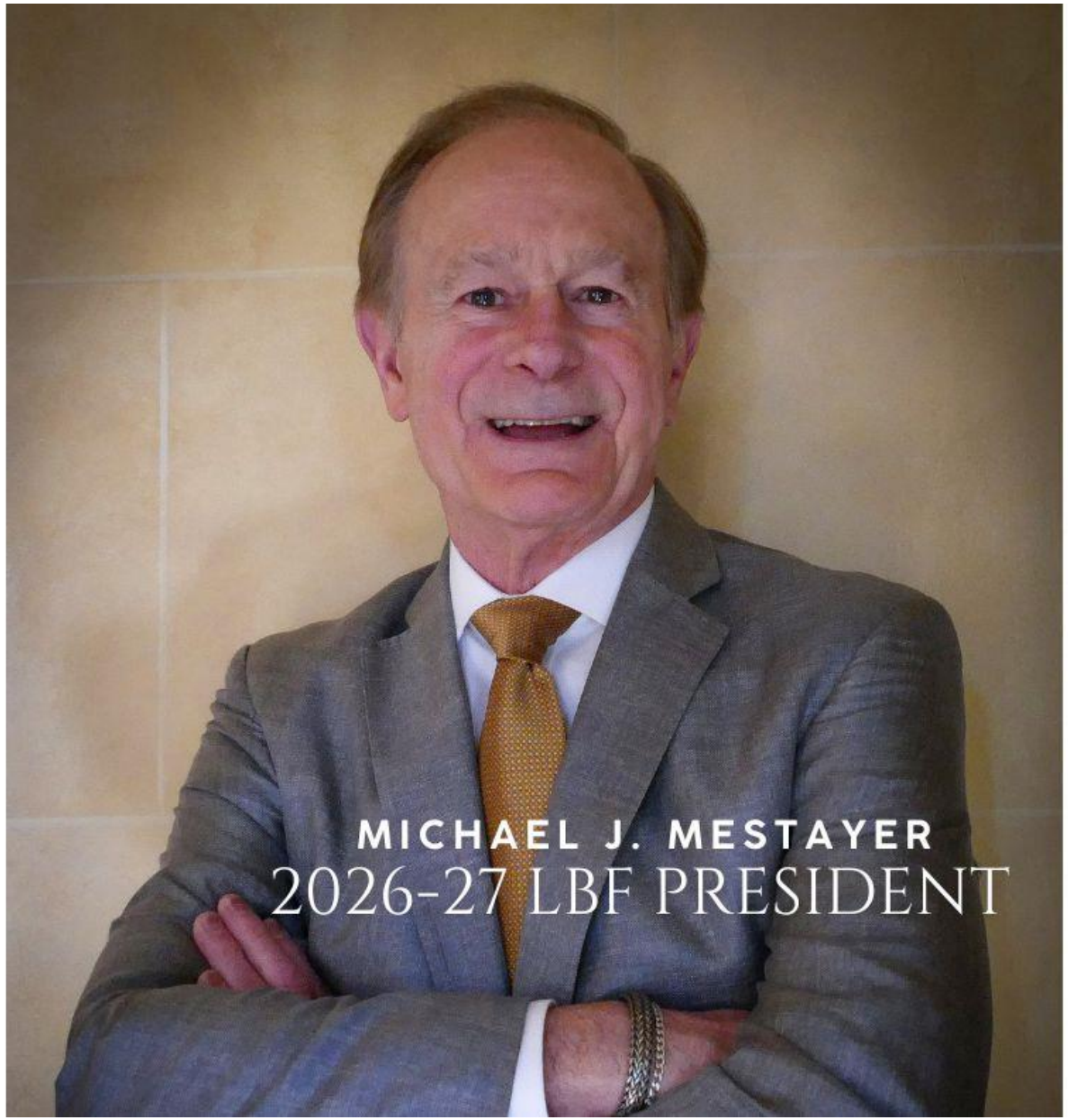
# LBF: Strengthening Families, Communities, and the Legal Profession



## Northeast Pop Up

*Approved for 1 hour of Professionalism CLE*

LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID



**Who We Are** | Why We Help | How We Help | Our Impact

## A grants-making organization that funds **free civil legal aid** across the state

**Mission:**

The Louisiana Bar Foundation 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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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).

