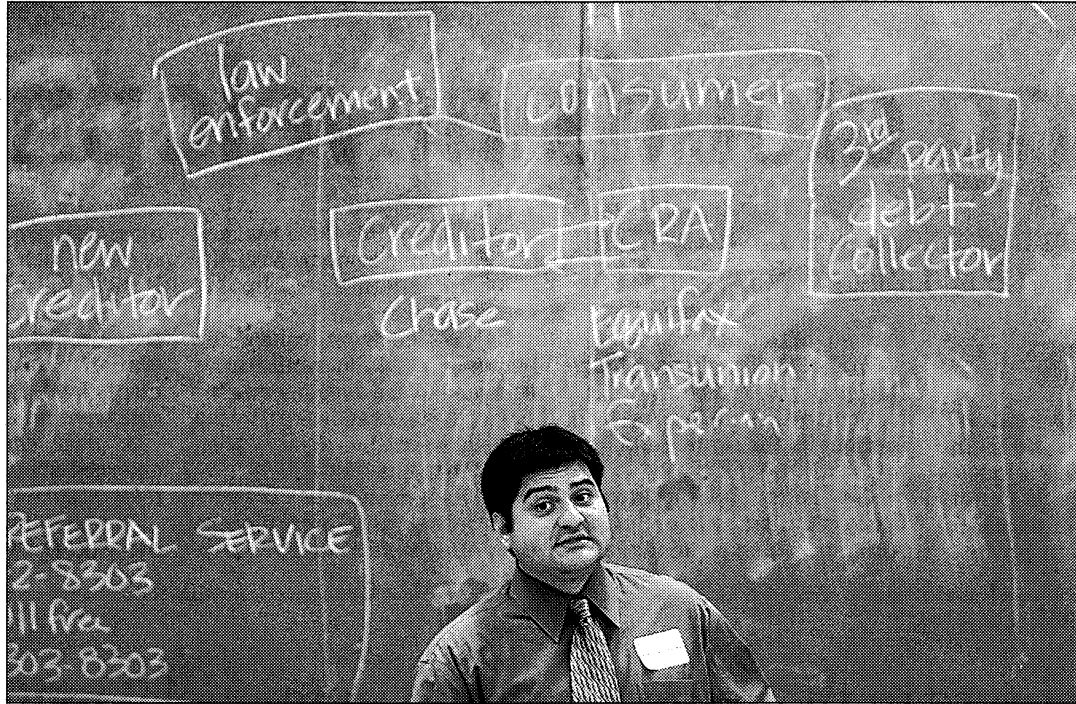


METRO & STATE BRIEFING

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Kelly West AMERICAN-STATESMAN

A class on identity theft, taught by lawyer Ahmad Keshavarz, was just one of the many free sessions on common legal issues that about 400 people

attended Saturday at the Austin Bar Association's 11th annual 'People's Law School' at the University of Texas. Classes in Spanish were new.

'People's Law School' classes address everyday difficulties

By Suzannah Gonzales

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

What can you do when you suspect your credit card has been fraudulently used and the debt collectors are calling? Or you want to prevent one of your songs from being played on the radio without your permission?

You can contact your creditors and a credit reporting agency and file a police report, advised Ahmad Keshevarz. You can copyright your music with the Library of Congress, said Stephen Summer.

Answers such as those came

Saturday when the University of Texas Law School turned into the "People's Law School."

About 400 people went to the Austin Bar Association-organized event to ask questions about their rights and hear free legal advice from area lawyers.

Classes at the People's Law School ran the gamut, from identity theft to entertainment law, bankruptcy to wills and estate planning, and divorce to adoption.

"Most people at some point in their life are going to have a legal issue they're facing and may not know where to turn," said

Catherine Benouis-Kucera, co-chairwoman of the event and an Austin family law attorney.

"It's important to point people in the right direction."

The People's Law School, in its 11th year, also was sponsored by KEYE-TV, the Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas and the UT Law School.

This year, organizers added classes in Spanish — one on divorce and another on getting paid for your work — and others on televised trials and unmarried partner issues.

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