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[DATE]

Contact: [NAME, ORGANIZATION]
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Volunteer Attorneys to Staff Free Legal Helpdesks During Statewide Month of Service

[CITY] — Volunteer lawyers across the state will focus efforts on serving the public by sponsoring a variety of free “Ask-a-Lawyer” legal helpdesks throughout the month of October.

National Celebrate Pro Bono Week will be observed Oct. 21-28, and Louisiana attorneys have extended their volunteerism by making October Louisiana’s Month of Legal Service. The goal of the Month of Legal Service is for attorneys to help make a difference in their communities by providing assistance to benefit those most in need.

“In this difficult economic climate, the legal needs of the public have grown exponentially,” said Louisiana State Bar Association President Richard K. Leefe. “We have seen this in the growing number of self-represented litigants in all of the courts.”

[ORGANIZATION/COURT] is participating in this statewide volunteer effort by hosting a free “Ask-a-Lawyer” helpdesk at [LOCATION]. Court-based help desks provide a unique and meaningful opportunity to bridge the gap between courts and the public. The helpdesk will provide services to litigants, or potential litigants, that include self-help information, legal advice, legal information and referrals to relevant agencies and other resources.

The basic legal services provided through the free helpdesks can have a significant impact on litigants and the courts. Volunteer lawyers will help unrepresented litigants move their case forward and clarify when no actionable issue exists, or conversely, when they almost certainly need an attorney.

For updates on all Month of Service events and activities, go to:
<http://www.lsba.org/atj/LAMonthofService>.

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