

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

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

## LSBA Modest Means Directory and Resources for Attorneys Offering Affordable Legal Options

Since the launch of the online Modest Means Directory in 2018, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) has received more than 14,000 inquiries to find affordable legal service solutions. While legal aid and pro bono organizations offer free legal services to families living at or below the 200% federal poverty line, many individuals who earn above that cannot afford legal services at the going rate and, therefore, need affordable legal service options.

The United Way's new ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report emphasizes that much of the

population in Louisiana above the federal poverty level still do not earn enough income to meet a basic survival budget.

Many ALICE and modest means families are turning to the Directory to find affordable legal options from the 70 attorneys listed who provide services throughout the state. But due to the high demand, more attorneys are necessary to meet the needs of the approximately 250 individuals per month seeking legal services via the Directory.

Many attorneys already offer cost-effective legal services. For attorneys interested in joining the Directory, the LSBA offers a host of tools and resources

for support, including free CLE programs on LSR/unbundling legal services and substantive law training; Practice Aid Guides; and Online Member Profile Cards.

In addition to the resources, the Directory presents an opportunity for new attorneys, specifically new solos, to grow their client base by increasing access to cost effective services for the many people and families in Louisiana in need of affordable legal options.

To join or learn more about the Directory, go to: [www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx). Or email LSBA Access to Justice Training & Projects Counsel Amy Duncan at [amy.duncan@lsba.org](mailto:amy.duncan@lsba.org).



**ATTENTION ATTORNEYS**

**GROW YOUR BUSINESS:  
JOIN THE MODEST MEANS ONLINE  
LEGAL DIRECTORY TODAY**

The Modest Means Online Legal Directory connects attorneys offering affordable legal services with moderate-income families who do not qualify for free legal aid, yet can afford to pay for legal services at a reduced rate.

The Directory is open to all active Louisiana attorneys in good standing who offer reduced-fee legal services to people falling at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Line. Many attorneys already offer reduced fees by way of a sliding scale based on the client's income, flat fees, or limited scope representation.

**FIND OUT MORE! CONTACT** Amy Duncan, LSBA Access to Justice Training & Projects Counsel, at [amy.duncan@lsba.org](mailto:amy.duncan@lsba.org) with any questions. Or for more information online, visit [www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx)



# LSBA Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee Offers Disability Law Training CLE Program

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee, as part of its annual training series, hosted a three-hour CLE training event in December 2023. The event included presentations on highly engaging topics, such as service animals' law, recent changes in interdiction law, including supported decision making, and recent updates in special education laws and practices. 📺



Presenting a program at the December 2023 Louisiana State Bar Association Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee's CLE training event was Christopher F. Edmunds, committee co-chair, with Chris Edmunds Law Office, LLC, New Orleans.



Presenting a program at the December 2023 Louisiana State Bar Association Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee's CLE training event were Amber C. Sheppard and Tubbs, Sheppard Law, PLLC, Slidell.

## DAN Helps People Seeking Representation in Disability Law Matters

The Disabilities Assistance Network (DAN), established by the Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities (LSPD) Committee, is a free online referral network connecting the public with Louisiana attorneys practicing disability law.

DAN provides the public and the private bar with a database of attorneys who are capable of and willing to provide specific representation in disability-related matters. In addition, DAN offers training and networking opportunities to attorneys who populate the database. DAN facilitates direct communication between the public and attorneys and serves as a referral mechanism for attorneys when a particular matter falls

outside their scope of practice.

DAN can help individuals with disabilities reach you as a participating attorney! You can view DAN at the LSPD Committee's home page ([www.lsba.org/Members/DANsearch.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Members/DANsearch.aspx)). Search results are filtered by parish and practice area, as self-reported by each DAN member. There is no cost for an attorney to join DAN. Attorneys enrolled in the network do not hold themselves out as experts but simply offer legal services in defined disability-related legal matters.

To participate, first create a profile at [www.lsba.org/Members/danjoin.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/Members/danjoin.aspx).

For more information, email Evian Mugarbi or Bridget Berins with the Access to Justice Department at [evian.mugarbi@lsba.org](mailto:evian.mugarbi@lsba.org) or [bridget.berins@lsba.org](mailto:bridget.berins@lsba.org). 📺



### A FREE ONLINE FORUM FOR CIVIL LEGAL QUESTIONS

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

For more info, contact  
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