

# Additional Resources for Louisiana Lawyers

## Louisiana State Bar Association Services

The Louisiana State Bar Association is located at:

Louisiana State Bar Association  
601 St. Charles Ave. • New Orleans, La. 70130  
(800)421-5722 • (504)566-1600 • *LSBA.org*

### Alcohol and Drug Abuse Hotline/Lawyers Assistance Program

(866)354-9334

*Confidential Help for Lawyers and Judges*

Have you ever wished that you could sit down and talk in complete confidence with someone about your law practice; someone whose drinking or drug problem may have been worse than yours; someone who can tell you what drinking or the use of drugs did to her practice, family and health; or perhaps just someone to listen with an understanding heart rather than with judgment and condemnation?

Have you ever thought what a relief it would be, without any cost whatsoever, to be able to talk frankly with just such a person — a person who is solving problems just like yours and is living happily and usefully in so doing?

Now you can by calling the Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. hotline (see number above). Telephone anytime in confidence.

### Client Assistance Fund (formerly the Client Protection Fund)

Compensates clients who lose money or property due to their lawyers' dishonest conduct. The fund can reimburse clients up to a certain amount for thefts by a lawyer. For further information, contact Cheri Cotogno Grodsky, Louisiana State Bar Association, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La. 70130, (504)566-1600 or (800)421-5722.

### Ethics Advisory Service Committee

Encourages ethical lawyer conduct by providing informal non-binding ethics opinions. For further information, contact Richard P. Lemmler, Jr., Louisiana State Bar Association, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La. 70130, (504)566-1600 or (800)421-5722, ext. 144.

### Fastcase (online legal research)

Fastcase, a Web-based legal research program, is available free to members of the Louisiana State Bar Association. The program provides online access to millions of cases, statutes and regulations via the American Law Library. Users can search all jurisdictions at one time, resulting in the most often cited references from the database. Inquiries can be made using keywords, Boolean phrases and citations. Fastcase also features dual-column printing and hyperlinked citations. Access the program via the LSBA's Web site, [www.lsba.org/Member\\_Services/fastcase.asp](http://www.lsba.org/Member_Services/fastcase.asp).

### Legal Fee Dispute Resolution Program

Although most attorney-client relationships are concluded without fee disputes, disputes and controversies will occasionally arise regarding fees. The dispute may be between the lawyer and the client or it may be between lawyers who have been involved in a case. Such disputes could, of course, be resolved through the courts; however, there are alternatives to going to court which are intended to provide quick, low cost and confidential solutions. These are generally called alternative dispute resolution programs or "ADR" programs.

The Louisiana State Bar Association sponsors one program for the resolution of legal fee disputes through impartial arbitration. Some local bar associations may sponsor similar programs and the LSBA encourages their use. In addition, several private organizations sponsor dispute resolution programs. For further information or assistance regarding the LSBA program, contact William N. King, Louisiana State Bar Association, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La. 70130, (504)566-1600 or (800)421-5722, ext. 109.

## **Louisiana State Bar Association's Web Site, *www.lsba.org*, and E-Newsletter, Louisiana Bar Today**

Check the LSBA's Web site for additional resources and services offered to members, including information on upcoming CLE programs. Sign up to receive the free e-newsletter, Louisiana Bar Today, posted every Tuesday. To sign up, go to: *www.lsba.org/publications/louisiana\_bar\_today.asp*.

## **Practice Assistance and Improvement Committee**

The mission of the Practice Assistance and Improvement Committee is to serve the bar and the public in furtherance of the LSBA goals of prevention and correction of lawyer misconduct and assistance to victims of lawyer misconduct by evaluating, developing and providing effective alternatives to discipline programs for minor offenses, educational and practice assistance programs, and programs to resolve minor complaints and attorney-client disputes.

If you need assistance with your practice, contact Cheri Cotogno Grodsky, Director of Professional Programs/Practice Assistance Counsel; William N. King, Practice Assistance Counsel; or Eric K. Barefield, Deputy Practice Assistance Counsel, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La. 70130, (504)566-1600 or (800)421-5722, or e-mail *cgrodsky@lsba.org*, *bking@lsba.org* or *ebarefield@lsba.org*.

## **Other Lawyer Resources**

Ciolino, Dane S., *Louisiana Professional Responsibility Law and Practice 2004*, 2nd Edition  
(Louisiana State Bar Association, 2004).

### **Gilsbar, Inc.**

The best way to protect yourself from losses is to prevent them in the first place. Gilsbar, under the auspices of the Malpractice Insurance Committee, offers a number of loss prevention programs specifically designed for attorneys.

The Office of Loss Prevention can be contacted at:

Gilsbar, Inc., Office of Loss Prevention

P.O. Box 998, Covington, La. 70434 • (985)898-1785 • fax (985)898-1636 • *lossprevention@gilsbar.com* • *Gilsbar.com*

### **American Bar Association**

American Bar Association Service Center

541 N. Fairbanks Ct., Chicago, Ill. 60611-3314 • (312)988-5522 • *abanet.org*

### **American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility**

The center provides programs and educational materials to help all lawyers manage their practice ethically and professionally.

ABA Center for Professional Responsibility

541 N. Fairbanks Ct., Chicago, Ill. 60611-3314 • (312)988-5304 • *ctrprofresp@abanet.org* • *abanet.org/cpr/*

### **Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board**

Ste. 310, 2800 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, La. 70002

(504)834-1488 • (800)489-8411 • fax (504)834-1449 • *ladb@ladb.org* • *ladb.org*

### **Office of Disciplinary Counsel**

Charles B. Plattsmier, Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Ste. 607, 4000 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge, La. 70816

(225)293-3900 • (800)326-8022 • fax (225)293-3300

### **Louisiana Supreme Court**

301 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, La. 70112

(504)568-5707 • *lasc.org*

### **Judiciary Commission of Louisiana**

Steve Scheckman, Special Counsel

601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La. 70130 • (504)568-8299 • *OSC@lajas.org*

# Acknowledgments

The Louisiana State Bar Association gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following authors, Reading Committee members, publications and organizations for materials contained in the guide:

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## Organizations

- ▶ Gilsbar, Inc., Office of Loss Prevention, Covington, La.
- ▶ Louisiana State Bar Association
- ▶ CNA Insurance Company

## Publications

- ▶ The Ohio State Bar Association, *Client Keeper*, 1997, reprinted by permission.
- ▶ The Mississippi Bar, *Client Relations, Forms, Letters & Useful Information*, reprinted by permission.
- ▶ Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, *The Disciplinary Review*, reprinted by permission.

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