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# Since 1989

LBF has funded more than **$162 Million** for civil justice 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

**2026**

Awarded $14.3 Million in grants

**2026**

40th Anniversary Fellows Gala

**Who We Are** | Why We Help | How We Help | Our Impact

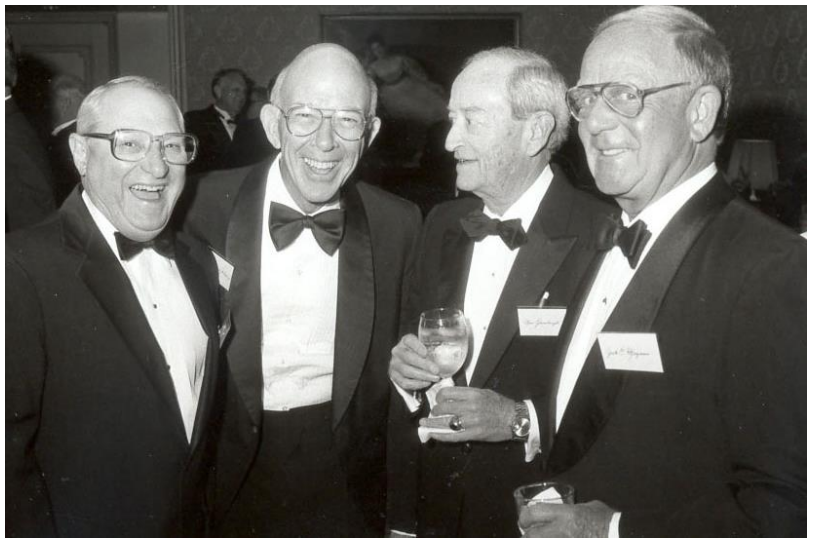
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
1986 2026
LBF GALA

For four decades, the Louisiana Bar Foundation has quietly transformed generosity into justice, turning the commitment of the legal community into life-changing support for people across our state.

















# 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.

## How Louisiana Ranks Nationally




Poverty

Child Poverty

Income

Income Inequality

**Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 ACS; America's Health Rankings, 2024

Who We Are | **Why We Help** | How We Help | Our Impact

# Louisiana by the Numbers

## Poverty

Louisiana's poverty rate is

**18.7%**

with approximately

**835,000**

Louisianans living
**below** the **federal poverty line.**



Louisiana continues to have one of the
**highest poverty rates in the nation.**

## Child Poverty

**25.2%**
of children
in Louisiana are living in poverty.



Approximately
**263,608**
Louisiana children
are living **below** the **federal poverty line**.

## Income

**$60,986**

**median household income**,
significantly below the
national median of **$81,604**.



United States Census Bureau
2024

Who We Are | **Why We Help** | How We Help | Our Impact



Eviction → loss of housing → job instability → debt → family disruption



Domestic violence → custody issue → protective order → housing/financial issues



Disability → loss of income → benefits problem → inability to pay bills

**Poverty creates legal problems—and legal problems deepen poverty.**

**That's where the LBF comes in.**

Who We Are | Why We Help | **How We Help** | Our Impact



# GRANTS



**LBF is the largest state funder of civil legal aid, serving all 64 parishes.**

## 2027-28 Grants Application Schedule

- **Annual/Sustaining Grant** applications open **October 1, 2026** and close **December 1, 2026**.
- **Loan Repayment Assistance (LRAP)** applications open **December 1, 2026** and close **February 26, 2027**.
- **LBF Kids' Chance Scholarship** applications open **December 1, 2026** and close **February 26, 2027**.

