

# Responsible Alcohol Practices for Bars and Restaurants

## *Protecting Huntington Beach Businesses*

### **The Importance of Alcohol Laws**

The flourishing downtown of Huntington Beach has one of the highest densities of bars and restaurants in the state. In areas like this, it is especially important for establishments to ensure that alcohol is served according to alcohol laws. Adhering to alcohol regulations helps prevent injuries from car crashes, falls, and assaults which may result from excessive drinking (Centers for Disease Control, 2012). Former Orange County nightclub owner Gregg Hanour asserts that most legal and financial problems that bars and restaurants face involve overly intoxicated patrons (2013).



### **Free Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) Training is Available**

#### **LEAD Training Schedule (No Cost)**

[www.abc.ca.gov/programs/lead.html](http://www.abc.ca.gov/programs/lead.html)

#### **RBS Training Programs (May Have a Cost)**

<http://www.abc.ca.gov/programs/RBS.html>

### **Responsible Alcohol Practices Improve Businesses**

Conscientious bars and restaurants establish a high professional standard for hospitality services and prioritize serving alcoholic beverages safely, responsibly and legally. Owners and managers of these businesses adhere to alcohol laws and the requirements of their alcohol licenses. Responsible establishments ensure that their servers and security staff are trained in responsible beverage service and are prepared to deal with difficult situations. Reputable businesses:

- Ensure patrons who are buying or drinking alcohol are at least 21 years of age
- Do not use promotions that encourage intoxication
- Discourage intoxication and do not serve any person who looks or acts intoxicated
- Use designated driver programs and/or arrange sober rides for patrons too impaired to drive safely



### **How Responsible Practices Help Businesses**

Responsible beverage practices reduce the risk of liability, including criminal (court action), civil (lawsuits) and administrative (ABC accusation). Responsible practices may also reduce insurance premiums and increase profit from sales (Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 2013).