

Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit www.lsba.org/atj.

Enhancing Your Practice: Expanding Legal Services for ALICE

The Louisiana Access to Justice Commission hosted a CLE webinar on Oct. 2 titled “Enhancing Your Practice by Expanding Legal Services for ALICE” (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). This event brought together legal professionals dedicated to addressing the urgent need for affordable legal services for moderate-income and underserved individuals.

Sarah Berthelot, CEO and president of the Louisiana Association of United Ways, delivered a powerful presentation based on the groundbreaking findings from United Way’s ALICE report, underscoring the significant challenges faced by the ALICE population.

Following her presentation, Virginia D.B. Listach, chair of the Modest Means Committee and professor at Southern University Law Center, shared valuable insights into the benefits for attorneys who choose to provide affordable legal

services. She emphasized that engaging in this work not only fulfills a professional responsibility but also represents a strategic business opportunity for lawyers.

The CLE also featured legal entrepreneur Lauren Lester, an attorney with Lester Law LLC, who has been successfully offering cost-effective legal services since graduating from law school in 2015. In her session, Lester provided practical strategies for pricing services effectively, enabling attendees to implement similar models in their own practices.

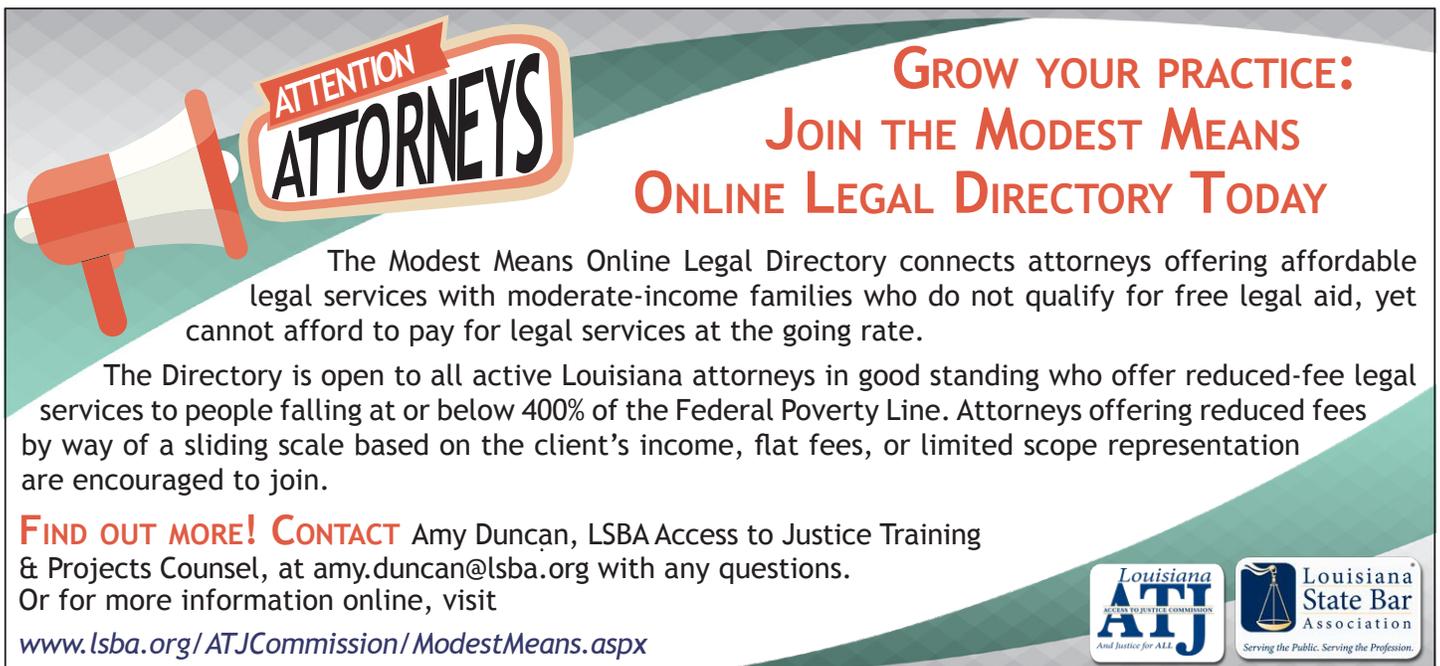
A key resource introduced during the CLE webinar was the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Modest Means Directory, designed to connect approximately 1.3 million people in Louisiana who struggle to access legal services. This unique tool aims to enhance the reach of attorneys willing to offer affordable options.

Overall, attendees learned about the

critical gap that exists between those eligible for free legal aid and those who earn too little to afford traditional legal services. By attending this event, participants demonstrated their commitment to bridging this gap while also discovering opportunities to grow their practices.

“Attending the CLE was a transformative experience for me as a solo practitioner right out of law school. The insights shared about bridging the gap in affordable legal services resonated deeply, especially as I recently became a member of the Modest Means Directory. I’m inspired to implement these strategies in my practice and better serve those in need,” said attorney GeFranya M. Graham.

To learn more about the CLE event and the LSBA Modest Means Directory, go to: www.lsba.org/ATJCommission/ModestMeans.aspx. Or email Amy Duncan at amy.duncan@lsba.org. 



**GROW YOUR PRACTICE:
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 cannot afford to pay for legal services at the going 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. Attorneys offering reduced fees by way of a sliding scale based on the client’s income, flat fees, or limited scope representation are encouraged to join.

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



Disability Law Training CLE Seminar Set for Dec. 13

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee (LSPD) is bringing back its Disability Law Training Series, open to all Bar members regardless of their experience or familiarity with disability law.

The free training will be hosted in-

person from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at the Louisiana Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans. The event capacity is 45 registrants. Organizers have applied for CLE credit.

Topics will include special education law, interdiction and less restrictive alternatives, and a professionalism CLE hour on working with neurodivergent

clients. This series is designed to ensure that all attorneys, even those who may only occasionally encounter disability-related issues, are equipped to serve the public and fulfill the duties of the profession.

To register online, go to: www.lsba.org/goto/2024disabilitylawcle. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Collins at rebecca.collins@lsba.org.



SCAN CODE FOR LINK

NEW RESOURCE:

LSBA REFERENCE CARD ON INTERDICTION PROCEDURES & LESS RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVES

The LSBA recently published a reference card to educate the bench and the bar on the interdiction process and less restrictive alternatives, such as Supported Decision Making. An electronic version of the Reference Card can be accessed through the QR Code. Physical copies can be obtained at the Bar Center.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org



A FREE ONLINE FORUM FOR CIVIL LEGAL QUESTIONS

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

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel, by emailing rachael.mills@lsba.org or calling 504.619.0104.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.LSBA.ORG/ATJ
OR CALL (504)619-0104

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