## 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.

## Annual Sustaining Grants

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



**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.

## Annual Sustaining Grants

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



**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.

## Annual Sustaining Grants

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



**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.

# Northeast Annual Sustaining Grants 2026-27

Agencies that serve Northeast

| | |
|---|---|
| **Acadiana Legal Service Corporation** | **$1,985,624** |
| **Catholic Charities – Diocese of Baton Rouge** | **$217,770** |
| **Catholic Charities of North Louisiana** | **$119,728** |
| **D.A.R.T. (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team)** | **$69,000** |
| **Frontline Legal Services, Inc.** | **$74,680** |
| **Northeast Louisiana Bar Foundation** | **$124,000** |
| **T.E.A.M.S. Training, Education and Mediation for Students** | **$45,000** |
| **The Wellspring Alliance for Families** | **$301,500** |
| **Workplace Justice Project** | **$34,050** |

**$2,971,352**



# Sophia Dixon-Brown

Managing Attorney
Family Justice Center of Ouachita
The Wellspring Alliance for Families

# Jock Scott Community Partnership Panels

The LBF's **Community Partnership Panels** work to identify areas of need for LBF funding. The CPPs foster collaboration, respond to arising community needs, and encourage local involvement in the designation of grant funds.

A subcommittee of the Grants Committee makes Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants recommendations that go to the Board for final approval.





# Stacy Guice

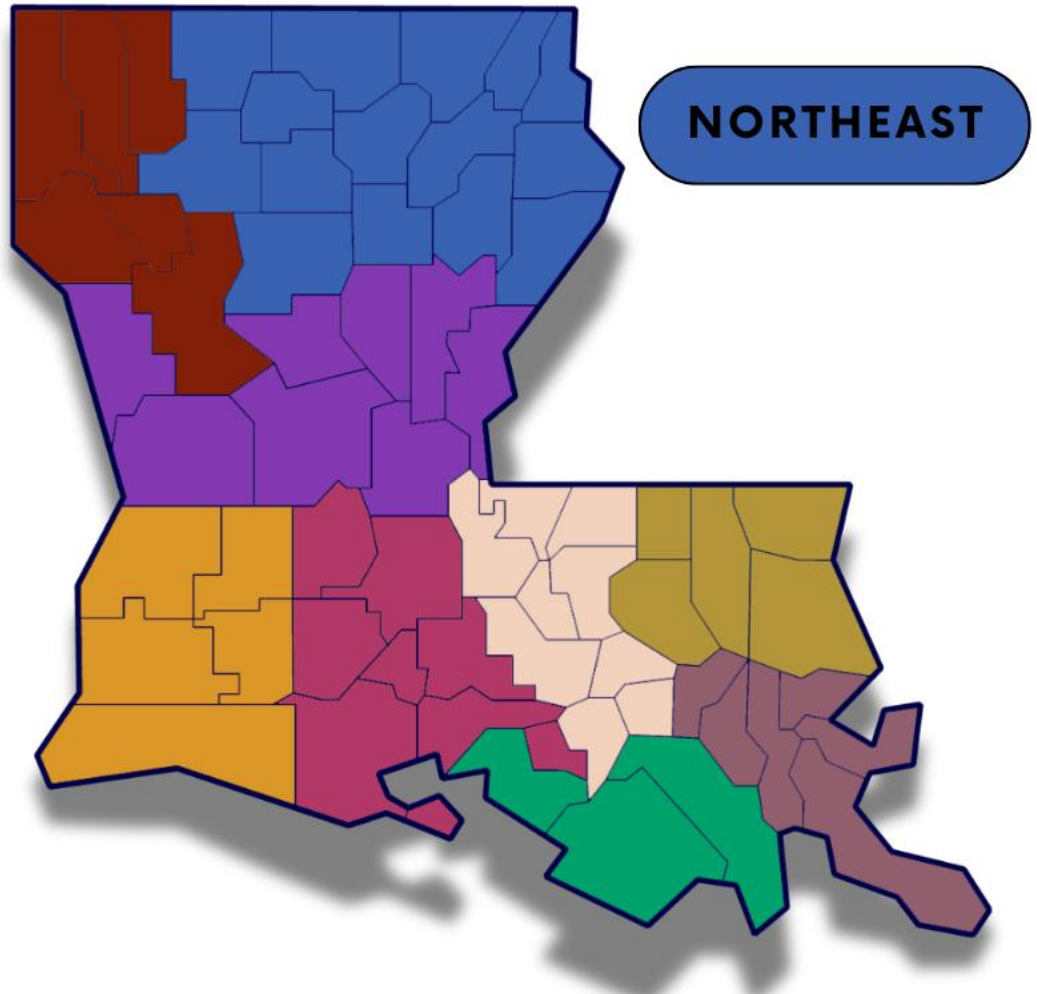
Senior Attorney, Office of Chapter 13 Trustees Office

