

Dear Members:

The COVID-19 pandemic brings with it uncertainty and unique needs and challenges. In the days and months to come, many Missourians will face unanticipated legal issues. The legal community will be working to help mobilize volunteer lawyers for people who need help. We will continue to work with partners in the bench and bar to expand opportunities to provide pro bono assistance.

The Missouri Bar's Free Legal Answers website is an existing platform to help address the legal needs of those without the resources to engage private counsel. Under our current circumstances, we expect the number of questions submitted to exceed our typical number of volunteers. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.** Many questions are likely to arise in employment, housing, domestic, or education law. As Missouri lawyers, this is our opportunity to put our licenses to work helping those most in need at a dire time.

Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal advice clinic where citizens submit questions at Missouri.FreeLegalAnswers.org for review by any one or more of our volunteer lawyers. Volunteer lawyers can sign in any time from any device with internet access to answers questions. Lawyers volunteering to respond to these questions can choose the questions for which they feel best-equipped to provide a response and need not field any questions outside areas of their specific area of practice or understanding. There are also topic-specific resources available on the website for reference by volunteers. If you are not covered by a private insurance policy, the American Bar Association provides coverage for communications occurring on the platform.

As a legal community, we are uniquely situated to assist Missourians in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

