**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 2024**

*<add date>*

*<add contact person(s)/info -- either LSBA, LLA, from local libraries, or all>*

**<Library> Parish Library Partners with La. State Bar Association to Host Lawyers in Libraries Events October 21st – 26th**

<Insert Library Name> Library is pleased to announce that it is participating in the tenth annual “Lawyers in Libraries” statewide program in partnership with the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), the State Library of Louisiana, and the Louisiana Library Association. This year, library patrons across the state have the opportunity to meet with attorney for brief “Ask-a-Lawyer” consultations in person at participating libraries and over the phone.

*<If you’re participating in in-person events, include this paragraph:>*

On Oct. <\_\_\_>, <Attorney name> will provide free <individual consultations on legal issues> at <time> at the <name> branch located at <address>. Those interested in the event at XXX branch on <date> [can sign up \_\_ / do not need to sign up in advance]. Presentations from other attorneys on topical legal issues will also be broadcast daily throughout the week via the “LSBA Louisiana Lawyers in Libraries” Facebook page. These programs are free and open to the public.

*<If you’re participating in virtual/phone events, include this paragraph:>*

Patrons interested in phone consultations can sign up [enter what way you’re having them sign up]. Presentations from other attorneys on topical legal issues will also be broadcast daily throughout the week via the “LSBA Louisiana Lawyers in Libraries” Facebook page. These programs are free and open to the public.

This attorney-library partnership is a critical one in a state where nearly 20% of the population lives below the federal poverty line, with many more just barely making ends meet. Many people need legal assistance but cannot afford an attorney or don’t know where to start. The Lawyers in Libraries program allows participants to get basic information on their legal issue and be connected to further free and low-cost legal resources. Attorneys can answer questions on a wide range of civil legal topics such as: Bankruptcy, Collection Matters, Custody, Divorce, Evictions, FEMA/Disaster Benefits, Food Stamps, Foreclosures, Housing, Medicaid, Social Security, SSI/SSDI, Successions, Taxes and Wills, and more. (The program does not address criminal matters.)

*<Insert quote from local librarian; suggested quote below:>*

“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. The Lawyers in Libraries program is a great benefit to patrons needing legal help, especially in areas without a legal aid office.”

Thanks to the combined efforts of the LSBA, LSBA members, the State Library of Louisiana, LLA, Law Library of Louisiana, legal aid partners, local bar associations, and other community partners, the success of Lawyers in Libraries has only grown over the years. Since its launch, attorneys have assisted over 10,000 Louisianans and reached patrons in every parish in the state.

For more details or help finding an event in your area, contact your local library or visit [www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org](http://www.louisianalawyersinlibraries.org).

*The Louisiana State Bar Association assists its more than 23,000 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.*