

VIRTUAL LEGAL RESEARCH ASSISTANCE AS A MEANS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Samantha Moppett & Kathleen Elliott Vinson



SUFFOLK
UNIVERSITY
BOSTON

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Association of American
Law Schools

Research in Practice





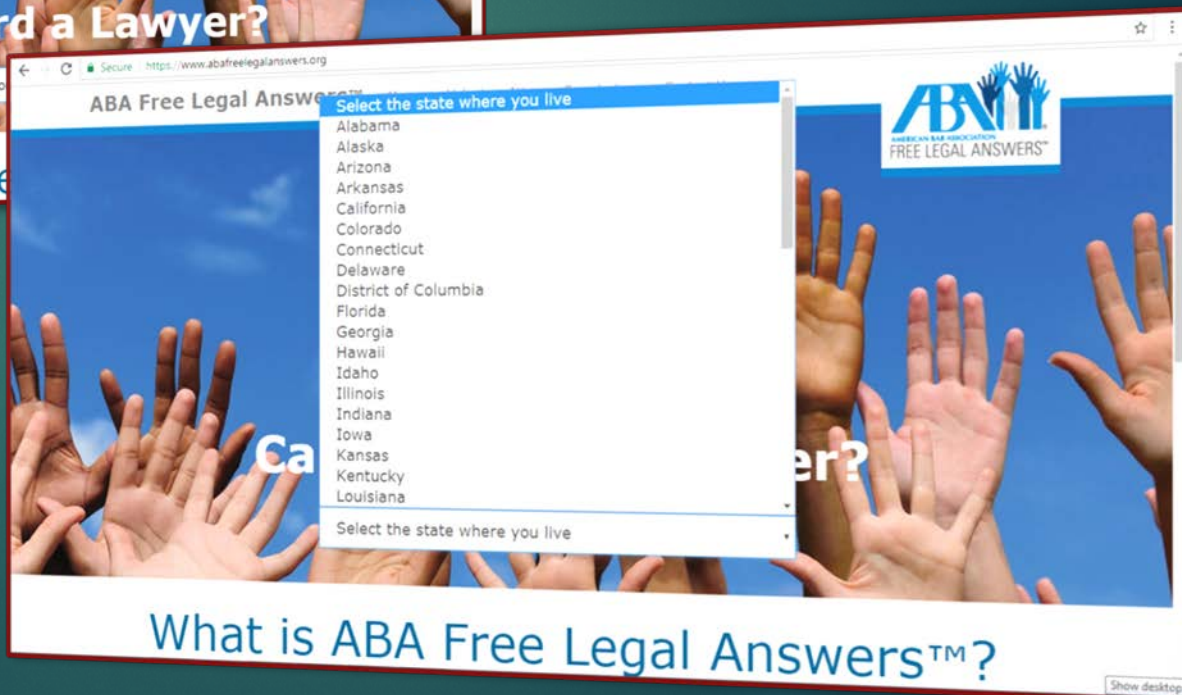
Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service and the Center for Pro Bono



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How it Works.



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What is reasonable regarding the landlord's right to show a property?

I've notified my landlord that I'll be moving out in 3 months, when my lease is up.

He has started showing the apartment to potential tenants, but he refuses to give me any notice before showings.

I've asked for 24 hours notice before a showing, but the landlord won't agree. He doesn't even ask whether a time is convenient for me, he just shows up and he lets himself in if I'm not there.

Is there anything in the law about what is considered reasonable notice of a showing? Is there anything I can do to make him give me at least 24 hours notice, and to stop him from entering if I'm not there?

Also, are there any rules about how many showings to future tenants there can be? I feel like I have no privacy any more.

I'd appreciate your advice.





Closing the Legal Aid Gap: An Exercise on Collaborative Researching

Research



Samantha A. Moppett,
Professor of Legal
Writing, Suffolk
University Law School



Kathleen Elliott Vinson,
Professor of Legal
Writing, Suffolk
University Law School

Learning Objectives:

- ▶ Apply legal research skills learned throughout the 1L year
- ▶ Engage in collaborative legal research for a real client under realistic time constraints
- ▶ Understand the importance of pro bono work to provide access to justice
- ▶ Take into account audience to determine how to communicate legal analysis to non-lawyers
- ▶ Reinforce client confidentiality concerns
- ▶ Introduce students to how technology can provide *pro bono* opportunities

When to Use This and How Long It Will Take: Use in the spring semester after the students have received a solid foundation of research instruction and the focus has shifted to efficient research strategies. The exercise takes approximately 55 minutes of class time to complete. An additional activity could be used in a subsequent class to discuss the answers.



SendMeTheBox@law.stetson.edu

Leveraging Technology to Provide Access to Justice



Pizza & Pro Bono: Suffolk Law Research Blitz

Wednesday, November 1

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Sargent Hall
Suffolk University Law School
120 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

RSVP



Join us for a pro bono pizza party while we work with volunteer attorneys from Mass Legal Answers Online (MLAO), the Volunteer Lawyers Project, and Suffolk Law Alumni to answer legal questions for low income Massachusetts residents through Mass Legal Answers Online. You can make an immediate difference to someone struggling to resolve their legal problem.

