ABA Free Legal Answers (www.abafreelegalanswers.org) opened for client use in eight states throughout the month of August. Throughout the month of September, sub-sites were activated for attorney registration in 14 states while four sites were activated for data migration from their states’ existing sites. The national site administrator continues to work 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.

The focus continues to be on working with state administrators to recruit pro bono attorneys to respond to inquiries submitted by clients. With support from ABA Media Relations, a publicity campaign was launched in the states with sites that have been opened for client use. A national publicity campaign is currently being prepared to launch when a critical mass of states have fully gone live.

The following states are now active on the site (statistics current as of 9/22):
Connecticut (5 questions submitted and answered, 9 attorneys registered and approved)
Louisiana (4 questions submitted and 3 answered, 33 attorneys registered and approved)
Mississippi (3 questions submitted and 0 answered, 6 attorneys registered)
New York (9 questions submitted and answered, 41 attorneys registered and approved)
Oklahoma (63 questions submitted and 62 answered, 56 attorneys registered and approved)
Tennessee (284 questions submitted and 261 answered since merger with ABAFLA, 535 total attorneys registered and approved)
Virginia (8 questions submitted and answered, 115 attorneys registered and approved)
Wyoming (18 questions submitted and 10 answered, 15 attorneys registered and approved)

The following states are active on the site for volunteer attorney registration only and will launch for client use in October and November:
Alaska (7 attorneys registered and approved)
Georgia (1 attorney registered and approved)
Hawaii (0 attorneys registered)
Idaho (0 attorneys registered)
Illinois (1 attorney registered and approved)
Iowa (0 attorneys registered)
Kansas (0 attorneys registered)
Maryland (0 attorneys registered)
Massachusetts (5 attorneys registered and approved)
Missouri (0 attorneys registered)
Nebraska (1 attorney registered and approved)
New Mexico (0 attorneys registered)
Texas (0 attorneys registered)
Vermont (2 attorneys registered and approved)

The following states are active for state administrator access and for data migration from existing state sites and plan to launch in October and November:
Indiana
South Carolina
Washington State
West Virginia
The above 18 states that are planning to launch for client use in October and November are in the early stages of recruitment and completing the necessary groundwork in their jurisdictions.

The transfer of the domain name ownership to ABA was completed in September.

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.

An additional 13 states are committed to participate or are actively interested and in discussion. Several states are committed but have not yet returned an executed licensing agreement and another batch of states, including Alberta, Canada, are deliberating as to whether they will participate. Florida has recently expressed interest in participating, and a call with a nonprofit in California is scheduled for the week of September 26th to discuss the possibility of a pilot site. Additionally, an ABA Delegate from the Virgin Islands has recently inquired about participation. Buck Lewis and ABA staff continue their efforts to communicate with the remaining states and others with the goal of getting 100% commitment in the U.S. and including jurisdictions from Canada and the U.K.