

Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit www.lsba.org/atj.

LIFT Incubator Project seeks two attorneys in Lake Charles

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Department is accepting applications from attorneys until April 16 for the Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT) incubator project at the Southwest Louisiana Law Center (Law Center) in Lake Charles. The project is designed to address the legal needs of people who are underserved and underrepresented in Louisiana.

Through this collaborative project, the LIFT Fellows will address the unmet civil legal needs of low- and moderate-income clients in the Lake Charles area. The project is open to new or transitioning attorneys starting their own solo, small firm or nonprofit practice in Lake Charles. During the 18-month program, incubator attorneys will receive free office space, supplies and resources. The attorneys also will receive



training and mentorship as they work alongside experienced Law Center legal practitioners. In exchange for the training and incubation of their practice, attorneys

agree to provide pro bono representation in cases referred by the Law Center.

Louisiana licensed attorneys with zero-five years' practice experience who plan to develop or have begun to develop a sustainable solo law practice providing cost-effective legal solutions to modest means clients are encouraged to apply. The program is looking for two attorneys.

Access an application online: www.lsba.org/LIFT/ModestMeansProject.aspx. Email completed applications in one .pdf file to Amy Duncan at amy.duncan@lsba.org.

By supporting new lawyers in building viable and sustainable public interest-focused law firms, the LIFT project cultivates the future leaders of Louisiana's access to justice community. To learn more about the LIFT project, go to: www.lsba.org/LIFT. 📄

Grow your practice by joining Modest Means Online Legal Directory

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Commission has launched the Modest Means Online Legal Directory designed to connect attorneys who offer affordable legal services with Louisiana residents who do not qualify for free legal services yet can afford to pay for services at a reduced rate.

The number of households in Louisiana that fall into this gap is alarmingly high based on the recent ALICE report conducted by United Way, www.unitedwaysela.org/alice-report. In addition to a major need and demand for these services, this directory presents an opportunity for attorneys to grow their businesses and expand their client base.

The attorneys offering affordable rates do so by charging reduced hourly rates based on client income; charging a flat fee; or charging less because they represent the client for just

part of the case and not all of it.

The Modest Means Online Legal Directory is open to all attorneys who are licensed to practice law in Louisiana and prepared to offer affordable legal services to people falling at or below the 400 percent Federal Poverty Line.¹ New lawyers can join at any time.

Attorneys who are interested in joining should:

▶ Go to www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx;

▶ Complete the one-hour, on-demand CLE on ethical considerations for representing clients with limited means (cost \$40);

▶ Take a brief survey; and

▶ Complete the online application form.

When attorneys are determined eligible, their names, photos,² contact information, practice areas and types of affordable legal

services offered will be listed in the directory.

For a limited time, the first 50 attorneys who sign up can *complete the CLE at no cost*. Enter the promo code *Access to Justice* during checkout and the cost will be waived.³

For more information about the directory or how to join, email LSBA Access to Justice Training and Projects Counsel Amy Duncan at amy.duncan@lsba.org.

FOOTNOTES

1. 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines located on the U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services website available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

2. Members who have uploaded photos under their LSBA profile will have their photo automatically appear on their listing on the Modest Means Directory page.

3. Note that, if you use the promo code for this CLE, CLE credit will only be given once you have successfully joined the Modest Means Online Legal Directory. 📄

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org



**A FREE ONLINE
FORUM FOR CIVIL
LEGAL QUESTIONS**

Fulfill your pro bono obligation of 50 hours without ever leaving your office or seeing a client. *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org* offers attorneys a quick, easy way to help low-income, elderly, and disabled Louisiana residents.

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org allows volunteers to:

- Log in whenever/wherever
- Choose the question you answer and respond anonymously
- Receive training and access to resources
- Be covered by malpractice insurance

To volunteer contact Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel by emailing rachael.mills@lsba.org or calling 504.619.0104.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.LSBA.ORG/ATJ
OR CALL (504)619-0104

Louisiana State
Bar Association
Access to Justice

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