



LDAA PRESENTS

# THE BUZZ

SEPTEMBER 2025

hello

## Upcoming Events:

- ★ LDAA FALL SEMINAR -  
OCT. 14-16, 2025 AT  
L'AUBERGE CASINO &  
RESORT, LAKE  
CHARLES, LA -  
[REGISTER HERE!](#)
- ★ LDAA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE - JUNE  
2026, DATES TBD

*My name is Katie LeLeux,  
and I am excited to serve as  
LDAA's Victim Services  
Attorney.*

If you have questions,  
corrections, or any  
suggestions please contact  
LDAA Headquarters, 2525  
Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA  
70808, phone (225) 343-0171,  
or via e-mail at  
[katie.leleux@ldaa.org](mailto:katie.leleux@ldaa.org).



*As we step into fall, we are reminded of the importance of renewal  
— not just in nature, but in our work as advocates. Each of you  
carries the sacred responsibility of supporting those impacted by  
trauma and abuse. Your compassion, professionalism, and  
resilience do not go unnoticed. Thank you for the healing presence  
you bring to everyone you serve!*

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# 2025 Regular Session Legislative Update

The 2025 Regular Session convened on April 14, 2025, and adjourned *sine die* on June 12, 2025. Although this past session was a Fiscal Session and the legislators were limited in the number of bills they could file, it was nonetheless a robust and contentious session for the legislature. Over 900 bills were filed.

LDAA Members filed seven legislative proposals in the 2025 Regular Session. All seven passed with little opposition and have been signed into law. The seven member proposals are as follows:

**HB 14/ACT 343**- Adds cruelty to the infirm as a theory for First- and Second-Degree murder.

**HB 67/ACT 346**-Adds a definition/theory to second degree rape to enhance the degree of rape where victims are between 13-17 years of age. A compromise was added during the legislative process to include an “age difference” of three years or greater.

**HB 146/ACT 246**-Corrects an error in the habitual offender law created by jurisprudence: the cleansing period for violent/sex offenses is now 10 years for all prior offenses and instant offenses. This was the original compromise reached in the 2017 legislation that amended the law and corrects issues created through the court’s interpretation of that change.

**HB 260/ACT 169**- The final version of the bill adds resisting with force or violence to felony Second-Degree Murder and adds a theory of manslaughter for drug dealers who substantially contribute to the death of their customers.

**HB 292/ACT 76**- Hung juries will now be polled upon request of either party. This proposal has been lauded as a significant common-sense change to the Criminal Code, and it received bi-partisan support.

**HB 492/ACT 200**- Amends definitions in the animal cruelty law and removes some unintended loopholes related to stray animals.

**HB 681/ACT 303**- This bill adds DAs, ADAs, DAIs, and retired members as protected persons to an information protection statute. This statute empowers protected persons to have their personal information (addresses, phone numbers, etc.) removed from publication, establishes a right of action to remove such information, and criminalizes the willful refusal to remove protected information. Statewide elected officials, legislators, and members of the Public Service Commission were added to this legislation through a senate floor amendment.

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# 2025 Regular Session Legislative Update...continued

## SUPPORTED BILLS

LDAA worked with various criminal justice stakeholders, the Attorney General, and the Governor's Office to support non-member proposals in "our lane." That coordination also saw significant successes:

