

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Post-flooding legal help available from volunteer attorneys

June 27, 2008 – A toll-free legal aid line is available for victims of recent flooding in Wisconsin. The service, which allows callers to request the assistance of a lawyer, is part of the post-flooding response organized by the State Bar of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Emergency Management, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Victims facing legal issues who are unable to afford a lawyer can call (877) 947-5291 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. central time Monday through Friday to request assistance. Messages can be left at any time and will be answered within 48 hours. Callers should note that they seek flood-related legal assistance. Victims who qualify for assistance will be matched with Wisconsin lawyers who have volunteered to provide free legal help. The public can access additional information by visiting the State Bar's website at Wisbar.org.

The types of legal assistance available to qualifying individuals include:

- Assistance with issues concerning FEMA & other government benefits available to disaster victims;
- Assistance with life, medical and property insurance claims;
- Help with home repair contracts and contractors;
- Replacement of wills and other important legal documents destroyed in the disaster;
- Assisting in consumer protection matters, remedies and procedures;
- Counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems; and
- Counseling on landlord/tenant problems.

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the mandatory professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 20,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit www.wisbar.org or www.legalexplorer.com.

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