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A NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDICIARY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Juvenile Justice Reform Initiatives Taking Place Across Louisiana

By Chief Justice Catherine D. Kimball
Louisiana Supreme Court

I applaud the member judges of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges for their active support and ongoing efforts to improve and reform Louisiana's juvenile justice system.

With generous grants provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Council judges in the 4th JDC, 9th JDC, 14th JDC, 16th JDC, Caddo Juvenile and Jefferson Juvenile Courts have had great outcomes in a variety of court improvement initiatives.

With additional grant funding for judicial involvement and leadership, the Council is now working to share what has been learned from these projects with judges across the state.

Earlier this year, the Council's Judicial Task Force surveyed more than 200 judges with juvenile and family jurisdiction. The responses to the survey – this direct input from many of you – will determine future communications structures, information preferences and training opportunities.

The Judicial Outreach Survey reflected your top five choices for training:

- Alternatives to formal processing of youth;
- Information on Community Based Programs and Services;
- Use and Interpretation of Psychological Testing;
- Issues of Mental Health and Mental Illness; and
- Evidence Based Programming.

With these training choices as a guide, the Council is working with the Judicial College and other organizations, including the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and the Louisiana Public Defenders, to shape training curricula.

The survey results also show broad judicial support for enhanced judge-to-judge experience and information sharing on juvenile issues. The regional summits planned throughout the state in November and early 2010 will give every judge the opportunity to share experiences and receive training on best practices and services available in your local communities.

The judges coordinating these summits – who also provide leadership on the Judicial Task Force – are **Judges John Conery, Grace Gasaway, Ernestine Gray, Andrea Janzen, David Matlock, Sharon Marchman, Patricia Koch** and **Paul Young**.

On behalf of the Louisiana Supreme Court, I encourage all the judges with juvenile and family jurisdiction to attend the summits and become involved in local and state initiatives.

MacArthur Foundation Grants:

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An Overview: The Current of Change for Louisiana's Youth - Progress in Louisiana's Juvenile Justice Reform Movement

Louisiana is number one in adult incarceration and has 20 percent more incarcerated youth than the national average.

For the majority of Louisiana residents, these statistics are a hard pill to swallow, and rightfully so when comparing the cost of incarceration to an equal investment in education.

There is great cause for concern for the future needs and safety of our state's youth and those of the all the state's citizens.

Beyond that, nearly two-thirds of incarcerated youth have committed nonviolent offenses, and many of them have special mental health needs that require individualized treatment – needs that are often unmet.

To continue the current of change to reform juvenile justice, and ensure opportunities for the future, an active voice is needed.

Louisiana judges are providing this voice, in partnership the nationally-known MacArthur and Annie E. Casey Foundations, the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, and many other state and local partners.

These reform partnerships challenge the way the state handles status offenders and delinquent youth, particularly those at risk for out-of-home placements.

This unified effort also monitors conditions at our state's secure care youth centers, including Jetson (Baton Rouge), Swanson (Monroe) and Bridge City (New Orleans), and seeks to ensure youth receive the most effective and appropriate care in a therapeutic, abuse-free setting. Louisiana judges are also heavily involved with strategic planning and policy change with all the state's child serving departments and the state legislators.

Highlighted below are the court-based initiatives supporting juvenile justice reform.

Many of these are funded by the *MacArthur Foundation Models for Change- Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice*, a national initiative that started with four states (of which Louisiana was one) and is now in 16 states across the country.

Information provided by: Judge Patricia Koch
9th Judicial District Court

Rapides Parish - Structured Decision Making Tools for Better Alternatives

Judge Patricia Koch and other judges of the **9th Judicial District Court** are active partners in community-wide reform made possible with the financial support of the MacArthur Foundation *Models for Change* grants.

One of the key goal of *Models for Change* is to give judges more alternatives to "locking up" youth in secure care – alternatives that meet the needs of individual youth more effectively and appropriately while ensuring public safety.

As one of seven court-based MacArthur grant sites, Rapides Parish chose to focus on the decision making tools that serve as resources for judges, district attorneys, public defenders, and law enforcement.

Two of these structured decision making tools developed in Rapides Parish are:
1) screening and determining placement of youth at the time of initial arrest and 2) a risk assessment instrument used for the development of a treatment plan for Louisiana's juvenile offenders.

Through the use of the detention screening instrument, Rapides has been able to reserve the use of the limited detention beds for the most violent offenders.

