



Louisiana State Bar Association

LIFT Legal Incubator Project at FJC

Application

Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT) is a legal incubator program designed to address the legal needs of the underserved and underrepresented by supporting new lawyers build viable and sustainable public interest focused law firms. Through a collaboration partnership between the New Orleans Family Justice Center, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, and the LSBA LIFT program, participating attorneys work to address the unmet civil legal needs of domestic violence victims.

The LIFT Incubator Project at the Family Justice Center is for new or transitioning attorneys starting their own solo, small firm, or nonprofit practice. During the program, incubator attorneys receive *subsidized office space*, *supplies*, and *resources*. The attorneys also receive *training* and *mentorship* as they work alongside experienced Southeast Louisiana Legal Services legal practitioners. In exchange for the training and incubation of their practice, attorneys will agree to provide 20 hours per month pro bono representation to domestic violence victims.

Louisiana licensed attorneys with 0-5 years practice experience who plan to develop or have begun to develop a solo or small law practice and are committed to providing legal representation to survivors of domestic violence are encouraged to apply. The application process deadline is February 20. Please send your completed applications in one pdf file to Amy Duncan at amy.duncan@lsba.org.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Home Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Law School: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Date of Admission to the Louisiana Bar: _____ Bar No.: _____

Other bar admissions and dates (if any): _____

Years of Practice Experience (if any): _____

Date you are available to begin your practice: _____

List any history of improper conduct or reported incidents to the bar: _____

The following documents must be included:

1. A statement of no more than 1000 words indicating why you want to be a solo or small-firm practitioner, why you should be selected to participate in the LIFT Incubator Program, and how you expect to serve survivors of domestic violence. Also, include an instance or instances when you have demonstrated entrepreneurial initiative or other experience showing ability to be a successful entrepreneur.
2. A current Resume
3. Business Plan no more than 3 letter-sized pages that includes¹:
 - a. Area(s) of your proposed practice focus (e.g., family law, consumer law, criminal defense, small business organizations, etc.), your preparation for the area(s) of practice, and how you will handle potential competition in the practice area(s).
 - b. Business Summary including mission, objectives and strategy for building a solo or small law practice.
 - c. Operations Summary describing operating procedures, staffing and other resources required to carry out your practice.
 - d. Marketing Initiatives you will employ during the first 12 months including plans for client development and any existing relationships with client community.
 - e. Financial Analysis including sources of capital to pay for practice expenses and estimated budget with first year income and expense projections (1 page max.).

Please initial each statement below indicating your agreement:

_____ I understand that eligibility to enter or continue in the LIFT Program requires that I continue to be a member of the Louisiana Bar in good standing. I agree to notify the Program Director immediately of any change in my status or of any action by the Louisiana State Bar Office of Disciplinary taken against me.

_____ I agree to carry at all times while I am part of the LIFT Program malpractice insurance and to pay for any tail if the policy is a claims-reported policy.

_____ I have read the requirements of the program and, if selected as a participant in the LIFT Program, I agree to abide by and remain compliant with all the rules governing the program.

_____ I understand that if chosen to participate in LIFT, I will receive training from third parties who may make suggestions and recommendations regarding application and software usage in my practice and that these recommendations may or may not be endorsed by the Louisiana State Bar Association. I am to use my own discretion when deciding to incorporate these items into my practice.

_____ All statements in this application and accompanying attachments are true to the best of my knowledge and reflect realistic projections based on information reasonably available to me. I understand that any material misstatements herein may be the subject of termination of my participation in the LIFT Program should I be selected.

Applicant Signature

Date

¹ For more information and a general guide to business plan writing *see* SBA.GOV, “Create Your Business Plan available at <http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-business/starting-business/how-write-business-plan>