Both law students and Suffolk Alumni are invited to participate.



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How it Works.

Four blue circular indicators are positioned above a row of four grey rectangular boxes.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation and main content. A red arrow points from the 'Sign In' link in the top navigation bar to the 'Sign In' button in the main content area. Another red arrow points from the 'Sign In' link to the 'Get Started' button. A third red arrow points from the 'Sign In' link to the 'Other Places to Get Help' link. The 'Sign In' link in the top navigation bar is circled in red.

MLRI

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LAW REFORM
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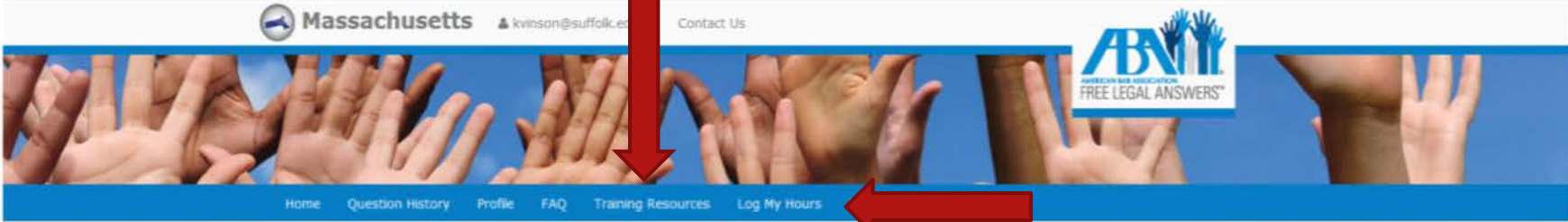




SAMPLE



- ▶ Eviction question – how much time to move after no fault eviction if household includes someone on SSID
- ▶ Dear X, **Greeting**
 - ▶ I am sorry to hear about the eviction. **Empathy**
 - ▶ The Court is not required to give you time to find another place; however. . . . **Legal advice**
 - ▶ I cannot tell exactly where you are in the eviction process. Below is a link to sample forms and information. **Link to additional help**
 - ▶ I hope this information is helpful, **Closing**



Frequently Asked Questions from Volunteer Attorneys

This FAQ is divided into two parts. Part I provides an overview of Mass Legal Answers Online, and answers questions on topics such as conflicts of interest, confidentiality and malpractice insurance. Part II answers specific questions about the logistics of using the website.



www.youtube.com/embed/iW1v3hY05CY

Part I: Overview

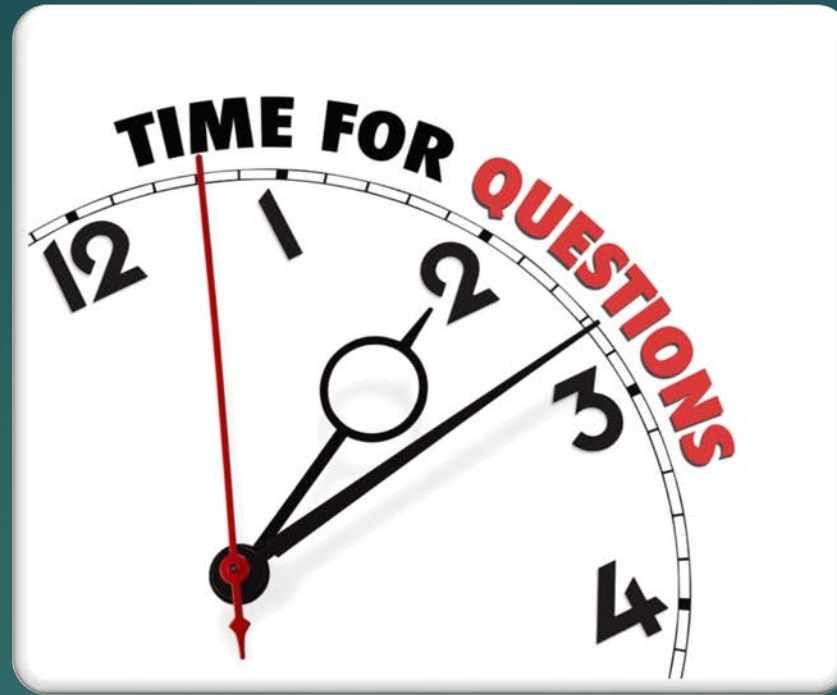
How does Mass Legal Answers Online/ ABA Free Legal Answers work?

Mass Legal Answers Online is based on the walk-in clinic or dial-a-lawyer model where clients request brief advice and counsel about a specific civil legal issue from a volunteer lawyer. Lawyers provide information and basic legal advice through the website without any expectation of long-term representation. All communication between the client and the attorney takes place via a secure website.

How do clients sign up for and use the site?

Users who meet eligibility requirements (see Eligibility below) sign the user agreement online, create a username and password, post a request for legal advice and provide facts about their case. Users are asked to select a category (such as "housing" or "debts") that best describes their question. They provide their name and the name of the opposing party, if known. Users are informed that there is no guarantee that their question will be answered.





Samantha A. Moppett
smoppett@suffolk.edu

Kathleen Elliott Vinson
kvinson@suffolk.edu