



THE BAR REPORT

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Tearing It Up At Bar Association Shredding Event Proceeds Benefit Local Soup Kitchen

New Brunswick – The New Jersey State Bar Association is holding a shredding event to benefit a local charity.

The bar association's 16,000 members are invited Saturday to bring boxes of old files and documents that can be destroyed to the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick for a minimal cost. Roseland based Safe Shredding will have a shredding truck on site. All proceeds will be donated to Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick. The event is Sat., June 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lawyers are notorious pack racks. The problem is they can't just throw out old files when they're done with a case. Legal files contain intimate personal details, Social Security numbers, and other sensitive material about clients. And many New Jersey lawyers work in small offices where converting paper documents into electronic files or storing them at a separate facility doesn't make fiscal sense.

"Lawyers can't just throw out files. You have confidentiality rules, ethics rules, and privacy rules. You can't just throw out a person's life story, the details of their personal tragedy and their financial history. If that information got into the wrong hands it would hurt clients and your reputation," said Angela White Dalton, chair of the state bar's membership and public relations committee.

"This is a very creative, yet practical, way the bar association can help members who otherwise would have to use expensive storage or office space, or who would just let things pile up. For many people, bringing a shredding company to their office is not economical, and this is a good opportunity for a little housekeeping at a budget-friendly price," Dalton said.

The shredding trucks can handle almost anything. Staples are no problem. Metal binder clips go through the shredding blades like a hot knife through butter. Even textbooks and three-ring binders are no match for the shredders, which can slice a bowling ball and devour 100 pounds of paper a minute, said Joe Coletta, the general manager of Safe Shredding. Each truck can handle about 10,000 pounds of paper, roughly 333 boxes of copy paper. All of the shredded paper that is later recycled, he said. Reporters and photographers are welcome.