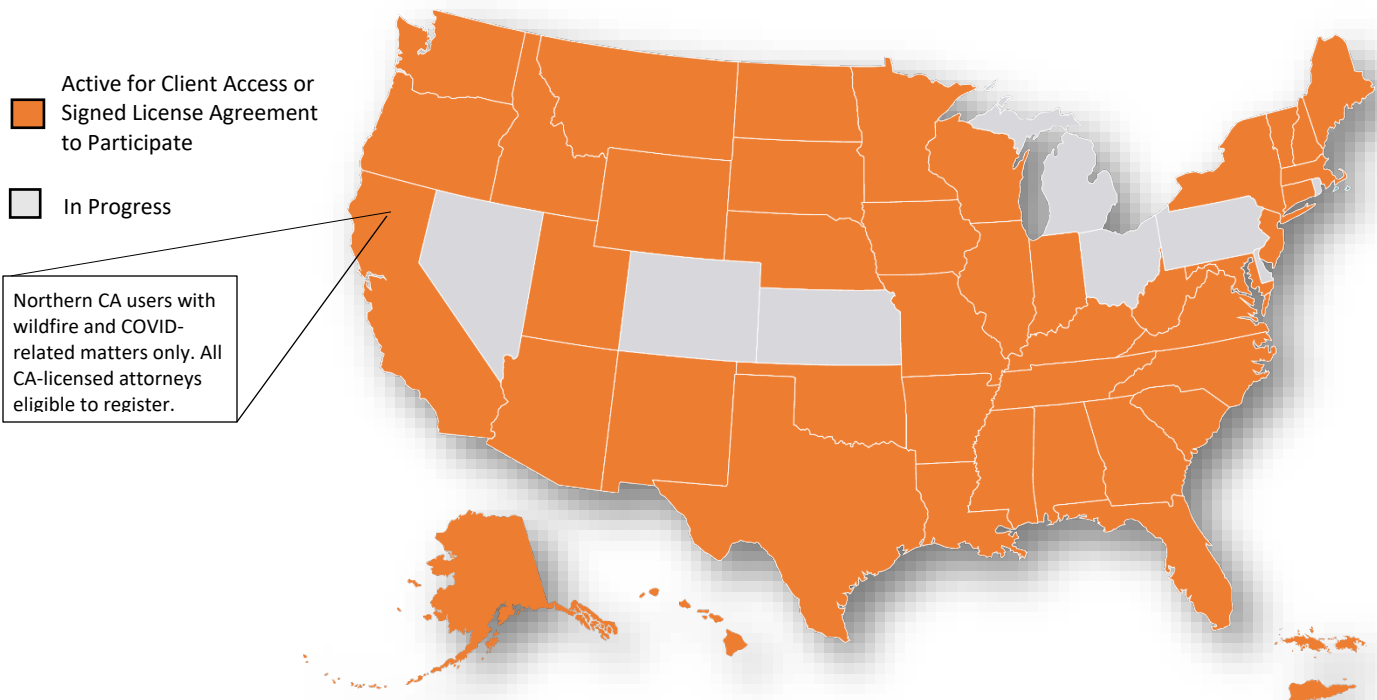




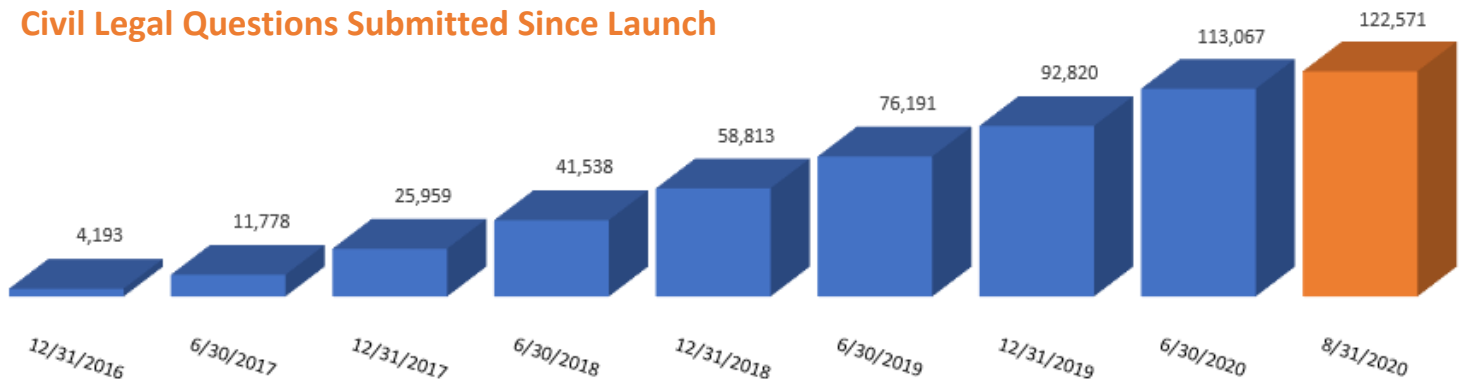
What is ABA Free Legal Answers?

Sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, **ABAFreeLegalAnswers.org** is an on-line virtual legal clinic through which income-eligible clients can post civil legal questions to be answered by pro bono attorneys from their state. Currently, 44 jurisdictions are committed to participate. Of those jurisdictions, 38 are connected to the site in various stages of access by clients, pro bono attorneys and external partners. An additional module is expected to launch in fall 2020 to address federal issues, including immigration and veterans matters.

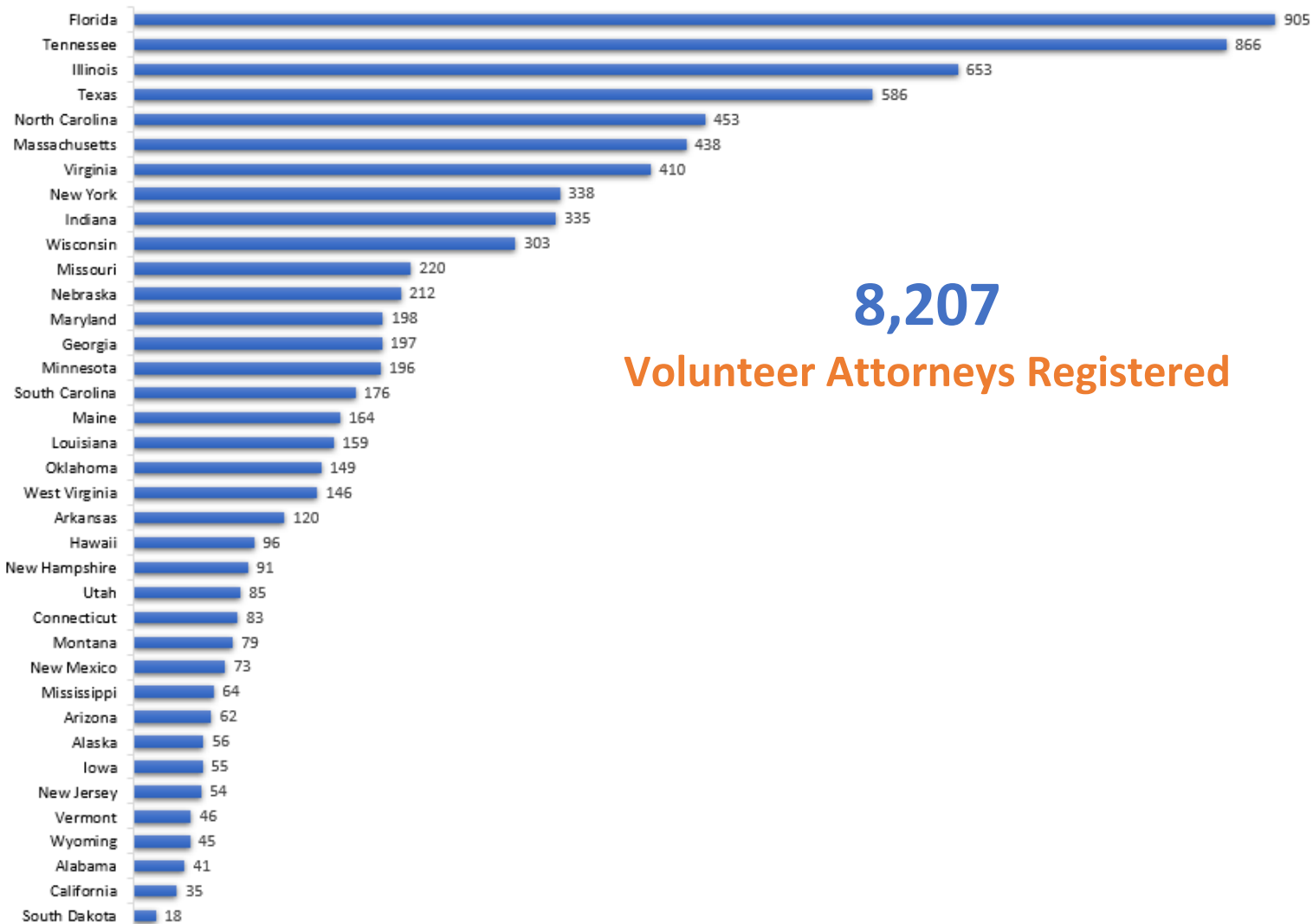
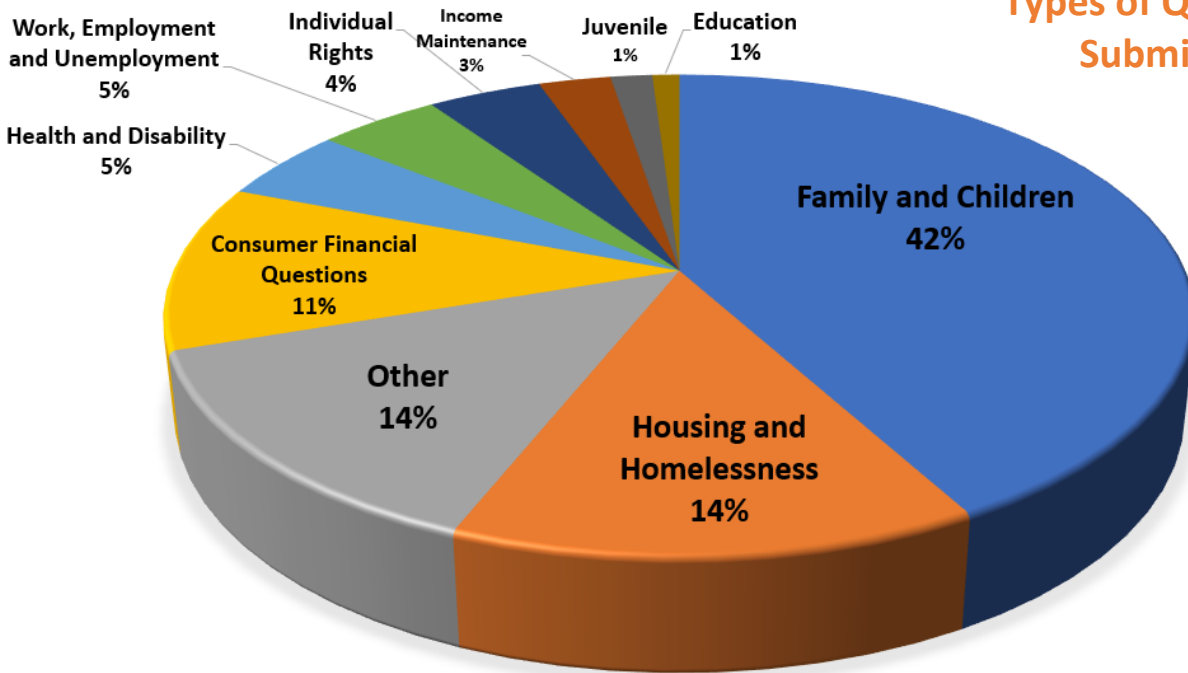


