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

Lawyers in Libraries Guide

Special thanks to the Louisiana Library Association and participating libraries.
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Dear LSBA Members,

On behalf of the Louisiana State Bar Association, I would like to thank you for your continued support of “Lawyers in Libraries.” With your help over the last five years, thousands of people have received much-needed legal assistance through this program, particularly in areas without a physical legal aid office. This year, the “Lawyers in Libraries” week of service, held in conjunction with National Celebrate Pro Bono Week, is scheduled for October 21-26. We hope you will join our colleagues around the state by participating this year.

Louisiana has the second highest poverty rate in the United States and high rates of unmet legal need. As the numbers of people without legal representation increase, disadvantaged communities across the state rely on the support of pro bono attorneys. Proudly, Louisiana attorneys provide over 110,000 annual hours of pro bono each year. This generous donation of time and expertise yields benefits which positively impact clients’ lives and represent the highest degrees of professionalism. As a past volunteer of “Lawyers in Libraries”, I can personally attest that it is a fantastic and rewarding opportunity for attorneys to provide much-needed assistance to the citizens of our state.

I urge LSBA members to volunteer for “Lawyers in Libraries” by signing up at www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org. Participation in this program does not require a large time commitment - either two hours of individual 10-15-minute consultations, or a one-hour classroom presentation on a specific legal topic. Materials and resources are provided in this guide and online and the LSBA will coordinate logistical details between volunteer attorneys and participating library branches.

I offer my support for “Lawyers in Libraries” and for programming and partnerships which further “Access to Justice”. I look forward to LSBA members partnering with libraries across the state for the “Lawyers in Libraries” week of service and beyond.

Joanna Laidler serves as the LSBA liaison for “Lawyers in Libraries”. For more information, please contact her at Joanna.laidler@lsba.org.

Robert A. Kutcher
2019-2020 President
Louisiana State Bar Association

July 23, 2019
WHO

With the help of Louisiana’s librarians, Louisiana State Bar (LSBA) attorneys will provide library patrons with limited legal services at no charge.

WHAT

Volunteer attorneys will provide general “Ask-a-Lawyer” sessions, allowing patrons to ask legal questions in a one on one setting. Alternatively, attorneys may provide workshops on specific topics (i.e. divorce, wills, etc…) in a classroom setting with opportunities for questions at the end. The type of service provided will vary by location depending on local need, and attorneys’ practice area and preference.

WHERE

“Lawyers in Libraries” events will take place in public libraries in every parish in the state. The LSBA will contact previous participating librarians and attorneys via email and ask them to register their availability online. Alternatively, attorneys and library representatives are encouraged to volunteer by filling out the registration forms at www.Louisianalawyersinlibraries.org or by contacting the LSBA at LawyersinLibraries@lsba.org.

WHEN

The 2019 “Lawyers in Libraries” events will be held across October 21 to October 26, 2019 in conjunction with National Celebrate Pro Bono Week. The LBSA will work with librarians to coordinate a day best for the librarians and volunteer attorneys.

WHY

In Louisiana and across the country, legal aid and pro bono resources are perpetually exhausted. To meet the legal needs of those without access to an attorney, the LSBA has worked to develop helpful resources and materials to educate the public; foster creative partnerships and innovative programming to maximize resources; and to make more attorneys available to the public through pro bono efforts including “Lawyers in Libraries.”
STEP ONE: SIGNING UP

- Please sign up to volunteer in a Lawyers in Libraries Event 2019 by completing the survey found online at www.LouisianaLawyersinlibraries.org or by contacting the LSBA directly.

- This year, you will be able to directly select the date and time and library branch you want to volunteer with. You can select more than one slot if you would like to volunteer for more than one session or if you wish to volunteer at two different locations.

- You can also choose the event type you would like to offer e.g. presentation, or individual ask-a-lawyer consultation. Please view the ‘Important Information’ section for a more detailed explanation of the event types.

- Each year, we struggle to find volunteers for more rural and remote parishes. This year, please consider volunteering at a less populated parish.

