

# Allegheny County Bar Association

*Raising the Bar  
on Legal and Community Service*

# Lawyer Referral Service Application

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

THIS IS THE NEW APPLICATION for the ACBA Lawyer Referral Service. If you would like to join the Lawyer Referral Service, please complete and return this application to the ACBA-LRS, Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Your completed Lawyer Referral Service application must include the following:

1. Completed Lawyer Referral Service Application, Membership Selection and Membership Agreement;
2. Proof of Professional Liability Insurance;
3. Panel Membership Fee (See Membership Selection Form) - by check payable to ACBA-LRS or credit card using the attached form.

If you wish to join any of the following panels you must submit a completed experience panel application form for each such panel chosen:

Admiralty Personal Injury  
Aviation Personal Injury  
Dental Malpractice  
Domestic/Matrimonial Appellate Practice  
Legal Malpractice  
Medical Malpractice  
PCRA Petitions  
Products Liability  
Vaccine Litigation  
Complex Support/Paternity  
Complex Criminal Litigation  
Complex Divorce/Equitable Distribution  
FMLA Claims  
FLSA Claims

If you have any questions about these forms or the Lawyer Referral Service, please call Whitney Hughes, Esq. at (412) 402-6703.



18. I have experience in and consider myself qualified to accept referrals in the following areas of law:  
(MARK WITH AN "X" NO MORE THAN TWENTY FIVE PANELS)

\* The selection of Pro-Bono panels will not count as one of your twenty selections

\*\*If you select one of those panels, you must complete the appropriate experience panel applications

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Administrative Law
- Department of Public Welfare
- Environmental Law
- Federal Workers' Compensation
- Federal Workers' Compensation Appeals
- Housing and Urban Development/Housing Authority
- Immigration
- Non-Attorney Professional Licenses
- PA Liquor Control Board
- Public Utility Commission
- School Law
- Social Security Disability
- State Workers' Compensation Appeals
- Veterans Benefits
- State Workers' Compensation

**ARTS AND THE LAW**

- Arts and Entertainment Law

**BUSINESS**

- Banking
- Business Law
- Construction Law
- Contract Law
- Non-Profit Business Law
- Securities and Exchange Comm.
- Tax Law

**CIVIL RIGHTS**

- Civil Rights

**CONSUMER RELATED**

- Auto Warranty
- Bankruptcy
- Collections—Debtor
- Collections—Creditor
- Consumer Affairs
- Fair Credit Reporting
- Foreclosures
- Identity Theft/Financial Fraud
- Insurance Law - Homeowners
- Insurance Law - Automobile
- Insurance Law - Medical
- Insurance Law - Life

**CRIMINAL**

- DUI
- Expungements/Pardons
- Federal Criminal Law
- Juvenile Law
- Magistrate Hearings—Criminal
- PCRA Petitions\*\*

- Property Forfeiture
- State Criminal Law
- Vehicle Code
- Welfare Fraud
- Complex State Criminal Law\*\*

**DISABILITIES LAW**

- American Disability Act
- Education of the Disabled

**ELDER LAW**

- Elder Law

**EMPLOYMENT/LABOR**

- Civil Service
- Employee Benefits
- Employment Discrimination
- Federal Government Empl.
- FMLA Claims\*\*
- FLSA Claims\*\*
- Labor Law/Employees/Union
- Labor Law/Management
- Retirement Benefits—Social Security/Pension
- Wrongful Discharge
- Unemployment Compensation
- Unemployment Compensation Appeals

**ESTATES**

- Estate Planning
- Probate Estates/Wills

**FAMILY**

- Adoption
- Child Abuse Expungements
- Children and Youth Services
- Collaborative Law
- Custody
- Domestic/Matrimonial Appellate Practice\*\*
- Domestic Partnership Dissolution
- Divorces/Annulments/Pre-Nuptial Agreements
- Grandparent Visitation
- Guardianship
- Name Change
- Protection from Abuse
- Support/Paternity
- Exceptions
- Complex Support/Paternity\*\*
- Complex Divorce/Equitable Distribution\*\*

**HOSPITAL LAW**

- HIPAA/Privacy Issues
- Hospital Law

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- Computer Litigation
- Internet Law
- Patent Law  
(Note: If you choose this panel you must provide your Patent and Trademark Office Registration Number here \_\_\_\_\_.)
- Copyright/Trademark Law