**LBF Board Member**

# 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




## NORTHEAST Community Partnership Panel

Wendy E. Giovingo
Stacy Guice
Ashley Herring, Chair
Benjamin D. Jones
Hon. Pamela A. Stewart
Leah Sumrall

# 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.

**$30,000**

**to be awarded for fiscal year 2026-27**

# Northeast Community Partnership Panel Grants 2025-26

| | |
|---|---|
| Acadiana Legal Service Corporation | $5,555 |
| Northeast Louisiana Bar Foundation | $10,000 |
| Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum | $9,000 |
| The Wellspring Alliance | $16,000 |
| United Way of Northeast Louisiana | $15,000 |

**TOTAL: $55,555**

# Special Program Grants

Nearly $5 million awarded for fiscal year 2026-27



## Access to Justice (ATJ)

Promotes administration of justice and benefits Louisiana's statewide justice community.
Initiatives for consideration must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- The advancement and maintenance of statewide technology
- The coordination of statewide intake and referral
- Disaster/emergency response



## 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.



## Lagniappe Law Lab

Purpose is to narrow the access to justice gap by ensuring the Louisiana Civil Justice System is operating at its full potential.

# Special Program Grants

Nearly $5 million awarded for fiscal year 2026-27



**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.



**State of Louisiana Child in Need of Care and Adult Civil Legal Aid Services**
Provides free legal representation to children in need of care, foster care, and non-custodial, and for the provision of adult civil legal services within the state's civil justice system.



## 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.

***The evidence is clear–dollars spent on Louisiana's civil legal aid providers deliver unmistakable economic and societal returns to Louisiana.***

For every **$1**

invested in Louisiana Legal Aid, the citizens of Louisiana received

# $13.28

of immediate and long-term financial benefits.

New Report will be released in January 2027

## Statewide 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

Source: LBF 2023-24 Social Return on Investment of Civil Legal Aid Services for Louisiana Analysis

# Measuring Impact Locally: Northeast

## People Helped



**775** cases

**1,952** people

## Direct Economic Benefits

**$675,440**

Top Legal Issues: **Family** (59%), **Housing** (12%), **Juvenile** (7%)

Source: Louisiana Appleseed "Civil Legal Aid Supports Louisiana" 2024

# 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**
  LBF works with 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."

# Louisiana Law School Partnerships

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS | COLLEGE OF LAW

The **Child Welfare & Domestic Violence Clinic** is in its second academic year.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

The **Clinical Legal Education Program** hired a Clinical Legal Fellow and are actively recruiting for an Active Poverty Clinic Fellow and a Social Justice Fellow.

LSU Law

The **Louisiana Bar Foundation Public Interest Fellows Endowment** will inspire students to enter public interest law through exposure to and experience with providers focused on field placement experiences.