STEP TWO: CONNECTING ATTORNEYS WITH LIBRARIES

- Once you register for the event, the LBSA will confirm your event and provide you with contact details for a librarian at the library branch you have agreed to volunteer with.

- Volunteer attorneys are not allowed to directly solicit clients at the event, but they should inform their partner library if they would like their name or firm included in the promotional materials.

STEP THREE: PRE-EVENT PROMOTION

- The LSBA promotes all events in the state via LSBA publications and through partner organizations. However, we also ask volunteer attorneys to help get the word out within their local communities. Make sure to co-ordinate any promotional activities with your partner library.

- **Local Media:** Contact local newspapers and radio stations to see if they will run a story about your event. You can use the sample press release contained in these materials. For additional information about the newspapers, radio and television stations in the state please see our ‘Important Information section’.

- **Flyers:** We highly recommend putting up flyers around the library to promote the event. Copies of sample flyers are included in the materials. For maximum impact, we also suggest distributing flyers around the community, including at schools, aged-care facilities, churches, local businesses, medical centers, courts, and community bulletin boards.
STEP FOUR: PRE-EVENT ORGANIZATION

- If you are providing a presentation, you should inquire with your partner library as soon as possible as to the availability of a TV, projector, and/or any other desired visual aid. If you would like to provide print-outs to accompany your presentation, we ask that you print copies and bring them to the library yourself.

- If you are providing an ask-a-lawyer session, please confirm with the library that they are happy to print copies of the intake waiver form and resources/referral list.

- Reconnect with your partner library the week prior to the event to confirm logistics.

- If you have any questions about the event, please contact the LSBA directly at LawyersinLibraries@lsba.org.

- If you need to cancel for any reason, please provide as much notice as possible to both your partner librarian and the LSBA.

STEP FIVE: DAY OF EVENT

- Show up at least 15 minutes early prior to your presentation or ask-a-lawyer session.

- For ‘Ask-a-Lawyer’ sessions, all patrons must sign an intake waiver form. More information about the intake waiver can be found in these materials. At the end of the day, please provide the intake waivers to your partner library so that they can send them back to the LSBA.

- Since the event will be open to the public, participants are likely to have various backgrounds and legal issues. You should make every effort to respond to questions they feel comfortable answering. The ‘Resources & Referral Information’ section of this guide has been designed to provide you with the necessary tools to be able to assist or refer patrons.

- Should a patron have a question that you are unable to answer, that person can be directed to another volunteer if available or provided with an explanation that this event has a limited scope. You can also provide them with a copy of the resources/referral list contained in the materials for further assistance.

STEP SIX: FOLLOWING THE EVENT

- Please provide the LSBA with information about your event.

- Following the event, all participating volunteers are asked to complete a brief survey about the event. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and helps us improve the annual event.
Attorneys can now obtain CLE credit for the pro bono work they do. Attorneys can apply to receive 1 hour of CLE credit for each 5 hours of pro bono representation, up to a maximum of 3 CLE credits per year. Attorneys are able to complete the 5 hours of pro bono representation at different organization. For instance, if an attorney provides 2 hours of pro bono assistance with ‘Lawyers in Libraries,’ they can apply for 2/5 of 1 CLE credit and can complete a further 3 hours of pro bono assistance at a different organization. To apply for CLE credit, attorneys must complete the attached form at IV(d) and mail the original to the Louisiana State Bar, 601 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, 70116 C/O Joanna Laidler.

Ask-a-Lawyer sessions allow patrons to ask questions about their individual legal issues during a 15-20-minute consultation. Volunteer attorneys are requested to provide as much information and direction as they feel comfortable communicating, and then, supply each patron with a referral list, which includes statewide lawyer referral information, contact information for legal aid and pro bono organizations, and additional resources.

