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SCHOOL GIVES GLIMPSE INTO LAWYERS WORLD BAR SEE BENEFITS FO ATTORNEYS, NOVICES

LISA GREENE, Staff Writer

Need to know how to write a will? What to expect when you file for divorce? Or just what's going on in your favorite courtroom TV show?

There's a place for you. It's called "Law School for Non-Lawyers," and it's becoming more popular every year. Sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division of the S.C. Bar, the school aims to give a broad overview to how the law works.

"One of the reasons I was interested in going to law school is that you pick up a newspaper on any day, at least a quarter, if not half, of the stories have something to do with the law in some way," said Ward Bradley, 5th Circuit representative to the young lawyers' group. "It's a big part of our everyday discourse."

But, short of going to law school, Bradley said, there are too few opportunities for most people to learn about the law.

And often, people who turn to the legal system benefit from knowing more about the law.

"It's also helpful to lawyers if people understand more about the law, just as it would be helpful to doctors if people understood more about their health," Bradley said.

About 150 people took the course last year, and even more are signed up this year.

Classes are held each Tuesday from April 2 through May 21 at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Classes are from 7 to 9 p.m.

Topics include family law, estate planning, health care and elder law, real estate law, and personal injury law. There's also an overview of how the judicial system works, of magistrate and municipal courts, and classes on employment, workers' compensation, and Social Security laws, as well as consumer and bankruptcy law and criminal law.

Some of the area's best-known lawyers, including Circuit Court Judge Costa Pleicones, U.S. Magistrate Bristow Marchant, and lawyers **Jack Swerling**, Malissa Burnette and Mike Kelly, will be leading the sessions.

The legal lowdown

Registration for "Law School for Non-Lawyers" is \$25 and allows participants to attend all six sessions. Class size is limited.

To register, send a check payable to the S.C. Bar, along with your name, address and phone number to: S.C. Bar, Leah Johnson, P.O. Box 608, Columbia, S.C. 29202. You will receive confirmation of your registration.

For more information, call 799-6653.

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