**LIABILITY**

- Admiralty Personal Injury\*\*
- Asbestos/Mesothelioma
- Auto Accident—Defendant
- Auto Accident—Plaintiff
- Aviation Personal Injury\*\*
- Class Action Suits
- Dental Malpractice\*\*
- Legal Malpractice\*\*
- Libel/Slander
- Medical Malpractice\*\*
- Personal Injury
- Personal Injury - Slip and Fall
- Products Liability\*\*
- Property Damage
- Vaccine Litigation\*\*
- Veterinary Malpractice

**MENTAL HEALTH**

- Mental Health

**MILITARY LAW**

- Military Law

**MUNICIPAL LAW**

- Municipal Law

**PROCEDURAL**

- Court of Common Pleas Appeals
- Magistrate/Arbitration Appeals
- Magistrate Hearings—Civil
- Non-Magistrate Civil Litigation—Plaintiff
- Non-Magistrate Civil Litigation—Defendant

**REAL ESTATE**

- Condominium/Co-Op
- Landlord/Tenant-Commercial
- Landlord/Tenant-Landlord
- Landlord/Tenant-Tenant
- Marcellus Shale
- Oil & Gas
- Real Estate—Closings
- Real Estate—Land Matters
- Real Estate—Property Reassessment

## 19. Membership Selection

### Full Membership\*

#### One-Year Membership

- ACBA Member \$180.00
- Non-ACBA Member \$350.00
- Modest Means Panel Discount -\$25.00

#### Two-Year Membership

- ACBA Member \$320.00
- Non-ACBA Member \$660.00
- Modest Means Panel Discount -\$40.00

\* Full Membership entitles the panel member to join no more than 25 regular fee panels plus the Custody Mediation Panel (optional) and/or the Disaster Relief Panel (optional). Full membership may be discounted by participation in the Modest Means panel in the amounts listed above.

### Limited Membership\*\*

- Custody Mediation Panel ONLY \$50.00
- Modest Means Panel ONLY \$50.00
- Disaster Relief Panel ONLY \$0

\*\* Limited Memberships are only available for ACBA members on a yearly basis.

## CUSTODY MEDIATION

20. I have experience in the field of custody and consider myself qualified to accept custody mediation referrals. I understand that the custody mediation panel is a special panel which does not count as one of my twenty selections of regular panels. I further understand that, prior to being activated on this panel, I must attend a videotaped training session at the LRS office.

I also understand that if I am an ACBA member in good standing and if I only select the custody mediation panel, my dues for LRS membership will be \$50.00, but if I select any of the regular panels in addition to the custody mediation panel, my LRS dues will increase.

Please mark the following box with an "x" if selecting the special custody mediation panel.

Custody Mediation

## DISASTER RELIEF

21. I am willing to participate on the disaster relief panel and I will render services in the following areas of practice:

- |                                                           |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condemnation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/Repair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Assistance (e.g. FEMA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Estates           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Relief                     |                                            |

I understand that the Disaster Relief panel is a special panel and selection of subpanels does not count toward my twenty selections of regular panels.

## MODEST MEANS PANEL

### 22. Flat Fee:

<input type="checkbox"/> Uncontested Divorce (w/No Property Claims)	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Custody Conciliation	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Conference/Hearing	\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> PFA Hearing	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Simple Will	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Living Will	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> DUI (ARD Eligible)	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> DUI (Non-ARD Phoenix)	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Retail Theft (Phoenix)	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Simple Possession (Phoenix)	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy	\$500.00 + filing fees

### Hourly Rate @ \$60.00/hr.\*

<input type="checkbox"/> Uncontested Divorce (w/Property Claims)	@ \$60.00/hr
<input type="checkbox"/> Contested Divorce (w/Property Claims)	@ \$60.00/hr
<input type="checkbox"/> Contested Divorce (w/No Property Claims)	@ \$60.00/hr

*\* The attorney may charge a retainer to be set at his/her discretion after a review of the case.*

**Allegheny County  
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**Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for Complex Support/Paternity Cases**

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have at least five years of experience in handling complex support/paternity cases, and have handled to their conclusion, at least two cases.  
(Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of Domestic Relations/Family Law in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

	<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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## Lawyer Referral Service Application for Complex Divorce/Equitable Distribution

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have at least five years of experience in handling complex divorce/equitable distribution cases, and have handled to their conclusion, at least two cases.

(Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of Domestic Relations/Family Law in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

	<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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## Lawyer Referral Service Application for Complex Criminal Litigation

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have at least five years of experience with complex criminal cases, and that I have handled at least two jury trials through verdict.

(Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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## Lawyer Referral Service Application for Post Conviction Relief Act Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through final ruling at least two PCRA Petitions. (Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of Criminal Practice in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

	<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for FLSA Claims Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have at least two FLSA claims handled through discovery, final settlement or final arbitration within the past five years. (Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least 12 hours of CLE credit in the areas of Employment or Labor Law within the past two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

	<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Allegheny County  
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**Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for FMLA Claims Panel**

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have at least two FMLA claims handled through discovery, final settlement or final arbitration within the past five years. (Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least 12 hours of CLE credit in the areas of Employment or Labor Law within the past two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

	<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for Domestic/Matrimonial Appellate Practice Panel**

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least two domestic relations cases involving Superior Court Appeals. (Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of family law in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

	<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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## Lawyer Referral Service Application for Admiralty Personal Injury Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least two admiralty personal injury cases that have proceeded at least through discovery. (Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of personal injury or civil litigation or at least three hours of CLE in the area of admiralty in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

Name of Seminar	Date	Sponsor	Credits
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

# Allegheny County Bar Association

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## Lawyer Referral Service Application for Aviation Personal Injury Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least one aviation personal injury case that has proceeded at least through discovery.(Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of personal injury or civil litigation in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

Name of Seminar	Date	Sponsor	Credits
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for Dental Malpractice Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least one dental malpractice case that has proceeded at least through discovery.(Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of personal injury or civil litigation in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

Allegheny County  
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Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for Legal Malpractice Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least one legal malpractice case that has proceeded at least through discovery.(Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of personal injury or civil litigation in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

Name of Seminar	Date	Sponsor	Credits
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

Allegheny County  
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Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for Medical Malpractice Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least one medical malpractice case that has proceeded at least through discovery. (Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of personal injury or civil litigation in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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## Lawyer Referral Service Application for Products Liability Panel

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least one products liability case that has proceeded at least through discovery.(Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of personal injury or civil litigation in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

	<b>Name of Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Credits</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

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Lawyer Referral Service Application  
for Vaccine Litigation

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

In order to receive referrals on the above-referenced panel you must complete the following form and return it with your panel application.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have handled to their conclusion through settlement, judgment or other award, at least one vaccine personal injury case that has proceeded at least through discovery. (Please provide caption.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I further certify that I have accrued at least twelve hours of CLE credit in the area of personal injury or civil litigation in the last two years. This CLE credit has been obtained as follows:

Name of Seminar	Date	Sponsor	Credits
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The above requirements may be waived upon demonstration of comparable experience.

1. I certify that the information contained in my application for membership with the Lawyer Referral Service is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if any of the information which I have provided is false, I may be removed from the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) panel or panels. I further agree to promptly provide LRS with any changes to the information listed above while I am a participating panel member in the LRS program.
2. I understand that I must abide by the Rules and Procedures promulgated by the Lawyer Referral Service. Additionally, I understand that a violation of these rules may result in removal from the Lawyer Referral Service panel(s).
3. I certify that I currently carry professional liability insurance and that I will maintain my insurance coverage so long as I remain a participating member of LRS. If I terminate my coverage, I will immediately notify the LRS at which time my name will be withdrawn from the LRS referral panel(s). I agree to keep a current copy of my professional liability insurance policy on file with the LRS office. I understand that if the LRS office is not notified of my renewal, I will be removed from the LRS panel(s) until such notification is provided. (Please enclose proof of professional liability insurance with this application.)
4. I understand that full annual panel membership dues are \$180.00 if I am a current active member in good standing with the ACBA, and \$350.00 if I am not a member in good standing of the ACBA. I may elect to join for multiple years, participate in reduced fee programs, and/or select a limited membership for a reduced dues rate. I understand that failure to pay annual membership dues will result in my name being withdrawn from the LRS panel(s). I further understand and agree to pay a fifteen percent (15%) referral fee to the Allegheny County Bar Association for all fees which exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00) from cases which were referred to me by the LRS. I agree not to increase the cost of legal services performed for a client referred to me by the LRS to cover any fees or costs associated with membership in the Lawyer Referral Service. Membership dues and fees paid in the Lawyer Referral Service of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the required remittance are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes. However, both may be deducted as business expenses.

