

<p>ABA LEGAL NEWS NETWORK</p>	
<p>HOME REPAIR Narrated Package Plus Additional B-Roll and SOTS</p>	
<p>The following footage is provided free of charge by the American Bar Association for use in news broadcasts at your editorial discretion.</p>	
<p>SUGGESTED ANCHOR LEAD: Thousands are still rebuilding as we approach the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. And if that isn't bad enough, many are coping with new setbacks suffered at the hands of unscrupulous contractors. But fraudulent contractors don't just pick on disaster victims. You may be at risk. Lee Miller has more on a new tool to help keep you from getting nailed.</p>	
<p>TITLES IN ORDER: 00:04 Lonnie Falgout Homeowner 01:29 Michael S. Greco President American Bar Association</p>	
<p>COUNTDOWN: Ch. 1 – Narrator Ch. 2 – BG & SOTS Pkg. Runs 2:13 Plus Additional B-Roll and SOTS TRT 7:38</p>	

	<p>FALGOUT: It's hard going from a big house to a 31-foot trailer, but sometimes you've got no choice, you've got to do what you've got to do.</p>
	<p>NARRATOR: Lonnie Falgout (Fal-goo) and his wife Tina are looking to the future. Despite the fact their house was reduced to a soggy pile of rubble, they consider themselves lucky—they're survivors. Not only did they weather Hurricane Katrina, but also the devastating effects of a con-man contractor—who took their money and never did the work.</p>
<p>Lonnie Falgout Homeowner</p>	<p>LONNIE FALGOUT SOT: We gave him \$11,000 and that's when the problem began.</p>
	<p>NARRATOR: The Falgouts aren't alone. Complaints against home repair contractors are among the most common consumer complaints.</p>
<p>GFX: ABALawInfo.org Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed Contractors • Decide on Financing • Get it in Writing • Limit Your Deposit 	<p>NARRATOR: But there is help.</p> <p>The American Bar Association has published-- <i>The ABA Legal Guide to Home Renovation—Everything You Need to Know About the Law and Insurance, Permits and Contracts</i>. For more information, log on to ABALawInfo.org—where you'll also find tips for Home Renovation, such as:</p> <p>-Work only with a licensed contractor. Find out everything you can about his past projects and be sure he's fully insured.</p> <p>-Decide on the best method of financing. Consider both the out-of-pocket expense and the long-term payback potential of your renovation.</p> <p>-Get a written contract that spells out what work will be done, when it will be done and at what price.</p>

	And finally, never pay all the money up front. One-third of the cost is standard for deposit payments.
Michael S. Greco President American Bar Association	GRECO SOT: Home repair hucksters have one common goal: To separate homeowners from their money before doing any work. We at the American Bar Association want to ensure that doesn't happen. By following a few rules, you can save time and money while adding value to what is, for most of us, our most valuable financial asset.
	NARRATOR: The Mississippi Attorney General helped the Falgouts get their money back. And they've begun again to rebuild their home and their lives.
Lonnie on camera	LONNIE FALGOUT SOT: We've got a good contractor; he's got a good crew of men. They're no nonsense. and they know we've been through and a lot of them are sympathetic to us and they say, 'We're going to get you back in here'.
Title: Courtesy of the American Bar Association	NARRATOR: For the American Bar Association, this is Lee Miller.
SUGGESTED ANCHOR TAG: You can find additional information on home construction as well as how to get <i>The ABA Legal Guide to Home Remodeling</i> book at www.ABALawInfo.org .	

<p>Additional B-roll Home construction shots Falgout's damaged home Falgouts at home ABA Book and Website</p>	
<p>Additional SOTs Michael S. Greco President American Bar Association</p>	<p>GRECO SOT: If you're considering a home renovation project, the ABA recommends that you take time to check a contractor's references. Never allow work to begin without a contract that details what work will be done, when it will be done and how much it will cost. And finally, if you're asked for full payment up front, you're probably being scammed, so you may want to put the brakes on that project.</p>
<p>Lonnie Falgout Homeowner</p>	<p>LONNIE FALGOUT SOT: I started putting numerous phone calls in to his answering service and he was using his answering service as a shield. I couldn't get any information on him, couldn't even get his last name, couldn't get his address where his business is located and probably within a 10 day period, I left 10, 15 phone calls and no response.</p>
	<p>LONNIE FALGOUT SOT: Basically the man took the money and just did what he wanted with it because he was unable to pay us.</p>
	<p>LONNIE FALGOUT SOT: It's hard going from a big house to a 31-foot trailer, but sometimes you've got no choice, you've got to do what you've got to do.</p>
	<p>LONNIE FALGOUT SOT: And the contractor we got now, we've got a good contractor, he's got a good crew of men. They're no nonsense. They're here working and they're from out of town, most of them, and they know what we've been through and a lot of them are sympathetic to us and they say, "we're going to get you</p>

	back in here and get your life started again”.
For More Information, contact: Julie Brown (312) 988-6133 BrownJD@staff.abanet.org	