Legal Presentations, in contrast, feature a classroom setting and cover predetermined topics. Attorneys are requested to notify the LSBA and their partner library as soon as possible of a determined topic, or seek input as to what topics are most applicable. Though ideally there will be time for questions at the end, legal workshops should provide an overview of the law and not elicit details of individual patrons’ cases. In other words, volunteer attorneys should provide legal information about the law, but not legal advice about an individual’s specific issue. Regardless of program model, attorneys and library staff can coordinate event details according to their preference.

All patrons participating in an Ask-a-Lawyer session are required to sign an intake waiver which explicitly acknowledges that enrollment of counsel is neither expressed nor implied. The bottom of each waiver includes a brief report form that attorneys are requested to fill out in order to indicate the type of issue discussed, and the degree of assistance provided. This information will be of great assistance to local legal aid organizations, and well as for future Lawyers in Libraries events. Please make sure that the completed intake waiver forms are emailed to the LSBA at the end of the session.

Libraries and attorneys should be encouraged to contact local media outlets to promote their upcoming event. Attorneys should advise the participating library whether they want their name and firm acknowledged. For further information about what media outlets are available in your local area, please look at the lists of radio, television, and newspapers in Louisiana.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Legal Issue/Area of Law</th>
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Louisiana State Bar Association – “Lawyers in Libraries”
October 2019
Intake Waiver (required for all participants)

Name:________________________________________

Legal Issue:______________________________________________________________________

I am requesting assistance with my legal issue from a volunteer attorney at the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) “Lawyers in Libraries” event. I understand that an attorney may provide me with information or advice based on the information I provide, but does not represent me in this matter. Enrollment of counsel is neither expressed nor implied. I further understand that the volunteer attorney may assist both sides in cases. I do not have any expectation of confidentiality concerning any matter discussed, and understand that if I wish to have a confidential consultation, I should consult with or retain a private attorney. I have read and understand the disclosure statement written above.

Date:_________________  Signature:________________________________________

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Volunteer Name:__________________________

Legal Issue Discussed: _______________________________

(Check all that apply)
☐ Brief Q&A (0-5min)
☐ Extended Q&A (5-15min)
☐ Analyzed Court Document(s)
☐ Analyzed Other Document(s)
☐ Provided Form(s)
☐ Assisted w/Form(s) Preparation
☐ Referral to ________________
☐ Other ____________________

Notes: ______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 2019

<add date>

<add contacts / either LSBA, LLA, from local libraries, or all>

< > Parish Library Partners with La. State Bar Association and La. Library Association to Host Legal Advice Program on Oct. <add date>

The < > Parish Library, in partnership with the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and the Louisiana Library Association (LLA), is presenting its sixth annual “Lawyers in Libraries” statewide program on Oct. < > <Attorney name> will provide free individual consultations on legal issues (or provide a presentation on <topic>) beginning at <time> at the <name> branch located at <address>. The program is free and open to the public.

The annual statewide “Lawyers in Libraries” program celebrates its sixth year of service to the public during the week of Oct. 21 -26. The Supreme Court of Louisiana and the LSBA support this annual volunteer attorney project held during “National Celebrate Pro Bono Week” and thank the Louisiana Library Association LLA for its ongoing involvement.

During this week, Louisiana attorneys will provide free, limited legal services to the public in libraries across the state. Louisiana has the second highest poverty rate in the nation. In a report published by the United Way, it is estimated that 40% of Louisianan households struggle to afford basic household necessities, including housing, childcare, food, transportation, and taxes. Many families go without assistance for their basic legal issues, which can impact family safety, housing, medical care, custody, and other core needs. “To effectively serve the public, attorneys are reaching out through ‘Lawyers in Libraries’ events,” explains Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson. “Across our state, attorneys donate tens of thousands of hours of pro bono service every year. This donation of time and expertise yields benefits which are highly impactful in clients' lives and represent the highest degrees of professionalism. ‘Lawyers in Libraries’ events facilitate an opportunity for lawyers to provide much-needed assistance to the citizens of our state.”