In Progress

Tulane University LAW SCHOOL

# Access to Justice

*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*

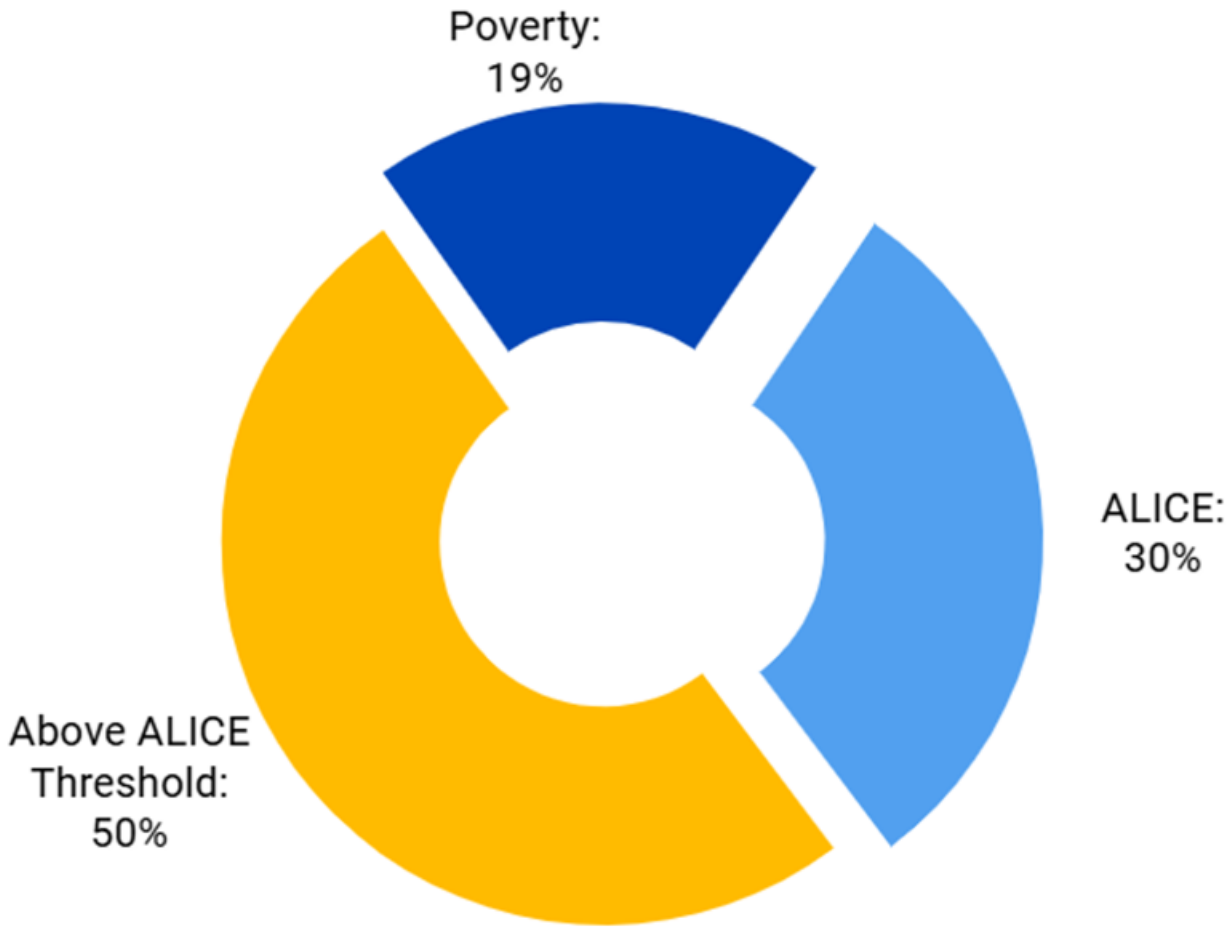


Louisiana State Bar Association

*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*

# Who Needs Help? Louisiana by the Numbers

**United Way ALICE Report + Federal Poverty Data**




## What is ALICE?

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — households earning above the poverty line, but unable to cover basic necessities like housing, childcare, food, transportation, and healthcare.

Legal assistance is not included in the basic survival budget — yet legal problems can devastate ALICE families who have no safety net.