Through the use of the risk assessment instrument following adjudication, a youth's risk for continued involvement in delinquent behavior is assessed and recommendations for treatment are made for the most appropriate method of intervention.

With the effective use of both tools, the 9th Judicial District Court and Rapides community partners have redirected the demand for secure care beds to community-based services.

9th JDC Judge Patricia Koch speaking to a group of students.

Jefferson Juvenile Court Leads Way With Children and Youth Planning Board

In October 2006, after being selected as one of the first MacArthur Foundation Louisiana grant sites, the Jefferson Parish Children and Youth Planning Board formed working committees designed to meet all three goals of the national Models for Change initiative: provide alternatives to formal processing, increase the use of evidence-based practices and services, and reduce disproportionate minority contact. **Jefferson Juvenile Court Judges Andrea Janzen, Nancy Konrad** and **Ann Keller** have provided leadership throughout this process – in partnership with the Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services and other local stakeholders.

Pictured from left to right: Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court (JPJC) Judge Andrea Price Janzen; JPJC Judge Ann Murry Keller, Director; Jefferson Parish Dept. of Juvenile Services, Roy L. Juncker, Jr.; and JPJC Judge Nancy Amato Konrad. Mr. Juncker received the 2008 Bureau of Government Research's Excellence in Government Merit Award for his work with the Jefferson Parish Children and Youth Planning Board and Models for Change.

Here is a progress report on the local visions and work to date:

1) Alternatives to Formal Processing

Local Vision: Expand and improve access to appropriate alternatives across all critical decision points-pre-petition, pre-adjudication and dispositional.

- The district attorney has developed a diversion program for youth who have been arrested for non-violent offenses at school.
- After data review confirmed that 33% of all arrests were generated by school referrals, Planning Board agencies developed one new arrest alternative and laid the groundwork for others.

2) Evidence-Based Practices

Local Vision: To ensure evidence-based practices guide services, including those for mental health, for at-risk youth and families, broaden the pool of trained providers, and continuously evaluate for effectiveness.

• Initial surveys show access to Evidence-Based Therapeutic Services has increased from 13% to 33%.

- Post-adjudication/predisposition investigations will include the recently-adopted SAVRY risk assessment instrument by probation officers.
- RFPs for professional service contract providers will specify need for evidence-based and/or promising approaches that are culturally and gender competent.

3) Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

Local Vision: Ensure minority youth receive fair treatment at each point of contact within the juvenile justice system and that all interactions are handled in an unbiased manner.

- Data collection has identified key decision points that contribute to DMC.
- Updated data collection processes to collect racial and ethnic data according to federal guidelines.
- Analyses have shown reduction in Jefferson Parish DMC objective through use of the an objective Detention Assessment Instrument.

Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes – Rural Models of Service and System Reform

With a recent award of MacArthur Foundation *Models for Change* grant funding, **Judge Sharon Marchman** and the judges of the **4th Judicial District Court**, and other partners in the Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes Juvenile Justice System, are working to increase access to evidence based services throughout this rural area of the state.

The University of Louisiana at Monroe – through its Marriage and Family Therapy Program and Psychology Department - is one of these partners, as well as the Children's Coalition, the Fourth Judicial Drug Court, the Fourth Judicial District Attorney's Office, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, and the Fourth Judicial Youth Services Planning Board.

There are four steps planned for this Northeast Louisiana initiative:

First Step: create a model juvenile drug court with evidence based triage, screening, assessment, treatment, and data collection/outcome/ evaluation procedures.

At the end of the two year grant period, the procedures will be put in a reference manual, so the 4th JDC can host training for juvenile drug court personnel throughout Louisiana that will share best practices in triage, screening, and assessment processes, treatment interventions and techniques, and outcome monitoring in juvenile drug courts.

Second Step: develop a strategic plan to expand the range of services available that are scientifically supported and known to produce better outcomes for youth and their families. Key plan components:

- Needs assessments for youth and families, especially for mental health and substance abuse.
- Effective collection and use of data to develop and drive service delivery.

During a recent grant planning meeting, (l to r) Molly Kelly, 4th JDC DA's office; Lynda Gavioli, Executive Director of the Children's Coalition of Northeast Louisiana and Youth Services Planning Board (YSPB) treasurer; Denna McGrew, YSPB coordinator; Nichelle Mason, MfC Project Coordinator and ULM MFT program; and Judge Sharon Marchman, 4th JDC District Court Judge.

