Our nationwide call for assistance:

 We, the undersigned elected District Attorneys, are working with our professional organizations and others interested in donating funds on behalf of our employees tragically affected by this historic flood event. Of our 64 parishes, 10 parishes have been hit very hard. These parishes employ nearly 500 Assistant District Attorneys, investigators, victim assistants, and clerical staff. Just within our staffs, 59 families have lost virtually everything. Now is the time of their greatest need as they face the ruin of their lifetime from water in their homes, cars, and personal effects. In just one of our cities, Denham Springs, more than 90% of the homes have been destroyed. Water is still standing in some places and we can expect a few more employees to be affected.

 Our employees are in shock and under tremendous stress as they camp out in community centers, hotels, and on the couches of other employees. Some have already faced multiple evacuations from one community center to another as the flooding continued. We are talking about flood levels that have exceeded prior records by 100%, more than 20 feet above prior records. These employees were living in areas never previously affected by flooding and not shown in any flood zone. They did not have flood insurance. This has been called a “1000 year” flood and “the worst rain” in our nation’s history. Astounding pictures and videos can be found on national and social media.

 Over the past two months our communities have had to deal with major issues including an officer involved shooting death, protests, and subsequent the killing of three officers. Our community was once again rocked by this very unusual storm which has devastated many of our communities and hit our DA families very hard. We have shut down our courts for the past week to assist employees with finding places to live and gut their homes to contractor ready status. The damage costs will be in the billions. One cannot even imagine the magnitude of this damage.

In our employee’s own words:

 *We are safe in a hotel in St. Francisville now. Unending thanks to Future Hope Ministries, First Baptist Central, and the countless volunteers that aided us along the way from shelter to shelter. A special thanks to the U.S. Army Reserves for rescuing us from the rising water. We have lost most of what we own, but we are safe and that's all we can ask for. Prayers for the recovery period to come for my family and the multitudes of other families who this disaster has affected.*

 *It's bad man. It's really bad. Thousands and thousands of homes gone. Nursing homes evacuated. Retirement homes flooded. Hospitals are completely full. So much devastation to so many. My heart broke today as it dawned on me how many of my family members, friends, and co-workers lost everything. Wading through a house filled with water to help an elderly man get insulin from his fridge just hurt my soul. As I'm in there with him a big truck drove by carrying people out and the wake of the water shattered more of his glass windows. He just said “oh well, everyone needs to get out!” Then he smiles and says “plus I'm retired, I can fix all this.” That made me feel a little better. I know it's gonna be a long road ahead for this area, but just like Monroe, everything will be back and even better than before.*

 *And now what? Prayers for all my friend and family! Putting homes back together is confusing and scary but at least we’re safe.*

 *This is the most incredible thing that I have ever seen. In a period of 5 weeks in Baton Rouge we have seen protests that threatened to tear this city apart followed by the evil acts of one man that shot 6 police officers. Without much warning the rains have come and now we have literally thousands of residents of this area that are under water. We are seeing flooding in areas that have NEVER gotten a drop previously. With this comes the stark reality that lots of these people have no flood insurance. There is really no way to adequately paint this picture. As if this is not bad enough, AT&T cell service is out, so hundreds of stranded folks have no communication at all! I am gearing up to get in a boat and attempt to help, but the problem is so large it almost seems like an insurmountable task. We all need to look around. On a scale of 0-100, my wife and I are at or near 0. It is a major inconvenience, but we are OK. Some others are not as fortunate, but they need only look around to find literally thousands that are much less fortunate! I know literally dozens of folks that are flooded. Some with maybe a couple inches and others with total loss. We all need to pull together and realize that wherever we fall on that scale there are many others that only wish they could occupy our spot.*

 *I lost my house, my cars. My sister lost her house, her cars. My dad is ill and lost his house, his car. All of us had to evacuate only to be evacuated again and again for the past two days. We are all now homeless. How will I be able to return to work? I have nothing.*

 Please join us in our effort to provide funds to assist our employees now. Hopefully, with federal and state assistance they will recover some of what they have lost but those processes will take time. They need help today. Each of our offices has created an “Employee Disaster Relief Fund” recognized by IRS 26 USC 139 to provide funds to employees in a tax-free manner and provide tax deductibility for donors under IRS 26 USC 170 (c)(1). Payments can be made to any office listed and also online at <https://squareup.com/store/east-baton-rouge-district-attorneys-office> . All proceeds will be shared on a pro-rata basis across these participating offices. We are encouraging all persons able to solicit and donate funds on our employees’ behalf to forward these funds to each of the individual offices listed below for distribution by that office through their Employee Disaster Relief Fund to affected employees. To avoid the potential for any legal conflicts, we are not requesting at this time any donations from Louisiana residents. Please know that 100% of any funds received will go to our affected employees who have lost their homes and cars to acquire immediate replacement housing and transportation. We, the undersigned elected District Attorneys, will ensure these funds are managed in an accountable and transparent manner while protecting the privacy of the affected employees.

Hillar C. Moore, III

19th Judicial District Attorney

222 St. Louis Street, Suite 550

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Phone: (225) 389-3400

Mail Payments to “Employee Disaster Relief Fund”

Online payments to: <https://squareup.com/store/east-baton-rouge-district-attorneys-office>

(Parish of East Baton Rouge, reporting 20 employees with flooded homes)

Scott Perrilloux

21st Judicial District Attorney

20140 Iowa St.

Post Office Box 299

Livingston, LA 70754

Phone: (225) 686-3070

Payments to “Employee Disaster Relief Fund”

Online Payments to: <https://squareup.com/store/east-baton-rouge-district-attorneys-office>

(Parishes of Livingston, St. Helena and Tangipahoa, reporting 19 employees with flooded homes)

Ricky Babin

23rd Judicial District Attorney

P.O. Box 750, Donaldsonville, La. 70346

Phone: Sandy Sanchez (225) 473-6777

Payments to “Employee Disaster Relief Fund”

Online payments to: <https://squareup.com/store/east-baton-rouge-district-attorneys-office>

(Parishes of Ascension, Assumption and St. James, reporting 9 employees with flooded homes)