


# Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit [www.lsba.org/atj](http://www.lsba.org/atj).

## Attorney volunteers: Register with *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org!*


**L***A.FreeLegalAnswers.org*, a new website that connects low-income individuals with attorneys, was launched on Aug. 22. Through the website, attorney volunteers are able to log in whenever and wherever they like to anonymously respond to legal questions submitted by individuals who could not otherwise afford to consult an attorney. Volunteers will be covered by malpractice insurance provided by the American Bar Association for any legal advice given through the site.

*La.FreeLegalAnswers.org* is not only an incredibly convenient way for attorneys to do pro bono, but also it will help expand pro bono access throughout Louisiana, especially to those in rural areas where few pro bono resources are currently available.

To learn more about *LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org*, go to the LSBA's Access to Justice webpage, [www.lsba.org/atj](http://www.lsba.org/atj). Or contact Rachael Mills with the Access to Justice Department at (504)619-0104 or email [rachael.mills@lsba.org](mailto:rachael.mills@lsba.org). 

## LSBA continuing disaster assistance in response to flooding

**T**he Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), in conjunction with the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA/YLD), the Louisiana Civil Justice Center (LCJC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has activated the statewide disaster plan for legal assistance in response to the recent flooding throughout the state.

Currently, LCJC is offering free legal counseling via its toll-free disaster hotline (1-800-310-7029). LCJC operates the hotline from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The staff provides resources and assists callers with legal issues, including FEMA disaster assistance, insurance claims, landlord-tenant issues, home-repair contracts, and consumer protection matters. Legal assistance for Spanish-speaking callers can be arranged via a callback appointment. The hotline has begun receiving disaster-related calls and the numbers have steadily increased. To learn more about the LSBA's latest efforts to respond to the recent flooding, visit the LSBA's Disaster Response webpage, [www.lsba.org/dr](http://www.lsba.org/dr). 



## LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES October 27, 2016



*Louisiana lawyers are proud to partner with Louisiana libraries to help address the legal needs of our communities.*

On October 27, 2016, the Louisiana Library Association and the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) will sponsor "Lawyers in Libraries" events across the state in support of the National Pro Bono Celebration. Attorney volunteers will provide "Ask-a-Lawyer" sessions, or educational presentations, free of charge to library patrons.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP to be the Lawyer in your local Library.

To participate in a "Lawyers in Libraries" event, contact the LSBA Access to Justice Department at (504)619-0106 or (800)421-5722, ext. 106, or email [Nicole.Louque@lsba.org](mailto:Nicole.Louque@lsba.org). More info on the project can be found at: [www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org](http://www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org)

Special thanks to all the participating attorneys helping to make this project a success.

# How You Can Help Flood Victims

## ► Volunteer Your Time.

There are several available volunteer opportunities.

The Louisiana Civil Justice Center (LCJC) operates the disaster legal assistance hotline and is seeking attorney volunteers to respond to the growing volume of disaster calls and voice messages. Volunteers will be trained on how to use LCJC's case management software and work alongside LCJC attorneys to take disaster calls, give legal information and make referrals. Volunteers can sign up for a two-hour shift, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-noon or 1-3 p.m., working from the LCJC office at 601 St. Charles Ave., 3rd floor, New Orleans (in the Louisiana Bar Center). Lawyers and law students are encouraged to volunteer. To sign up for a volunteer shift with LCJC, go to: <http://laciviljustice.org/volunteer-signup/>.

Attorney volunteers are needed to staff the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs). Currently, there are 28 DRCs open in the state. For security reasons, volunteers must have clearance to enter a DRC, and both Acadiana Legal Services and the Baton

## Resources

**LSBA Disaster Recovery website:**  
[www.lsba.org/dr](http://www.lsba.org/dr)

**Volunteer to help those affected:**  
[www.lsba.org/goto/volunteer](http://www.lsba.org/goto/volunteer)

**SOLACE information**  
[www.lsba.org/goto/solace](http://www.lsba.org/goto/solace)

**LSBA Disaster Response Message Board** - post offers of help or requests for assistance (for LSBA members only):  
[www.lsba.org/goto/DRmessage](http://www.lsba.org/goto/DRmessage)

Rouge Bar Association are cleared to enter DRCs. DRC locations are identified in the sign-up process.

To volunteer at the DRCs with Acadiana Legal Services, sign up through its "Sign Up Genius" program at this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f44aaa72ba4fb6-acadiana>.

To volunteer at the DRCs with the


Baton Rouge Bar Association, sign up through its "Sign Up Genius" program at this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084daea72eaafc1-2016>.

Volunteer resources and training materials are available on the LSBA's Disaster Response webpage, [www.lsba.org/dr](http://www.lsba.org/dr), under the "Volunteer Resources" tab on the right side of the page. To access the Emergency/Disaster Training Manual for Volunteer Lawyers, go to: <https://www.lsba.org/documents/DR/2016VolunteerManual.pdf>.

## ► Donate Money.

Tax-deductible donations to either of the organizations listed below will be used exclusively to help members of the Louisiana legal community devastated by the flood to begin to rebuild their lives and practices.

**Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Fund**  
[http://www.brba.org/Web/Foundation/Bar\\_Foundation.aspx](http://www.brba.org/Web/Foundation/Bar_Foundation.aspx)

**Lafayette Bar Foundation Fund**  
<https://squareup.com/store/lafayette-bar-foundation> 



## 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, seeing a client, or even changing out of your pajamas. *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 with the LSBA at [rachael.mills@lsba.org](mailto:rachael.mills@lsba.org) or 504-619-0104.

Louisiana State Bar Association  
Access to Justice 

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Serving the Public. Serving the Profession. 