The “Lawyers in Libraries” program has consistently grown since being launched in 2014. The event, typically held in conjunction with “National Celebrate Pro Bono Week,” has assisted over 3,000 Louisianans in public libraries and reached patrons in every parish in the state. Some libraries now have recurring events throughout the year. Public libraries are natural starting points for people in search of information and services. Library staff can provide direction to available resources, but not legal advice. “Lawyers in Libraries” make a library visit much more meaningful and effective by providing advice and direction that only an attorney can give. The “program is a great benefit to patrons, especially in areas without a legal aid office”, said Holly Priestley, Public Relations Coordinator of the Ouachita Parish Library System.

LSBA President Robert A. Kutcher a “Lawyers in Libraries” volunteer for many years believes this program “demonstrates the LSBA’s commitment to helping the courts and our members to better serve the public.”

“Lawyers in Libraries” is a success because of the combined efforts of the LSBA, LSBA members, LLA, Law Library of Louisiana, LSU Law Library, legal aid partners, local bar associations, and other community partners. For more details or help finding an event in your area, contact your local library or visit www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org.

The Louisiana State Bar Association assists its more than 22,000 members in the practice of law. The statewide association, as part of its multi-faceted mission, promotes and maintains access to justice initiatives for the state’s residents, assists the Louisiana Supreme Court in its regulation of the practice of law, upholds the honor of the courts and the profession, and supports programs that increase public understanding of and respect for the law.
APPLICATION FOR CLE CREDIT FOR PRO BONO REPRESENTATION

1. The lawyer who performed the representation must complete Part I of this form, and then provide the original to the assigning court, program, entity, or law school.

2. The assigning court, program, entity or law school must complete Part II of this form, and then submit the original to the MCLE Department at the following address:

   LSBA MCLE Department  
   601 St. Charles Ave.  
   New Orleans, LA 70130-3404

### PART I | PRO BONO REPRESENTATION

**Regulation / Rule 3.21.** Credit may also be earned through providing uncompensated pro bono legal representation to an indigent or near-indigent client or clients. To be eligible for credit, the matter must have been assigned to the Member by a court, a bar association, or a legal services or pro bono organization that has as its primary purpose the furnishing of such pro bono legal services and that has filed a statement with the Louisiana State Bar Association MCLE Department. A Member providing such pro bono legal representation shall receive one (1) hour of CLE credit for each five (5) hours of pro bono representation, up to a maximum of three (3) hours of CLE credit for each calendar year.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Attorney:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Client Case Number:</td>
<td>Lawyers in Libraries Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assigning Organization:</td>
<td>Access to Justice - Louisiana State Bar Association</td>
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<th>B. Type of Representation Provided:</th>
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<td>☐ Individual Rights</td>
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<td>☐ Social Security</td>
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Date range of representation: ________________________________

Number of Hours of Pro Bono legal representation ________ Number of CLE credit hours claimed: __________

I hereby affirm that I have performed the above stated number of hours of pro bono legal services.

__________________________  ______________________  _______________________
Signature of Attorney        Date                   Bar Roll Number

See Part II for verification by assigning authority.

This must be completed to qualify for CLE credit.
FREE LEGAL ADVICE!
Discuss your legal concerns one-on-one with a local lawyer!

The clinic DOES NOT handle criminal cases.

GET ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT:

- Bankruptcy
- Civil Lawsuits
- Collection Matters
- Custody
- Divorce
- Evictions
- FEMA/Disaster Benefits
- Food Stamps
- Foreclosures
- Housing
- Medicaid
- Social Security
- SSI/SSDI
- Successions
- Taxes
- Wills

October 2019
FREE LEGAL WORKSHOP

Are you interested in learning more about __________________?

On October ?, volunteer attorneys will provide a free presentation on __________________ at this library branch. Learn about your legal options, and what resources are available to you.

October ?, 2019

Time
Location
Attorneys Volunteer Talent for “Lawyers in Libraries” Service Programs

By Joanna Laidler
For the fifth consecutive year, Louisiana attorneys provided much-needed legal assistance to the public during the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) “Lawyers in Libraries” week of service, held in conjunction with National Celebrate Pro Bono Week. Between Oct. 22-27, Louisiana attorneys provided free, limited legal services to the public via libraries across the state, helping hundreds of Louisiana residents who likely would not otherwise have access to counsel.