Third Step: develop a model juvenile District Attorney (DA) best practice screening and triage process that will:

- Use scientifically supported methods and tools to accurately assess youth.
- Identify and address the individual needs of youth at court or DA intake.
- Refer youth and/or their families to appropriate local programs and services.

Fourth, and last, Step: identify and implement a best practice juvenile justice parenting model program – a training program specifically targeted at the unique experiences of parents/guardians with children involved in the juvenile justice system.

Information provided by: Jana P. Sutton, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Individualized Mental Health Disposition Dockets Work Well in Caddo Juvenile Court

Untreated child mental disorders are a confounding, factor in juvenile delinquency. The vast majority of children involved in Caddo – and other local juvenile justice systems - likely suffer from one or more mental health disorders.

Severe mental disorders, or those that severely disrupt functioning and require significant and immediate treatment, were present in 27% of a juvenile justice study sample, as compared to estimated severe mental disorder prevalence rates of 5-9% in the general pediatric population *(Cocozza and Shuffelt, 2006; U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999)*.

Until recently, these emotionally fragile children in Caddo have come into a juvenile justice system ill-equipped to meet their needs. This resulted in high rates of recidivism and commitment to out of home placements.

In summer 2004, Caddo Parish juvenile justice professionals led by **Caddo Juvenile Judge Paul Young** visited Santa Clara, California, to observe the operations of the country's first juvenile mental health court.

Inspiration from this visit resulted in the 2005 creation of the Caddo Parish Individualized Disposition Docket (IDD) Court, the first program of its kind in Louisiana for treatment-oriented disposition of adjudicated juveniles who have serious mental illnesses, developmental disabilities or neurological injuries. Although IDD Court is not a service provider, treatment-oriented disposition ensures linkage to a variety of child-specific, community-based services. The goal: to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for further delinquent behavior.

In addition to mental health and substance abuse treatment, services include: tutoring, after-school/recreational programs, special education advocacy, parent education, social skills training, mentoring, developmental disabilities services, employment training, housing, and family support.

Other key roles of the Court:

- Require families to cooperate with treatment provider and ensure families, teachers, and other adults are educated on the diagnosis and medications.
- Provide frequent and intensive supervision. Case reviews are done at least monthly.
- Take an active role in monitoring compliance by the child, the parent and service providers (including mental health providers and the local school system).

Does this work? The findings are promising. Prior to the IDD Court, anecdotal data showed justice system youths with serious mental disorders were highly likely to be placed in the state's custody.

Of the first 110 children served through IDD Court, 85% achieved successful completion, only 15% were terminated due to out of home placement and 100% of parents and children surveyed expressed satisfaction.

For more information, contact Laura Goodwin, Caddo Juvenile Service Mental Health Coordinator, at (318) 226-6500 or by email at lgoodwin@caddo.org.

COURT COLUMN SUBMISSIONS

We would like to encourage judges, clerks of court and court administrators to submit any outreach activities, awards received, or other "good news" about your court to rgunn@lajao.org for publication in future issues of Court Column.

Prosecutor's Early Intervention Program: 16th Judicial District in School Settings

Research shows that, to reduce delinquency in the future, you must reduce the factors that place a youth at risk and *increase* the factors that protect the youth.

The Prosecutor Early Intervention Program (PEIP) of the **16th Judicial District** targets "at-risk" students who have behavioral and/or attendance problems that cannot be resolved through standard school channels. This is a school based program for status offending youth or those with minor delinquent offenses.

Referrals are made through a FINS complaint to PEIP case managers who are employed by the District Attorney's Office and housed at participating schools.

A 2006 expansion of PEIP to area middle schools has proven to be a crucial step in supporting the alternatives to formal processing goal of the MacArthur *Models for Change* grant.

Recently recognized nationally for its effectiveness, this model program includes:

- Screening and assessment with valid and reliable instruments to make individualized service plans. The SAVRY (risk for violence and delinquency), MAYSI (mental health) and BERS (behavioral and emotional strength) instruments are all used by case managers at the school who also serve as FINS officers.

- Evidenced-based targeted interventions to meet the identified risk and needs of the youth.

- Effective training protocols so staff has the skills needed to effectively engage and monitor youth and families at all stages of the intervention. Motivational engagement and interviewing techniques.

One of the biggest advantages of the PEIP model is that it is school based.

Mother and youth participating with provider in evidence–based PEIP service in the home.

Although many rural areas do not have assessment or service centers for youth, all rural areas have schools. With this model, rural youth have access to the same evidence-based screening and assessments and interventions usually limited to urban settings.

