

# Save the Date!

AN EVENING WITH OSCAR KAZEN, ESQ.



**Advancing Assisted Outpatient Treatment in Louisiana**  
***A Better Approach To Treatment And Care For The Seriously Mentally Ill***  
***(Panel and Discussion To Follow)***

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) refers to state mental health laws that create a civil court procedure wherein a judge orders a person with severe mental illness to adhere to an outpatient treatment plan designed to prevent relapse and dangerous deterioration. The court order not only commits the patient to accept treatment, the court order also commits the mental health system to providing it. Prior to AOT, many treatment providers preferred to exclude the most seriously ill. Louisiana's AOT law was passed in 2008, but has been seldom used. Research shows AOT:

- Helps the mentally ill by reducing homelessness (74%); suicide attempts (55%); and substance abuse (48%);
- Keeps the public safer by reducing physical harm to others (47%) and property destruction (43%); and
- Saves money by reducing hospitalization (77%); arrests (83%); and incarceration (87%).

Mr. Kazen created and oversaw the implementation of the first fully-operational civil AOT court in Texas, serving as the intersection between the law and treatment of individuals with serious mental illness in a 52-county area. This court has served as a national model, saving lives and lessening the suffering of those with serious mental illness by offering an alternative to hospitalization. Since its inception, participants have spent 80% fewer days in hospitals, saving the area over \$5 million.

Thursday, November 2, 2017

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court

300 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

11<sup>th</sup> Floor Courtroom

**PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND @ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/decriminalizing-mental-illness-homelessness-can-aot-work-in-louisiana-tickets-39044589418>**

Sponsored by Healing Minds NOLA, Capital Area Human Services District, Hillar C. Moore, III, District Attorney, East Baton Rouge Parish and CommCare.

*Healing Minds NOLA is a 501c3 non-profit charitable and educational organization dedicated to creating alternatives to incarceration homelessness and early death for people with serious mental illness.*