In proclaiming Oct. 22-27 as “Celebrate Pro Bono Week” in Louisiana, Gov. John Bel Edwards noted that “access to civil legal aid attorneys can mean the difference between shelter and homelessness, economic stability and bankruptcy, positive work and unemployment.” Currently, 19.7 percent of Louisianians live below the federal poverty line, the second highest poverty rate in the nation.

“The Lawyers in Libraries project and other access to justice initiatives are vital to ensure that people receive justice, are able to identify their legal options, and have access to the court system, regardless of financial circumstance,” said Louisiana Supreme Court Justice James T. Genovese, co-chair of the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission.

There were many success stories during the “Lawyers in Libraries” week of service. This year, more than 115 attorney volunteers provided legal assistance to hundreds of people, with 81 separate events scheduled in 60 parishes.

LSBA Secretary John E. McAuliffe, Jr. said there was an “unbelievable turnout” at Ascension Parish Library for attorney Linda S. Melancon’s presentation on “Estate and Elder Law Planning.” Ascension Parish Librarian Chriselle Henry concurred, saying the response to Melancon’s presentation was “huge.”

In St. Bernard Parish, library staff member Janet Perez said attorney volunteers served 52 residents seeking advice and indicated that the total number of people served was “probably higher as several people were accompanied by a second individual.” Perez, who worked closely with attorneys J. Van Robichaux, Jr. and Daniel W. Nodurft to coordinate the event in St. Bernard Parish, noted, “I am so very proud of what our attorneys do. It is my privilege to be able to assist them.”

Launched in 2014, “Lawyers in Libraries” is part of the Legal Education & Assistance Program (LEAP), an ongoing collaboration between the LSBA’s Access to Justice Department, the Law Library of Louisiana and Louisiana public libraries statewide. LEAP aims to provide support to public librarians throughout the state by providing them with appropriate training and resources to help patrons with their legal questions. Although librarians are unable to provide legal advice, they are well placed to provide critical legal information for people in search of legal assistance, including referrals to attorneys and legal aid organizations.
The LSBA would like to acknowledge Louisiana libraries, the LSBA members who volunteered in their communities, and the pro bono agencies, bar associations, private practitioners and legal service providers who helped to coordinate events in individual parishes. Attorneys are encouraged to volunteer at their local libraries throughout the year. For more information on the program, go to: www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org.

“Lawyers in Libraries” Attorney Volunteers

Acadia Parish: Taylor M. Robinson.
Allen Parish: Adam P. Johnson.
Ascension Parish: Linda S. Melancon.
Assumption Parish: Lakethia B. Bryant.
Avoyelles Parish: Douglas L. Bryan and Charles A. Riddle III.
Beauregard Parish: Jodi C. Andrews.
Bienville Parish: Russell A. Woodard.
Bossier Parish: Pamela R. Jones.
Calcasieu Parish: Mark M. Judson.
Cameron Parish: Jennifer A. Jones and Shermin S. Khan.
Catahoula Parish: Walter P. McClatchey, Jr.
Claiborne Parish: Jerry Edwards and Charles E. Tabor.
Concordia Parish: Harrece C. Gassery.
DeSoto Parish: Aaron R. Wilson.
East Baton Rouge Parish: Andrea M. Agee, Joaquin M. Johnson, Chamblyon C. Terrance and Jane Arieux Thomas.
East Carroll Parish: Laurie Reis Brister.
East Feliciana Parish: Sarah J. Bradley.
Grant Parish: Lewis M. Gladney.
Iberia Parish: Mckinley B. James, Jr.
Iberville Parish: Leah Poole and Perry W. Terrebonne.
Jackson Parish: J. Michael Rhymes.
Jefferson Davis Parish: Lauren C. Heinen.