5. I certify that I am competent to handle legal matters in the areas for which I have indicated on my application. On determining competency, the standard shall be the definition of legal competence employed by the American Law Institute-American Bar Association Committee on Continuing Professional Education. The ALI-ABA definition states:

A competent lawyer is one who consistently performs legal services that he or she is hired or assigned to perform in a way that fills the clients' needs in a reasonable time, at a reasonable cost, and in keeping with relevant standards of professional behavior and responsibility.

6. I recognize the LRS as a means and opportunity to enable the legal profession to render better service to the public and, accordingly, agree to give consideration to the client's ability to pay, along with the other factors which I may use to determine my fee.

7. I certify that I have not been suspended from the practice of law nor found to be in violation of the Pennsylvania Code of Professional Responsibility during the past year. In the event I am suspended from the practice of law for any reason, I agree to notify the LRS immediately of said suspension.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE FROM LIABILITY:**

I understand that the information contained in my LRS application may be provided to clients and I hereby give my consent thereto. I will in no event hold the Allegheny County Bar Association or any officer or committee member to any liability whatsoever in connection with information released by the Lawyer Referral Service.

I agree to indemnify and save harmless the Allegheny County Bar Association and its Lawyer Referral Service from any and all liability, damages and/or expenses, including attorney fees, incurred by it as a result of any claim, demand, cost or judgment arising out of my representation of any client referred to me pursuant to this agreement or any claim, demand, cost or judgment made by co-counsel in the matter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Allegheny County Bar Association

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# Rules and Procedures Lawyer Referral Service

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

**1. PURPOSE**—The purpose of the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) is to provide, as a public service, a service through which a person, may be referred to an attorney who is able to render and is interested in rendering legal services or referred to an appropriate agency.

**2. THE COMMITTEE**—The LRS Committee is charged with:

**A.** Developing and recommending to the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) Board of Governors policies, rules and procedures for the operation of the LRS; and

**B.** Oversight of the ACBA's administration of the LRS program.

The Committee will be composed of members of the ACBA who are appointed by the President of the ACBA.

**3. REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARTICIPANT PANEL MEMBER**—

**A.** To qualify for membership on the LRS panel, an attorney must:

**1.** Have available a law office in Allegheny County where confidential meetings with clients may take place, and be actively engaged in the practice of law; and

**2.** Carry, and continue to carry, professional liability insurance substantially equivalent to the coverage endorsed by the ACBA.

**B.** Because each member's relationship with a referred person reflects upon the LRS and on the ACBA, a member to whom any person has been referred shall carry on any relationship with the person in a professional and business like manner in all respects, consistent with the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct.

**C.** Each prospective member shall submit an application and abide by the rules set forth herein and on the application form and shall pay a fee, as established by the ACBA.

**D.** The applicant shall indicate not more than 25 areas of law in which the applicant desires to accept referrals.

**E.** In accepting the application form from any applicant, the LRS may require such information and certification as it deems necessary.

**F.** The Committee may at any time conduct further investigations and require further information bearing upon the responsibility, capability, character and integrity of any applicant or member. The Committee may also require such information as it deems necessary in accepting the application or continuing the membership of any applicant or member.

**G.** The applicant, upon receiving an additional services case, agrees to submit a copy of the fee agreement signed with the client for said case.

**H.** Each member agrees:

**1.** To permit any dispute concerning fees arising from a referral to be submitted to binding arbitration by the Special Fee Dispute Committee of the ACBA;

**2.** To grant all persons referred by the LRS an appointment as soon as practicable after the request is made;

**3.** To abide by all the rules of the LRS, and in no event to hold, or claim to hold, the LRS or the ACBA, or any of their officers, members or employees, liable for the operation of the LRS, or for the use of the information contained in the member's application;

**4.** To annually certify to the LRS that the member has not been suspended from the practice of law or found to be in violation of the Pennsylvania Code of Professional Responsibility during the past year.

**4. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LRS RULES**—

**A. 1.** An applicant or member may be denied membership on the panel or suspended from the panel if the applicant or member has failed to pay any fee, failed to make such reports as are required by the LRS, failed to meet with the person referred to him or her, failed to continue to meet the requirements of Rule 3.A., or has been suspended or disbarred from the practice of law.

**2.** An applicant or member denied membership or suspended under Rule 4.A.1. may apply to the LRS Committee for membership or reinstatement after proof that he or she has complied with the requirements contained therein.