Large metropolitan areas often have a tax base to fund community based programs for status offending and diverted youth. Many rural districts, like the 16th, have limited or no tax base and can use this model to develop community partnerships, leverage available community resources, and better secure funding from local, state, federal, and private sources.

Is this 16th Judicial District Prosecutor Early Intervention Program effective?

- Preliminary outcome data analyzed by the Office of Juvenile Justice shows a reduction in the number of youth entering the OJJ System.

- District court data shows the number of middle school-age youth sent to court by the Families in Need of Services Committee has declined, as has the number of youth adjudicated delinquent.

Juvenile Assessment Center in Calcasieu Parish on Tap for Spring 2010

Fourteenth Judicial District Judges Lilynn Cutrer, Guy Bradberry, and **Ron Ware** are providing local judicial leadership for the MacArthur Foundation grant supporting the planning an implementation of juvenile assessment center in Calcasieu Parish. This grant will build on the success of prior grant funding that was used to develop a Children and Youth Planning Board.

The Planning Board is designing a Center that will provide early intervention, assessment and meaningful connection with needed services in a non-threatening, inclusive atmosphere.

The Calcasieu juvenile assessment center is expected to be operational in the spring 2010.

To lessen the likelihood of escalation or need for crisis services, the Center will also address at-risk children's behavior. There are plans for the Center to house numerous community agencies in a "one stop shop" format to provide a seamless array of services and manage community resources efficiently and effectively.

Target population: youth ages 8-17 and their families.

Goal: to divert status offenders and arrested youth from formal processing in the juvenile justice system.

Assessment Center services will include:

- Comprehensive assessments conducted with standardized objective instruments
- Integrated case management
- Pooling of services and information sharing with multiple agencies
- Ongoing assessments of the community's resources to identify service gaps in the system
- Collaboration with community providers to develop program capacity with a wide selection of service options

About the Models for Change Program

Models for Change is a national initiative funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to accelerate reform of juvenile justice systems across the country. Focused on efforts in select states, the initiative aims to create replicable models for reform that effectively hold young people accountable for their actions, provide for their rehabilitation, protect them from harm, increase their life chances, and manage the risk they pose to themselves and to public safety.

Core States

Up to $10 million in grants will be awarded over a five-year period to support juvenile justice reform in each of four Models for Change states: Pennsylvania, Illinois, **Louisiana**, and Washington. The competitive process that selected these states took into account political and fiscal commitment to change, support for change both inside and outside the juvenile justice system, and the likelihood that reforms would influence change in other locations.

States for Change

Four strategic states have been selected for their leadership and commitment to change, geographic diversity, differing needs and opportunities, and likelihood to influence reforms in other locations. An additional 12 states are involved in Models for Change through participation in action networks.

For more information on the Models for Change Program, visit www.ModelsForChange.net.

Judge Crichton Program Tells Students "Don't Let This Be You"

In the spring of 2006 after having nearly 100 teenagers before him charged with serious crimes, **1st JDC Judge Scott Crichton** and his deputy clerk of court shared a sentiment which served as the catalyst for his "in-your-face" teen crime-prevention program, **"Don't Let This Be You."**

The deputy clerk, Monique Warren, after seeing a round of teenagers stand before Judge Crichton and receive sentences, said to Crichton, "Judge, they just don't know."

"And by that she meant the young people just really don't know the true consequences of their actions," said Judge Crichton. "I began to think about what can I do as a judge to try to educate some of the young people about the consequences of criminal behavior. That served as a motivation to design a program that I could take into schools, churches, neighborhood associations, where I could educate some of the young people about the basics of criminal law."

Judge Crichton began teaching the program, which is designed to be a prevention through education and power of choice program, in early 2007 with the help of Caddo Assistant District Attorney Ron Stamps and Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator at the Caddo Correctional Center, in Shreveport. The two-part program has been presented more than 100 times in the past year and includes a 75-minute Power Point presentation followed by a question and answer session between Judge Crichton, Stamps and the students and parents. The second part includes an escorted tour of the housing units at Caddo Correctional Center, where teens and their parents see and hear from inmates at CCC

"In this format, we show the consequences of bad decisions," said Ron Stamps, Assistant District Attorney in Caddo Parish. "Hopefully the individuals and their parents will use the examples as a guide in their future decisions, their future actions. Those examples are intended to scare them away from this court system and the criminal justice system as defendants. We'd love to have them in as future lawyers, future probation officers, future judges. But before we do that, we have to make sure they don't end up in the court as a defendant."