Lafourche Parish: David C. Peltier.
LaSalle Parish: Christie C. Wood.
Lincoln Parish: Tracy W. Houck.
Madison Parish: Angela L. Claxton.
Morehouse Parish: Kandice N. Guice.
Ouachita Parish: Shereba L. Diaz and LaKeisha J. Johnson.
Plaquemines Parish: Elizabeth S. Meneray.
Pointe Coupee Parish: Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr., J. Lane Ewing, Jr. and Scott L. Smith, Jr.

Red River Parish: Aaron R. Wilson.

Richland Parish: Myrt T. Hales, Jr. and Joshua L. Strickland.


St. Charles Parish: Scott J. Falgoust and Michele C. Stross.

St. Helena Parish: Sean P. Brady.

St. James Parish: Monique M. Edwards.

St. John the Baptist Parish: Nghana Lewis Gauff.

St. Landry Parish: George F. Severson.

St. Martin Parish: Neal C. Angelle.

St. Mary Parish: Adolph B. Curet III.

St. Tammany Parish: Clayton J. Borne, Jason M. Freas, Janet L. MacDonell, Michael W. Margiotta, Jr., Daniel A. Oppenheim, Patrice W. Oppenheim, Frances M. Strayham, Michelle D. Sunseri and Angela Cox Williams.

Tangipahoa Parish: Elsbet C. Smith and Chehardy Sherman Williams.

Tensas Parish: J. McCaleb Bilbro.

Terrebonne Parish: Michael J. Billiot, Lakethia B. Bryant, Maria E. Dugas and Linda A. Mitchell.

Union Parish: Kandice N. Guice.

Vermilion Parish: Burton P. Guidry.


Webster Parish: Aaron R. Wilson.

West Carroll Parish: Sophia Dixon Brown.

West Feliciana Parish: Gregory L. Hughes.

Winn Parish: Lewis M. Gladney.

Attorney Leonor E. Prieto, right, presented a program at Orleans Parish’s Rosa Keller Library. With her is Librarian Rachel Bailey.

Continued next page
Attorneys, from left, Michael C. Ginart, Jr., J. Van Robichaux, Jr., Lisa Borne and Daniel W. Nodurft presented a program at the St. Bernard Parish Library in Chalmette.

“Lawyers in Libraries” Organizations

Acadiana Legal Service Corp.
Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project
Crescent Care Legal Services
Family Justice Center
Lafayette Bar Association

Legacy Estate & Elder Law of Louisiana, L.L.C.
Loyola University Law Clinic
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
Southwest Louisiana Law Center
Terrebonne Parish Bar Association

Joanna Laidler is the administrative assistant for the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Access to Justice Department. She works with the access to justice director to coordinate and facilitate the work of the Access to Justice Committee, including the “Lawyers in Libraries” project. (joanna.laidler@lsba.org; 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130)

Important Reminder:
Lawyer Advertising Filing Requirement

Per Rule 7.7 of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, all lawyer advertisements and all unsolicited written communications sent in compliance with Rule 7.4 or 7.6(c) — unless specifically exempt under Rule 7.8 — are required to be filed with the LSBA Rules of Professional Conduct Committee, through LSBA Ethics Counsel, prior to or concurrent with first use/dissemination. Written evaluation for compliance with the Rules will be provided within 30 days of receipt of a complete filing. Failure to file/late filing will expose the advertising lawyer(s) to risk of challenge, complaint and/or disciplinary consequences.

The necessary Filing Application Form, information about the filing and evaluation process, the required filing fee(s) and the pertinent Rules are available online at: http://www.lsba.org/members/LawyerAdvertising.aspx.

