

GOEA WELCOMES NEWLY CERTIFIED OMBUDSMAN

Barbara Soniat, MSW, Ph.D. (Gerontology) and published author with 40 years of work experience as an advocate for older adults, began working with the New Orleans Regional Ombudsman Program in November 2016. She is a newly certified ombudsman now advocating for residents of long-term care facilities, group homes, and assisted living facilities in the Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

Before returning to Louisiana in 2012, to care for her elderly mother, she served on the faculties of Howard University School of Social Work, George Washington University Medical School and Catholic University of America, in Washington, DC. She has taught, conducted research, practiced and administered programs in social work, geriatrics and gerontology.

Dr. Soniat currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Tulane University's Porter Cason Institute on Families and is a Certified Lay Minister with the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.



GOEA ALSO WELCOMES NEWLY CERTIFIED OMBUDSMEN VOLUNTEERS

Laurie Holland, Chris DeCuir, and Vickie Castay have served as Long-Term Care Ombudsman Visitor Volunteers in New Orleans for more than a year. Having completed their Ombudsman certification course, they are now among the ranks of GOEA's Louisiana Ombudsmen in the Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

Laurie interns part-time at the Veterans Administration while she works on her MSW at Southern University, Chris is recently retired from the New Orleans tourism industry, and Vickie is a part-time employee but a full time activist for the elderly. All diverse ages and walks of life but they share one commonality: compassion and care for the elderly.



Caption: LSU Ag Center welcomes three new Louisiana Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteers. Ombudsmen provide free advocacy for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Left to Right: Laurie Holland, Chris DeCuir, Vickie Castay

For more information about the volunteer Louisiana Long-Term Care Ombudsman Visitor Program, please call (866) 632-0922.