"What this program is about is a number of legal concepts," said Judge Crichton. "It starts with an introduction to civics, where I want the young people to know that the people who govern us in the three branches of government are all elected by the people. I want them to know the law of Principals, the law of Constructive Possession. I want them to know that sometimes fighting at school may escalate to crimes of perhaps drive-by shooting or attempted murder, things of that nature, which are extremely serious. I want them to know that their impulsivity, that is, acting without thinking, might lead to criminal conduct, which might in turn lead to penitentiary time. I want them to know. I want these young people to know."

Judge Scott Crichton speaks passionately about trying to educate teenagers about the real consequences of crime, during "Don't Let This Be You" program at Oak Terrace Alternative Middle School May 15, 2009.

"I question how seriously you are committed if you see these things before the court and you don't do something about it," said Stamps. "That was one of the reasons I joined with Judge Crichton because I believe he is moved by the horrible things he sees and takes an active role in hopefully preventing some of the things he sees. You can't sit as a judge, you can't sit as a prosecutor who is committed to community and not be impacted by these things."

"The most immediate impact is I can tell by the looks on the kids faces that I'm getting through to some of them," said Judge Crichton. "I may not get through to all of them but I think those who attend and those who pay attention benefit from it. I've been at so many meetings and so many presentations where the parents have come up and hugged me and said, 'I can't thank you enough. This has been such a good experience for my son and for me.'"

For more information see www.judgescottcrichton.com or www.dontletthisbeyou.org or you may call Judge Crichton's office at (318) 226-6818.

New System of Representation in Child Protection Cases to Begin January 1, 2010

The right of children and their indigent parents to representation in child protection cases is guaranteed in the Louisiana Children's Code, as it was in the previous Code of Juvenile Procedure, and in R.S. 13:1579 prior to enactment of the Code of Juvenile Procedure. Since 1995, the 3 branches of government have shared responsibility for provision of counsel in these cases. The legislative branch has provided state funding, the executive branch has provided administration through the Department of Social Services (DSS), and within the judicial branch trial court judges have appointed lawyers and approved fees as set by Supreme Court schedule (Gen'l Admin. Rules, Part G, Section 9).

Since 2003, the legislatively created Task Force on the Legal Representation in Child Protection Cases has been working to develop a plan for systematic statewide reform of the existing ad hoc appointment system of representation for children in child protection cases and their indigent parents. Representatives from all three branches of government, along with numerous public and private stakeholders, committed significant resources to develop a viable plan. Reform has been embraced by the former state administrations, supported by Supreme Court rule, and guided by legislation enacted over the past regular sessions.

In 2006, at the urging of the Task Force, the legislature adopted a 5 year implementation plan that would ultimately result in a uniform statewide system of representation providing greater specialization, more stability, efficiency and equity in expenditures, and improved quality control and administrative oversight through representation of children by the Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service/Child Advocacy Program (MHAS/CAP) and of their indigent parents through the Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB).

The systemic reform efforts to date have been recognized at the national level and are consistent with widely accepted best practices standards. The National Report Card on Legal Representation for Abused & Neglected Children has given Louisiana the grade of "A" in both 2007 and 2009, specifically referencing the Louisiana work toward creating a uniform system of representation. The 2009 report notes: "When fully implemented, Louisiana will have an efficient and effective statewide system of qualified child and parent representation in child protection proceedings." (p.67)

Considering state budget pressures that could drastically reduce or eliminate the ability of DSS to continue paying attorneys under the present structure, DSS recently requested that the Task Force consider expediting implementation of the statewide system. The Task Force carefully considered all available options and unanimously approved a revised plan to fully implement the new system effective January 1, 2010.

Because a viable infrastructure already exists statewide through the LPDB system, the Indigent Parents' Program was able to accommodate a compressed implementation timeframe. However, the MHAS/Child Advocacy Program had not yet developed statewide capacity either at the local or state administrative levels. Exploring available alternatives, the Task Force found that the Louisiana Bar Foundation shares a common mission and has the local and state infrastructure in place to effectively oversee provision of child representation in all the jurisdictions not already served by the Child Advocacy Program. Through agreements with the four regional Louisiana Services Corporations (LSC's), the LBF will provide programmatic and fiscal oversight for representation of children in judicial districts not currently served through the MHAS/CAP. As an added benefit of Bar Foundation involvement, qualified pro bono representation will be specifically included in the system.