Inquiries, questions and requests for assistance may be directed to LSBA Ethics Counsel Richard P. Lemmler, Jr., RLemmler@LSBA.org, (800)421-5722, ext. 144, or direct dial (504)619-0144.
Louisiana Legal Services & Pro Bono Desk Manual is a concise resource designed to help legal aid attorneys respond to questions about frequent issues from low income communities. The following topics are included in the Desk Manual: bankruptcy, consumer law, employment law, family law, federally subsidized housing, foreclosure, landlord-tenant, Medicaid, social security/disability, and successions. Please note that the Manual has not been updated since 2013. Attorneys are encouraged to utilize the online version of the desk manual which can be found at http://law.loyno.edu/gillislong/deskbook.

The Find Legal Help Portal found on the Louisiana State Bar Association’s website provides information on the spectrum of legal resources available throughout the state. This page includes information on: lawyer referral programs, legal aid organizations, online resources, forms, self-represented litigant resources, and organizations that provide legal information.

- Find an Attorney
- Modest Means Directory
- LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org
- Legal Aid & Pro Bono Organizations
- Self-Help Services & Legal Forms
- Legal Information & Online Resources

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org is an online pro bono program that allows people to ask civil legal questions online that are answered by attorney volunteers. Financial Eligibility Requirements apply.

The Modest Means Online Directory provides a list of attorneys who charge reduced fees to people who earn equal to or less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Line. It can be accessed from the Find Legal Help Portal.
The Law Library of Louisiana has prepared a Guide for Self-Represented Litigants, including help finding legal information, resources, and referrals. The Legal Education and Assistance Program (LEAP) has also published LEAP LibGuides, which are designed to provide basic information about legal issues and to connect people with attorneys and services in their area that may be of assistance. There are guides on:

- divorce
- emancipation
- interdiction
- Justice of the Peace/Small Claims Courts
- Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program
- Medicaid
- How to Obtain a Driver’s License
- Social Security
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The Louisiana State Bar Association and the Children’s Law Committee published an online Guide to becoming an Adult with relevant legal information for children turning 18 in Louisiana. It can be accessed at www.lsba.org/Childrenslaw/becominganadult.aspx

Louisiana Law Help was written primarily for self-represented litigants, the website provides brief descriptions of numerous areas of law as well as some forms. Some descriptions are in video, some are written.
Legal Assistance Resource Guide

This page provides information on the spectrum of legal resources available throughout the state including lawyer referral programs, legal aid organizations, online resources, and self-represented litigant resources.

Free Legal Answers - (Financial Eligibility Requirements apply)
[LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org](https://www.la-freelegalanswers.org) is an online pro bono program that allows people to ask civil legal questions online that are answered by attorney volunteers.

Lawyer Referral Contact Information
Baton Rouge area: (225) 344-9926
Lafayette area: (337) 237-4700
Lake Charles area: (337) 436-2914
New Orleans area: (504) 561-8828
Shreveport area: (318) 221-8104

Legal Services Corporations - (Financial Eligibility Requirements apply.)
Acadiana Legal Services (ALSC)– Central Louisiana: [www.la-law.org](http://www.la-law.org)
Alexandria (318) 442-7281
Lafayette (337) 237-4320
Lake Charles (337) 439-0377

Legal Aid of North Louisiana (now a part of Acadiana Legal Services)
Monroe (318) 699-0889
Natchitoches (318) 352-7220
Shreveport (318) 222-7186

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS): [www.slls.org](http://www.slls.org)
Baton Rouge (855) 512-3980
Covington (800) 891-0076
Hammond (800) 349-0886
Harvey (800) 624-4771
Houma (800) 256-1660
New Orleans (877) 521-6242

Legal Information
Louisiana LawHelp.org [www.louisianalawhelp.org](http://www.louisianalawhelp.org)
Law Library of Louisiana (800) 820-3038 or [http://lasc.libguides.com/home](http://lasc.libguides.com/home)
Pro Bono Desk Manual [http://law.loyno.edu/gillislong/deskbook](http://law.loyno.edu/gillislong/deskbook)

