What is LPM?

Brief description

The ABA Law Practice Management Section (LPM) is one of thirty-four entities within the American Bar Association (ABA). LPM brings together individuals with common professional interests and is a full-functioning Section with its own officers, dues, programs, publications, and committees. LPM also contributes to policy making, both within LPM subject areas and at the ABA level.

LPM provides its members with valuable information and resources to help them master the four core areas of a successful law practice – marketing, management, technology and finance. It also provides members the opportunity to become active in the Section through meeting, working, and networking with other members, including some of the most prominent voices in law practice management today.

Membership demographics

As of April 2009, there were 19,348 members in LPM. LPM members fall into one of three categories: lawyers (11,277), associates (1,010), and law students (7,061). Associates include non-attorneys such as paralegals, law librarians, and other individuals in the legal industry, as well as attorneys who are licensed to practice outside the United States. Approximately one-fifth of LPM members have been a member for ten or more years.

See next page for the Mission and Core Values of the Section.

Mission

Helping lawyers practice law effectively and successfully while maintaining the highest standards of the profession.

Core Values

The following are the core values of the ABA Law Practice Management Section in alphabetical order. These Core Values collectively define the heart of service in accomplishment of the Section's mission. At least one Core Value is the primary focus of every Section activity, or member product, program, service or benefit.

Career Development and Satisfaction – The Section values enabling its members to seek greater career satisfaction and work-life balance, as well as helping law firms and legal organizations in providing means of improving attorney retention through focus on work-life balance, work schedules, and mentoring and management skills.

Client Relationships – The Section values providing valuable training tools and resources focused on helping members: 1) maximize the value of existing client relationships, and 2) understand and carry out a client-centric approach to the practice of law.

Diversity – The Section values social, economic and geographic diversity within its own organization, and strives to promote diversity, and provide diversity and inclusion education to its members, and their law firms and legal organizations as an opportunity for them to improve organizational decision making, increase productivity, and achieve competitive advantage.

Firm Management and Leadership – The Section values adding value to its members and their law firms and legal organizations by helping them understand and implement law firm leadership and management principles, including strategic planning, governance structures and practice group principles.

Practice Development and Marketing – The Section values providing tools and resources to help its members develop new client business, and ethically operate their practices and law firms as both a business and a profession. The focus of this Section value is on: 1) client development, and 2) practice management, including those skills which are not focused on substantive areas of law, but rather the core practice management skills related to management, finance and technology.