When the expedited plan is fully implemented, Louisiana will have a model statewide system that promotes child well-being and family integrity by providing quality representation in child protection cases that is fiscally responsible and administratively accountable.

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New System of Representation in Child Protection Cases to Begin January 1, 2010.

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New Child Protection Representation System: Implementation Timelines

For the remainder of state fiscal year 2009-2010:

- MHAS/CAP will continue to represent CINC children in the jurisdictions they currently serve.
- LPDB will continue to represent CINC parents in those jurisdictions where they represent parents.
- LPDB will represent current CINC children and take no new children's cases after January 1.
- LSC's will assume representation in all new children's cases in jurisdictions not served by MHAS/CAP beginning January 1.
- Attorneys currently billing DSS for representation will be paid for services ending June 30; the deadline for all bills will be in July.

Beginning 7/1/10:

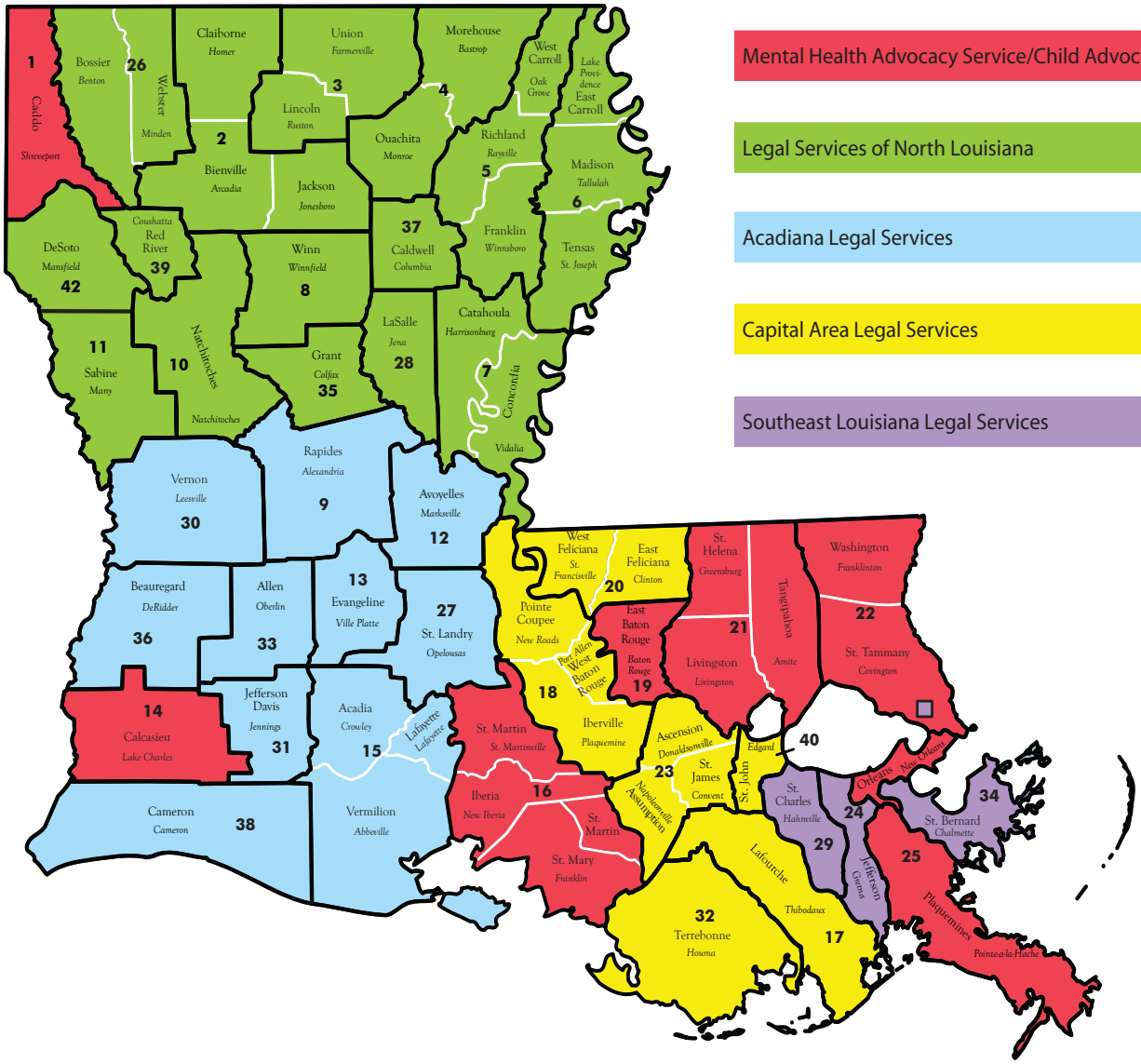
- MHAS/CAP will represent all CINC children in the jurisdictions they currently serve.
- LPDB will represent all CINC parents statewide.
- LSC's will represent all CINC children in jurisdictions not served by MHAS/CAP.
- Attorneys who formerly billed DSS for representation can continue pro bono, discontinue representation and substitute the local LPDB program (for parents) or with MHAS/CAP or LSC (for children), or work out a plan for continuing representation (or co-counsel) with the local LPDB, MHAS/CAP or LSC.
- No funding will be available from DSS, MHAS/CAP, LPDB or LBF/LSCs for paying attorneys appointed outside of the new system.