- **HB 12/ACT 233**- unlawful hemp sales to minors
- **HB 15/ACT 12**- adds substances to R.S. 40:964
- **HB 23/ACT 46**- streamlines court records being given to defendants
- **HB 35/ACT 124**- hit and run with serious injury penalty increase
- **HB 38/ACT 125**- initial offense report record public records limitations
- **HB 49/ACT 128**- Pardon and Parole Board victim confidentiality
- **HB 74/ACT 225**- domestic violence vehicle tracking protections
- **HB 79/ACT 52**- firearm penalty enhancement on plea deals
- **HB 92/ACT 57**- Renames the Acadiana Crime Lab for the Honorable Martin Bofill "Bo" Duhe, the late district attorney for the 16 Judicial District
- **HB 111/ACT 142**- prohibits sex offenders from lingering at school bus stops
- **HB 208/ACT 158**- clarifies good time ineligibility for sex offenders and habitual offenders
- **HB 214/ACT 72**- clarifies the role of drug court in probation revocations
- **HB 234/ACT 255**- addresses and streamlines blight adjudications
- **HB 363/ACT 186**- strengthens financial exploitation protections for the elderly
- **HB 375/ACT 188**- targets money mules in financial crimes
- **HB 394/ACT 193**- clarifies timelines for capital case executions
- **HB 479/ACT 370**- creates a path to enhance victim notification
- **SB 78/ACT 102**- common-sense exceptions to the drug paraphernalia statute
- **SB 95/ACT 416**- substantial reform for the electronic monitoring industry
- **SB 99/ACT 107**- MAJOR STEP TO OUTLAWING CAMERA CITATIONS
- **SB 154/ACT 41**- adds Kratom to Schedule I of the CDS List

# 2025 VAC Annual Seminar Recap

Our Annual VAC Seminar took place on September 11–12, 2025, at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel, drawing an outstanding turnout of dedicated coordinators from across the state. The seminar featured a lineup of engaging and insightful speakers who offered practical tools, shared powerful stories, and inspired deeper commitment to trauma-informed care. Stay tuned for the 2026 VAC Annual Seminar dates!

## VAC Certification

At the Annual Seminar, Ms. Danielle C. Kitchen, Senior Program Manager for the National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP), delivered an informative session on the benefits and process of advocate credentialing. She emphasized the value of professional standards in victim advocacy and encouraged offices interested in learning more to reach out for a webinar. Ms. Kitchen is available to provide further guidance and support.

### Contact Information:

Danielle C. Kitchen

Senior Program Manager

National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP)

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🔗 [www.thenacp.org](http://www.thenacp.org)



## A big THANK YOU to our 2024-2025 LDAA VAC BOARD

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the compassion, strength, and commitment each of you has shown throughout the past twelve months.

Your work as Victim Assistance Coordinators is not easy—it demands empathy, resilience, and a steadfast dedication to justice and healing. You have served with integrity and heart, offering a steady presence to those who need it most. The impact of your efforts may not always be visible, but it is deeply felt by those whose lives you touch.

Thank you for your service, your professionalism, and your unwavering support of victims and survivors. You continue to set a powerful example of what it means to lead with compassion and purpose.

### **PRESIDENT:**

- LEONE FITZGERALD (1<sup>ST</sup> J.D.)

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

- CATALENE THERIOT (16<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)

### **SECRETARY**

- ALISON MORGADO (ORLEANS)

### **TREASURER**

- TAMEKA WHITE (21<sup>ST</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE**

- LEONE FITZGERALD (1<sup>ST</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE**

- FELECIA ALEXANDER (4<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE**

- PHILLIP WEBBER (7<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 4 REPRESENTATIVE**

- HOPE JANUARY (33<sup>RD</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 5 REPRESENTATIVE**

- CATALENE THERIOT (16<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 6 REPRESENTATIVE**

- TAMEKA WHITE (21<sup>ST</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 7 REPRESENTATIVE**

- RAE RILEY (25<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 8 REPRESENTATIVE**

- ALISON MORGADO (ORLEANS)

### **REGION 9 REPRESENTATIVE**

- KRISTEN RABY (19<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)

### **REGION 10 REPRESENTATIVE**

- NANCY MICHEL (24<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)

### **AT LARGE POSITIONS**

- PAMELA FRUGE (31<sup>ST</sup> J.D.)
- DONNA SLATE (27<sup>TH</sup> J.D.)
- WILBA TUCKER-SPENCER (32<sup>ND</sup> J.D.)

