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## Louisiana Lawyers to Receive Free Technology Assistance

**Legal Community Pulls Together to Host Free Legal Technology Super Session for Katrina-afflicted Louisiana Law Practices**

Seattle, WA, March 17, 2006 – The Legal Electronic Discovery Institute (LEDI), a Washington-based non-profit promoting the development of standards and education in the field of legal electronic documents and discovery, has joined forces with the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and the American Bar Association Law Practice Management Section (ABA LPM) to assist Louisiana attorneys and law firms in rebuilding their practices in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Central to the rebuilding efforts is a free two-day legal technology super session being held in New Orleans May 22-23, followed by the establishment of a centrally based technology resource center, critical to helping displaced lawyers revitalize as well as maintain their practices by providing access to facilities, equipment and various technology resources.

The two-day session titled New Orleans, New Law: Community Revival with Technology is critical to jump start the areas' legal revitalization and teach attorneys about the technology tools and resources they can access and utilize to get them back on their feet. The newly established resource center will be critical to help them maintain their practices, have a place to meet clients, and have access to resources not available at their homes and temporary office spaces.

Attorney Donna Fraiche, shareholder at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, and appointed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco to the board of directors of her Louisiana Recovery Authority, upon hearing of the upcoming efforts to help Louisiana lawyers said, "New Orleans is America's city and right now it needs the attention of America. Our legal community suffered a grave blow but we have a strong resolve and with a little bit of help, we will be back on our feet."

By way of reference, there are roughly 17,000 attorneys in Louisiana, half of whom work in greater New Orleans. According to Atty. Ernie Svenson, Chair of the Technology Committee of the Louisiana Bar, all of those in New Orleans were displaced by the hurricane and the majority of them need a great deal of assistance in rebuilding their practice.

The support of commercial legal technology vendors will be critical to the success of both the two-day legal technology super session and the establishment and support of the Resource Center. At the super session, vendor support will fund all expenses including the materials and meal functions each day, speaker expenses along with a social networking reception to be held the evening of May 22. In addition, participating vendors are providing free or reduced-price copies of their products for attendees.

For more information on support and sponsorship opportunities, visit the Legal Electronic Document Institute Web site at [www.legal-edocs.org](http://www.legal-edocs.org) or the ABA Law Practice Management Section Web site at [www.lawpractice.org](http://www.lawpractice.org).

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#### About Legal Electronic Document Institute

The Legal Electronic Document Institute is a Washington non-profit corporation established to promote the development of education and standards in the field of legal electronic documents, including practice management of electronic documents, electronic trial practice with litigation support systems, e-filing, e-signatures and e-discovery.

#### About ABA Law Practice Management Section

The ABA Law Practice Management Section assists lawyers and other legal professionals with the *business* of practicing law -- providing education and resources in the core areas of marketing, management, technology, and finance. Please visit our Web site at [www.lawpractice.org](http://www.lawpractice.org) for membership information, and to learn more about LPM meetings, events, and publications.

#### About Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA)

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law, assure access to and aid in the administration of justice, assist the Supreme Court in the regulation of practice of law, uphold the honor of the courts and the profession, promote the professional competence of attorneys, increase public understanding of and respect for the law, and encourage collegiality among its members.