Comments, questions or concerns about the new system of representation in child protection proceedings:

- **Louisiana Public Defender Board - Clay Walker CWalker@lpdb.la.gov**
- **Mental Health Advocacy Services/Child Advocacy Program - Kevin Robshaw Kevin.Robshaw@la.gov**
- **Louisiana BarFoundation - Donna Cuneo donna@raisingthebar.org**
- **Louisiana Supreme Court – Karen Hallstrom khallstrom@lajao.org**

Agencies responsible for representation of children under new system of representation in child protection cases

(local public defender boards will represent parents in every jurisdiction)



Justice Guidry Presents Grant Check to Beauregard Parish Clerk for Improved Case Management System

Justice Greg G. Guidry was in Beauregard Parish on behalf of the Louisiana Supreme Court to present a grant check in the amount of $56,164 to **Beauregard Parish Clerk of Court Brian Lestage** for the acquisition of a new and improved case management system. The new system provides a technological solution for Beauregard Parish where heretofore criminal and traffic case management was paper-driven, done manually, and not able to be shared in an automated fashion.

Beauregard Parish Clerk of Court Brian Lestage (l) receives a grant check from Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Greg Guidry.

"With these funds the Clerk of Court for Beauregard Parish takes a giant step into the 21st century and it is a win-win for everyone. The parish citizens and legal community benefit from the convenience of the automated case management services provided by the Clerk's Office on a day-to day basis. The criminal justice system as a whole benefits from the criminal and traffic statistical data which can now be integrated with other criminal justice agencies' information systems," said Justice Guidry.

According to Lestage, the newly acquired system enables state-of-the-art scanning, indexing and preserving of criminal and traffic records on par with most of the Clerk of Court Offices in the state. The collected data can now be reported to the Case Management Information Systems (CMIS) division of the Louisiana Supreme Court and passed on to other criminal justice agencies such as the Louisiana State Police Criminal History Repository and the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles.

The $56,164 grant for Beauregard Parish's modernized case management system is federally funded through the Crime Information Technology Act of 1998 which is administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. The Louisiana Supreme Court's CMIS division serves as a conduit for these federal funds to state district courts.

For more information on the newly acquired case management system contact Brian Lestage at 337.463.8595.

Red Mass Celebration opens Judges Conference

Jurists representing all levels of court file in to St. Louis Cathedral, October 5, 2009, for the 57th Annual Red Mass.

Justice Johnson swears in student law clinic practitioners

Justice Bernette J. Johnson administers the oath to students of Tulane Law School's Law Clinic.

Court Tours

LSU's International Law Students Tour Supreme Court, Law Library

Georgia Chadwick (l), Director of the Law Library of Louisiana, discusses the Library's collections with students from LSU Law School's International Law Program who hailed from France, Bolivia, Romania, Kenya, Ukraine, China, and India.

Archbishop Chapelle students visit

During their tour of the Louisiana Supreme Court, senior students from Archbishop Chapelle High School view original court documents from Plessy v. Ferguson.

Chief Justice Kimball Announces Appointment of 16 members to Pro Se Litigant Task Force

Chief Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball announced today that the Louisiana Supreme Court has appointed 16 members who will sit on the newly established *Pro Se* Litigant Task Force. According to Chief Justice Kimball, "The purpose of the committee is to study the issue of *pro se*, or 'self represented,' litigants and to examine what steps can be taken to assist such litigants and to make appropriate recommendations."

