State Bar Association Small Firm Section Guide

Many states have specific small-firm related sections which can be extremely useful tools for schools that are looking to develop relationships with small firm attorneys. Generally, the purpose of these sections is:

(a) To provide a forum for the discussion of problems of common interest to small firm practitioners;
(b) To advance the quality of legal services provided by small firm practitioners;
(c) To provide a forum for the creation, discussion, advancement, and implementation of ideas to accomplish the foregoing purposes;
(d) To sponsor CLE programs for solo and small firm practitioners; and
(e) To provide a professional support network for solo and small firm practitioners.

Other state bar associations have Law Firm Practice Management sections that are designed to assist solo and small firm attorneys with practice management issues. Here, the emphasis is typically on practical programs addressing the nuts and bolts of small firm management. These sections are typically populated by small firm attorneys who are excellent resources for CSO staff.

General Practice Sections are another good resource for seeking out small firm attorneys. These sections are typically concerned with matters of interest to the general practitioner, including developments in legislation, regulation, practices and procedures in all areas of general practice and their impact on law office management.

It’s also very important that you know the demographics of each relevant section. For example, the Arizona section is comprised mostly of solo attorneys, and not many small to mid-sized firms. Knowing that ahead of time can save a lot of time and effort in terms of outreach!

Alabama: Practice Management Assistance Program
http://www.alabar.org/ptmp/index.cfm

Arkansas: Solo, Small Firm & Practice Management Section
https://www.arkbar.org/arkbar/sections/solo_small_firm/index.php

Arizona: Solo Practice/Small Firm Section
http://www.azbar.org/SecComm/Sections/XP/

California: Solo and Small Firm Section
http://www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=10714&id=5864

Colorado: Solo Small Firm Practice Section
http://www.cobar.org/index.cfm/ID/20156/SO/SM/Solo-Small-Firm-Practice/

Connecticut: General Practice Section
http://www.btbar.org/sectionsandcommittees/sections/generalpractice.aspx

Washington, D.C.: Law Practice Management Section
http://www.dcbar.org/for_lawyers/sections/join.cfm

Delaware: Small Firms and Solo Practitioners Section
http://www.dsba.org/sections/small_firms.htm

Florida: General Practice Solo and Small Firm Section
http://www.floridabar.org/DIVCOM/Pl/CertSect.nsf/Sections?OpenForm

Georgia: Law Practice Management Program
http://www.gabar.org/programs/law_practice_management/

Hawaii: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections
http://www.hsba.org/sections.aspx
Idaho: Law Practice Management Section
http://www2.state.id.us/isb/gen/sections.htm. Click on the Law Practice Management Section.

Illinois: General Practice, Solo, and Small Firm Section
http://www.isba.org/sections/generalpractice

Indiana: General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section

Iowa: General Practice Section
http://www.iowabar.org/Sections.nsf?OpenAbout. Click on the General Practice Section.

Kansas: Solo and Small Firm Section
http://www.ksbar.org/sections/solo/index.shtml

Kentucky: Small Firm Practice & Management Section

Louisiana: Solo and Small Firms Section
http://www.lsba.org/2007Solo/

Maine: General Practice Section
http://www.mainebar.org/sections.asp

Maryland: Solo and Small Firm Practice Section
http://www.msba.org/sec_comm/sections/solo/index.asp

Massachusetts: General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section
http://www.massbar.org/for-attorneys/sections/general-practice-solo--small-firm

Michigan: General Practice Section
http://www.michbar.org/general/
The Law Practice Management Section
http://www.michbar.org/lawpractice/

Minnesota: General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section
http://www2.mnbar.org/sections/general-practice/index.asp

Mississippi: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections
https://www.msbar.org/section.php. A small firm listserv is available for Bar members only.