122,571

Civil Legal Questions Submitted Since Launch



Types of Questions Submitted



ABA Free Legal Answers Response to the Pandemic Crisis

ABA Free Legal Answers continues to serve as a valuable pro bono resource for attorneys and clients as it is entirely virtual and can address many basic legal questions that arise, both typical and pandemic-based.

- Since March 2020, when cases of COVID first spiked in the United States, ABA FLA has received 22,199 submitted questions, representing a nearly 30% increase over the same period in 2019.¹
- In August alone, 4,546 questions were submitted on ABA FLA, many related to the pandemic, representing a nearly 56% increase over the same period in 2019.
- Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi—the states hit hardest by the pandemic per capita—received a 27% overall increase in questions submitted.
- Overall, legal questions in matters commonly associated with the pandemic increased since March 2020. For instance, 3,652 housing-related questions and 1,743 employment related questions were submitted, representing a 43% and 110% respective increase over the same time period in 2019.
- ABA FLA attorney registrations have also increased since the pandemic hit. Since March 2020, 1,027 volunteer attorneys registered to answer civil legal questions on ABA FLA, representing a 105% increase over the same period in 2019. In August alone, 133 additional attorneys registered, representing a nearly 20% increase of new attorney registrations as compared to the previous month.

Website Development

- On August 7, with the assistance of the information technology staff at Baker Donelson, the California Free Legal Answers site was launched for attorney registration. To date, 35 attorneys are registered to answer wildfire and COVID-related questions from northern California residents.

Outreach Efforts

- During the week of August 3, in an effort to expand ABA FLA to non-participating states, correspondence with program information and updates was mailed to the state court chief justices and bar association presidents of the District of Columbia, Colorado, Ohio and Pennsylvania.
- ABA Free Legal Answers sponsors were recognized (see page four below) during the August 11-13 ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference which brought together nearly 800 legal services and pro bono advocates to share and learn about developments and innovations in providing legal services to low-income persons.
- The August 12th issue of the [Bar Leader Weekly](#) highlighted ABA Free Legal Answers and its increased usage during COVID-19, linking to a recent program report.
- On August 19, in recognition of Virginia Free Legal Answers' fourth anniversary, [The Virginia State Bar](#) recognized its most active volunteer FLA attorneys, including Henry Su, a member of this Committee, as "Pro Bono Heroes." Congratulations, Henry!

¹ Note that the recent question limit increase per client and the income/asset cap increase in several states, due to the pandemic, may partially account for the increase in questions.



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Free Legal Answers

On behalf of the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, thank you to all of our donors, state partners, volunteer attorneys, law firms, corporate law departments, and other legal organizations throughout the nation who support ABAFreeLegalAnswers.org, the first and only national pro bono legal advice portal.



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For more information about ABA Free Legal Answers, go to Ambar.org/fla
or contact Tali Albuherk at tali.albuherk@americanbar.org.