The committee is comprised of judges and lawyers from a wide array of public interest law practice. **Judge Harry F. Randow, 9th Judicial District Court**, is the Chairman of The *Pro Se* Litigant Task Force. The other members are: **Judge Jerome J. Barbera, III, 17th Judicial District Court; Judge Christopher J. Bruno, Orleans Civil District Court; Judge Scott J. Crichton, 1st Judicial District Court**; Bernadette D'Souza, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Christy Kane, Louisiana Appleseed; Kathleen McNelis, Louisiana Bar Foundation; Monte T. Mollere, Louisiana State Bar Association-Access to Justice; Mark Moreau, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Joseph R. Oelkers, III, Acadiana Legal Services; Judy Pace, **Judge Kent D. Savoie, 14th Judicial District Court**; Marta Schnabel, Louisiana State Bar Association -Access to Justice; Lisa Stansky, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services-Pro Se Court Project; **Judge Stephens H. Winters, 4th Judicial District Court**; and **Judge Lisa Woodruff-White, East Baton Rouge Family Court**.

For more information on the *Pro Se* Litigant Task Force, contact Brian Wiggins with the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office at 504-310-2568.

Chief Justice Kimball Announces Appointment of members to Supreme Court Task Force on Court Security

Chief Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball announced today that the Louisiana Supreme Court has appointed 6 members who will sit on the newly established Louisiana Supreme Court Task Force on Court Security. According to the Chief Justice, "The purpose of the task force is to consider possible measures to be taken to improve security in district courthouses, as well as what minimum standards should be recommended for implementation."

Seventeenth Judicial District Court Judge Jerome J, Barbera, III, will serve as the Chair of the Task Force on Court Security, representing the Louisiana District Court Judges Association. Other members are: **Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Tiffany Gautier Chase**, representing the Louisiana State Bar Association; St. Charles Parish Sheriff Gregory Champagne, representing the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association; Roland Dartez, Executive Director, Louisiana Police Jury Association; **Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Edwin Lombard**, representing the Conference of Court of Appeal Judges; and **Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court Louis Perret**, representing the Clerks of Court Association.

For more information on the Louisiana Supreme Court Task Force on Court Security contact Brian Wiggins or Chip Coulter of the Judicial Administrator's Office, Louisiana Supreme Court at (504) 310-2568 or (225) 382-3181, respectively.

Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson to receive the 2010 ABA Spirit of Excellence Award for Diversity Leadership

The American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession will honor **Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson** of the Louisiana Supreme Court with a Spirit of Excellence Award, recognizing her unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity in the legal profession.

"Justice Johnson epitomizes community service. She has been committed to helping the disadvantaged from her early days as a community organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Even as a justice for the highest court in Louisiana, Justice Johnson maintains her commitment to communities in need," said Fred Alvarez of Palo Alto, Calif., chair of the commission. "She has been a champion for increasing diversity in the profession since the beginning of her career. Her courage and determination serve as inspiration for others—and not just women and minorities. She inspires all of us who are committed to a more diverse profession."

The commission will present the award to Johnson Feb. 6 during the 2010 ABA Midyear Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Judge Manning Takes Helm of LCLCE

Judge Manning

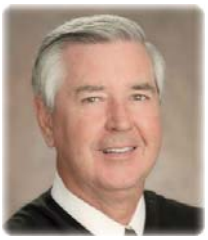
Chief Justice Catherine Kimball administered the oath of office to the 2009-10 Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) officers at a reception honoring LCLCE President, **4th JDC Judge C. Wendell Manning**. During the LSBA Annual Meeting, Judge Manning addressed the LSBA General Assembly and House of Delegates regarding law related education and the LCLCE in Louisiana.

COURT COLUMN SUBMISSIONS

We would like to encourage judges, clerks of court and court administrators to submit any outreach activities, awards received, or other "good news" about your court to rgunn@lajao.org for publication in future issues of Court Column.

Your Honors

First Circuit Court of Appeal Chief Judge Burrell J. Carter was a 2009 inductee to the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame.



Retired Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Chet D. Traylor was a 2009 inductee to the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame.

Retired Lafayette City Court Judge Kaliste Saloom Jr. was inducted into the "Order of Living Legends" by the Acadian Museum of Erath.

Zachary City Court Judge Lonny Myles was presented with the "Silver Gavel" award by the Louisiana State Bar Association.

19th JDC Judge Louis Daniel was appointed to the Louisiana Sentencing Commission by Governor Bobby Jindal.