Missouri: Solo/small firm committee (1,400 members). There is an annual Solo and Small Firm Practice Conference on June 11-13, 2009, Lake of the Ozarks.
http://lawyers.mobar.org/

Montana: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections
http://www.montanabar.org/displaycommon.cfm?am=6#sections

Nebraska: General Practice section. Chair: Mike Dunn-402-245-4486. Must be a state bar member to access website information. http://www.nebar.com/

Nevada: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections
http://www.nvbar.org/Sections/Sections.htm
New Hampshire: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections http://www.nhbar.org/about-the-bar/join-a-nh-bar-association-section.asp

New Jersey: General Practice Section
http://www.njsba.com/committees_sections/ Click on “General Practice”

New Mexico: Solo/Small Firm Section
http://www.nmbar.org/AboutSBNM/sections/SoloSmallFirm/solosmallsection.html

New York: General Practice Section
http://www.nysba.org/ → “Sections / Committees” (on left) → “General Practice Section”

North Carolina: General Practice Solo and Small Firm Section
http://gpsmallfirmandsolo.nccbar.org/

North Dakota: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections. http://www.sba.nd.org/Sections/

Ohio: Solo, Small Firms and General Practice section
http://www.ohiobar.org/pub/?articleid=115 Click on Committee and Section Chairs
The website is available to state bar members only. Chair of the section is Lloyd Cohen, Esq. 2429 Beverly Place, Columbus, OH 43209-2809, 614-444-421, lcohen@lloydcohen.com

Oklahoma: General Practice/Solo and Small Firm Section http://www.okbar.org/members/sections/#general

Oregon: Sole & Small Firm Practitioners
http://www.osbar.org/sections/ssfp.html

Pennsylvania: Solo and Small Firm Practice
http://www.pabar.org/public/sections/genco/

Rhode Island: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections
https://www.ribar.com/For%20Attorneys/Bar%20Committees.aspx

South Carolina: Solo and Small Firm Section
http://www.scbar.org/member_resources/sections_committees/section_information/solo_and_small_firm_section/

South Dakota: Sole Practitioner and Small Office Section, must be a member to access the information
http://www.sdbar.org/memberspublic/Sections.shtml

Tennessee: General, Solo & Small Firm Practitioners
http://www.tba.org/sections/GSSMLaw/

Texas: General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section
http://gpsolo.com/

Utah: Solo, Small Firm & Rural Practice Section
http://www.utahbar.org/sections/solo/Welcome.html

Vermont: Small Practice Section Chair is Paul Bowles, 52 State St. PO Box 867, Montpelier, VT, 05601. List of current section chairs may be found at: https://www.vtbar.org/Upload%20Files/attachments/committees.pdf

Virginia: General Practice Section
http://www.vsb.org/site/sections/generalpractice/
Washington: Solo and Small Practice Section
http://www.wsha-ssp.org/

West Virginia: No specific Sole Practitioner and Solo Practice Firms Section
http://www.wvbarassociation.org/divisions.asp

Wisconsin: General Practice Section www.wisbar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=General_Practice_Section
Law Office Management Section www.wisbar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Law_Office_Management_Section

Wyoming: No specific small firm, practice management or general practice sections.
http://www.wyomingbar.org/resources/member_services.html#sections

American Bar Association: http://www.abanet.org/genpractice/
VISION: The General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division serves, educates and speaks for the current and future Main Street Lawyer.
MISSION: To secure our constituency the highest levels of fulfillment in the legal profession, in the justice system and in the American Bar Association.
GOALS:
1. To be the home within the ABA of general practice, solo and small firm and other constituent lawyers.
2. To retain our current members, add new ones, provide opportunities for leadership in increase participation by our constituents.
3. To advance the interests of our constituents within the ABA, the profession and their personal lives.
4. To provide products that will ensure our members’ success and professional excellence.
5. To increase the prominence of the Division within the ABA and the profession.
6. To communicate our goals and mission statement to Division members, other ABA entities and critical groups in the general public.
7. To do good work in keeping with our professional obligations to render pro bono public legal services to those unable to pay and to ensure that superior affordable legal services to all who need them.
8. To create and maintain resources adequate to ensure the well-being and efficacy of the Division.
9. To increase the diversity of the Division, its constituent groups and the profession at large.
10. To have fun!


States with Small Firm sections: AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MA, MN, MO, NM, NC, OH, OK, OR, PN, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, WA

States with Law Practice Mgmt sections: AL, D.C., GA, ID, MI, WI

States with General Practice sections: CT, IA, ME, NE, NJ, NY, VA, WI

States with no Small Firm, Law Practice Mgmt or General Practice sections: HI, MS, MT, NV, ND, RI, WY, WV