General State Resources
Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs (225) 342-7100 or [http://goea.louisiana.gov/](http://goea.louisiana.gov/)
Louisiana Child Abuse Hotline 1-855-4LA-KIDS, (1-855-452-5437)
LA Domestic Violence Hotline (888) 411-1333 or [www.leadv.org](http://www.leadv.org)
National Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-7233 or [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)
The Louisiana State Bar Association’s “Find Legal Help” Portal is designed to help you identify your legal options, find an attorney and/or legal aid organization in your area, and access other services and resources that may be of assistance in resolving your legal issue. To access the information listed below, go online to:

**www.LSBA.org/goto/FindLegalHelp**

### Find an Attorney

It is always in your best interest to speak with a licensed attorney about your legal issue. Click this button on the portal to search a directory of attorneys in Louisiana by name or location. Some cities have a “referral program” through local bar associations.

### Modest Means Directory

The “Modest Means” directory provides a list of attorneys who charge reduced fees to people who meet certain income eligibility requirements. You may be able to use the directory to locate an attorney near you who handles your specific type of legal problem and to discuss fees.

### LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org is an online pro bono program that allows you to ask legal questions through the website, which are answered by volunteer attorneys. Please note that this service does not assist with criminal cases and you must meet certain income requirements to be eligible.

### Legal Aid & Pro Bono Organizations

If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, you may be able to get free help from a "legal aid" or "pro bono" organization in your area. Click this button on the portal and select your parish to view services in your area.

### Self-Help Services & Legal Forms

If you cannot afford an attorney, and legal aid services are unavailable, you may be able to represent yourself in court. Click this button on the portal to see if there are forms, self-help centers, or other services available to address your legal issue.

### Legal Information & Online Resources

This link provides local and statewide services and resources that can help you learn more about your legal issue and options.
NEED A LAWYER, BUT CAN’T AFFORD TO HIRE ONE?

La.FreeLegalAnswers.org may be able to help.

La.FreeLegalAnswers.org is for those who need legal information but cannot afford to hire an attorney. Legal questions submitted to the site will be reviewed and answered by a Louisiana licensed attorney. There is no cost to post a question or to receive an answer on the site.

There are income eligibility requirements for those who want to use the site. Users must meet the following requirements:

- Be 18 or older
- Not currently in jail or prison
- Have a household income within the federal poverty guidelines
- Have less than $10,000 in assets

This site ONLY allows civil legal questions – no criminal legal questions will be answered by volunteer attorneys.
The Modest Means Online Legal Directory is an online listing of attorneys who charge reduced rates. Those who qualify can view the list and directly contact an attorney.

To use the Directory, your income must fall at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Line (see chart). Before using, you must agree to the terms and input your household income and family size.

Once determined eligible and the list appears, you can choose the attorney you would like to reach out to and contact him or her directly using the contact information provided. There is no cost to use the Directory.

Your annual income based on household size must be at or below this amount to view the Directory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Annual Income*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$48,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$65,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$83,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$100,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$117,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$134,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$152,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$169,520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The income information you provide will be verified by the attorney.

This is not a referral service. You must directly contact the attorneys listed. Legal representation is not guaranteed.
Can I get legal advice through the Web site?

Yes. You may find information on the site. You can also get legal advice on the site. If you need legal advice, you can contact a Louisiana lawyer or legal services provider.

What sort of information can I find on the site?

The site provides information on a variety of topics, including employment, consumer, family, housing, and more. It also includes links to other resources.

How can the site help me?

The site helps you find information on the site. It includes a search function to help you find information on the site.

How do I use the site?

The site is user-friendly. You can search for information on the site using the search function. You can also browse the site by topic or topic category.

Some information is available in other languages, such as Spanish and French.

What are some features of the site?

The site includes a search function, a directory of legal services, and links to other resources.

How do I search for information on the site?

You can search the site by keyword or by category. You can also search by location, such as city or zip code.

How do I get the help I need?

You can contact a Louisiana lawyer or legal services provider for help with your legal issues.

For low-income people...

The site offers help for low-income people. It includes resources for low-income individuals and families, including information on government benefits, employment, and housing.
All services listed are free and available statewide. Court representatives are welcome to customize these bookmarks.

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