ABA Free Legal Answers (www.abafreelegalanswers.org) opened for client use in eight states throughout the month of August. Prior to launch, training sessions were held for state site administrators in all participating states and the site was opened for their use so that they could become familiar with its operation. The national site administrator, Tali Albukerk, began work in late July, and has been working closely with both the Baker Donelson development team to iron out minor system issues and with the state administrators as they prepare their sub-sites.

For the time being, the focus is on working with state administrators to recruit pro bono attorneys to respond to inquiries submitted by clients. Once there is a critical mass of volunteer attorneys in a state, the ABA will do a more visible public launch in that state in cooperation with state partners. A national publicity campaign, currently being prepared with support from ABA Media Relations, will be launched when a critical mass of states have fully gone live.

The following states are now active on the site:
- Alabama *
- Arizona*
- Connecticut
- Indiana*
- Louisiana
- Minnesota*
- Mississippi
- New York
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina*
- Tennessee*
- Virginia
- Wyoming

The following states are now active on the site for volunteer attorney registration only:
- Arkansas
- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- South Dakota

The transfer of the domain name ownership to ABA is in progress, and is expected to be completed by the week of September 5th.

Steve Scudder and Cheryl Zalenski continue to work closely with Lauren Robinson in the ABA General Counsel’s office to finalize arrangements for an agreement between ABA and Baker Donelson, including appropriate arrangements regarding cyber liability insurance. Steve and/or Cheryl facilitated several conference calls between ABA GC lawyers, Baker Donelson GC and IP lawyers, and ABA Information Technology staff to clarify underlying matters concerning the agreement. Joe Andrews of the ABA and Baker Donelson IT staff have been very helpful and engaged in this process.

New Mexico plans to open for client use in mid-September. Another 16 states are planning to launch on the site in October, and an additional three in November as they complete necessary groundwork in their jurisdictions.

*States with an asterisk predate the national website and are already live.
Efforts continue to get the remaining states on board. Several states have requested launch dates in October and November but have not yet returned an executed licensing agreement. Another batch of states, including Alberta, Canada, are deliberating as to whether they will participate. Buck Lewis and ABA staff continue their efforts to communicate with these states and others with the goal of getting 100% commitment in the U.S. and including jurisdictions from Canada and the U.K.