*How many of these households do you think face a legal problem this year?*

Source: United Way ALICE Report (2025)

# Access to Justice Framework

Louisiana State Bar Association
*Serving the Public. Serving the Profession.*



## ATJ Department

LSBA Staff | Est. 1997

Responsible for coordination of all ATJ programs, committee facilitation, training & education development, and statewide project management.



## ATJ Committee

Practice-Level Issues | Est. 1996

Legal aid providers, pro bono programs, law schools, and private attorneys to address day-to-day service delivery issues. Includes 2 active subcommittees (Disaster Response & Pro Bono).



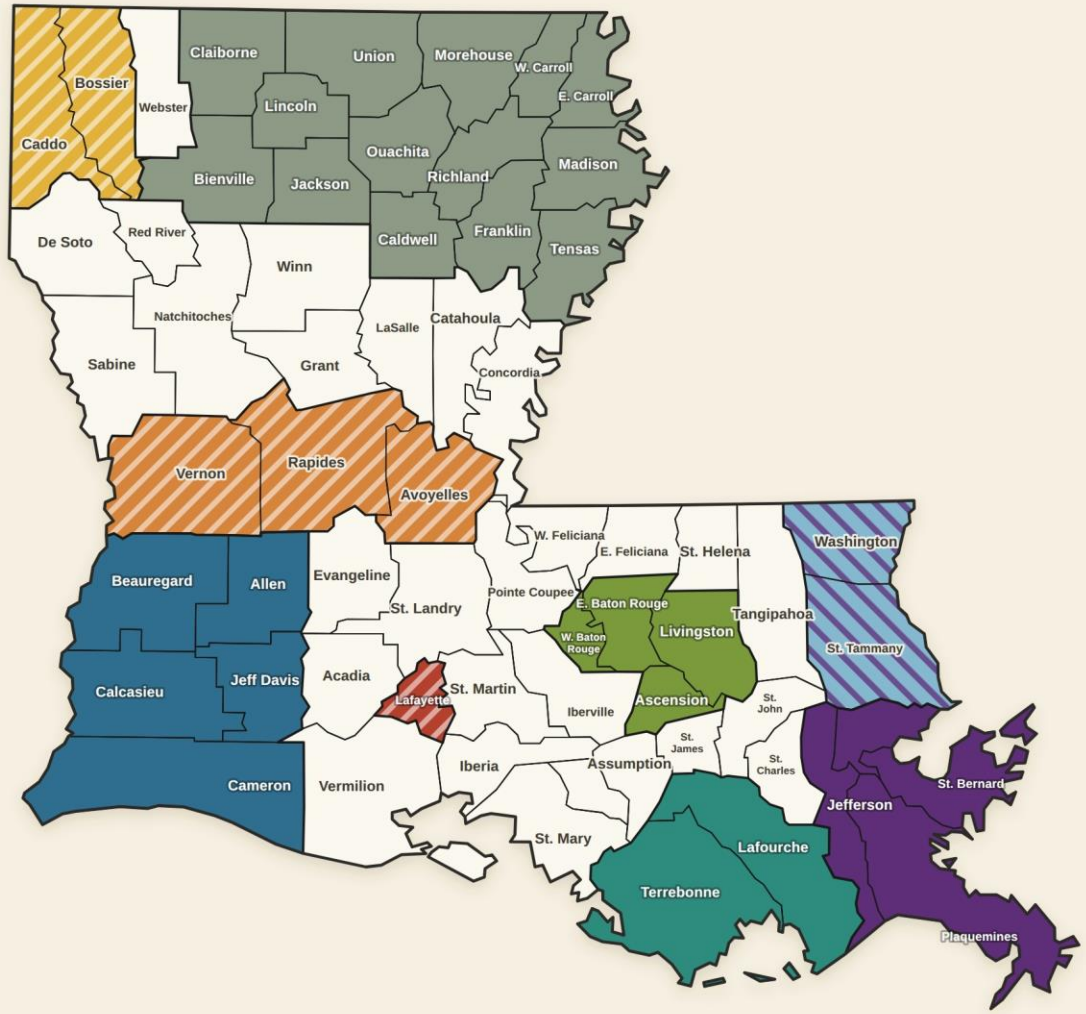
## ATJ Commission

Supreme Court Order | Est. 2015

21-member body that tackles systemic, policy-level issues. Oversees several committees covering Technology, Rural Justice, Modest Means, Self-Represented Litigants & Community Outreach.

# 2026 Pro Bono Coverage Area

LOUISIANA · PRO BONO PROGRAMS BY PARISH




## PROGRAMS

- Northeast Louisiana Bar Foundation, Inc.
- Shreveport Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project**
- Southwest Pro Bono
- Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project**
- Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project**
- Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project
- The Pro Bono Project of New Orleans*
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services' North Shore Pro Bono Project
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services' Bayou Region Pro Bono Project
- Acadiana Legal Service Corporation**
- No pro bono program listed

* Washington & St. Tammany parishes are covered by both The Pro Bono Project of New Orleans and the North Shore Pro Bono Project.

** These programs also have subgrant projects with Acadiana Legal Service Corporation (shown with white hatching).

# Rule 6.1 Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service

- Every lawyer should aspire to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least (50) hours of pro bono publico legal services per year. In fulfilling this aspirational goal, the lawyer should:
- (a) provide a substantial majority of the (50) hours of legal services without fee or expectation of fee to: (1) persons of limited means or (2) charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means; and
- (b) provide any additional services through: (1) delivery of legal services at no fee or substantially reduced fee to individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, or charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental and educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate; (2) delivery of legal services at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means; or (3) participation in activities for improving the law, legal system or the legal profession.





# New and Exciting Programs – Court Navigator Project Coming Soon to the 14th JDC

# Answer the Call.

*Volunteer. Commit to Pro Bono.*

## Volunteer

Take a case through the Lawyer in Libraries Program, Free Legal Answers, or a local Pro Bono Program. Your time and expertise can change a family's outcome.

www.lsba.org/ProBono

## Commit 50 Hours

Rule 6.1 calls every Louisiana attorney to aspire to 50 pro bono hours annually. Report your hours — it directly protects funding for civil legal aid statewide.

lsba.org/atj

*Every case taken. Every hour reported. Moves the needle.*

# 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

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

# 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.

# 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

**NORTHEAST Prime Partner Banks:**

Bank of Oakridge
Caldwell Bank & Trust
Century Next Bank
Citizens Progressive Bank
Commercial Capital Bank
Cross Keys Bank
Franklin State Bank
GBT Bank
Hodge Bank & Trust
Marion State Bank
Origin Bank
Tensas State Bank
Winnsboro State Bank

As of October 1, 2026, the Benchmark (Safe Harbor) Rate is 2.40% as set forth in the Louisiana Supreme Court Rule 1.15 3(C).



# Adam Cossey

Hudson, Potts & Bernstein, LLP

**LBF Board Member**

# Membership

Fellowship Levels

- **General Fellow ($240 or more)**

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

- **Judicial Fellow ($150 or more)**

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

- **Community Supporter Fellow ($120 or more)**

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 5years of practice).

- **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.

*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.



Join us!

# Why become an LBF Fellow?

## Make Justice Accessible

Your Fellowship helps provide free civil legal assistance to Louisianans who cannot afford an attorney.

## Strengthen Our Profession

Support programs and initiatives that enhance the legal profession and the justice system.

## Be Part of a Statewide Network

Join judges, attorneys, professors and other legal professionals working together across Louisiana.

## Use Your Voice & Leadership

Participate in committees, Community Partnership Panels, programs, nominations and Foundation leadership.

## Leave a Legacy

Help ensure that access to justice remains a priority for the next generation of Louisianans.

Join us!

*Save the Date!*

## LBF 41st Annual Fellows Gala
## Friday, April 16, 2027
## Roosevelt Hotel New Orleans

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







# 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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**www.RaisingtheBar.org**

# 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.