**B. 1.** An applicant or member may be denied membership on the panel or suspended from the panel by the LRS Committee if:

**a.** He or she has signed any application or any other certification or report to the LRS which has been found to be untrue in any material respect; or

**b.** The LRS Committee receives notice or information giving it reasonable grounds to believe that an applicant or member does not meet the reasonable standards of responsibility, capability, character or integrity; or

**c.** The LRS Committee finds the applicant or member to be unsuitable for panel membership.

**2.** Before finding any violation of Rule 4.B.1., the LRS Committee must provide an applicant or member an opportunity to be heard, including providing reasonable notice and a hearing. At the hearing, a majority vote of the LRS Committee members present will be necessary to deny membership or suspend a member for violation of Rule 4.B.1.

**3.** An applicant or member denied membership or suspended under Rule 4.B.1. may apply to the LRS Committee for membership or reinstatement on the panel. Membership or reinstatement shall be permitted upon the approval of the majority of the members of the LRS Committee present at the next scheduled meeting.

**C.** All matters arising out of Rules 4.A. and B. concerning members or applicants will be held confidential but may be referred to the ACBA Board of Governors, where appropriate.

## **5. OPERATION OF THE PANEL—**

**A.** Procedures will be established which assure that each referral is made in a fair and impartial manner to an appropriate member of the LRS panel. Such procedures should be designed so as to respond, if possible, to the circumstances of the matter, including the subject of the legal problem presented, geographical convenience and language needs.

**B.** No referral shall be made on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, national origin, or disability status.

**C.** No referral shall be made to any employee of the LRS or to his or her associates or employees, and all referrals shall be made to the next available member in the appropriate area of law.

**D.** The person referred shall be furnished with written explanatory information relative to LRS referrals, including information about the first consultation fee to be paid and the extent of legal services which will be rendered for such fee.

**E.** Members will accept any referral for initial consultation of any matter within any of the member's designated areas of law. However, should any referral give rise to a conflict of interest, a member will contact the LRS to advise that a new referral is necessary. Nothing herein will be construed to obligate a member to accept employment beyond the initial consultation.

**F.** Each member agrees to consult with the person referred and, except in extraordinary situations, not to refer such person to another attorney. If the situation is deemed extraordinary, the member agrees to first contact the LRS before referring the person to another attorney.

**G.** A member rejecting initial referrals for any reason will be moved to the bottom of rotation.

**H.** A member may receive referrals only at a location where the member maintains a law practice.

**I.** The daily administrative operation and personnel management of the LRS will be under the direction of the LRS Director and the Executive Director of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

**6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND REPORT OF REFERRALS—**The member will complete and return any referral report forwarded by the LRS staff as soon as practicable, no later than the time specified on the report. Failure to return the report within the time specified may justify the LRS in suspending the participant member from the panel per Rule 4.A.1. Nothing herein will require any attorney to violate the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct.

**7. FEE for MEMBERSHIP—**Each member will pay to the LRS an annual membership fee as set forth in the LRS Membership Application. In addition, each member shall pay to the LRS 15% of the amount by which the total fee received for services performed with respect to the referred matter exceeds \$300.00. Should the member perform services for the person referred with respect to any matter beyond the initial matter, any fees received by the member for such services are subject to this Rule for three years from the date the attorney is retained. The percentage fee requirement shall last so long as the member continues to collect on matters commenced within this time period. Payments required by this Rule shall be due to the LRS within 30 days after receipt by the member. Failure to make timely payments may result in the imposition of late charges and/or suspension from the panel per Rule 4.A.1.

**8. RECORDS—**The LRS will keep on file a confidential record of all applications submitted by, referrals made to, and reports submitted by each member, which will be subject to examination by the Committee and LRS staff.

## **9. PUBLICITY—**

**A.** The LRS shall develop and maintain an active publicity program using communications media best designed to inform the general public in Allegheny County of the existence, purpose and advantages of the LRS and the kinds of information and services available. Whenever possible, the public shall be informed as to when to seek legal advice.

**B.** The form and content of all publicity regarding the LRS shall be dignified and consistent with the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct.

## **10. FEES TO BE CHARGED—**

**A.** Each referred person shall pay a fee of \$30.00 for an initial consultation of not more than one half hour, except in certain cases as determined by the LRS. Any fee for additional services shall be determined by mutual agreement between the client and the member, and such agreement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the client and the member. The LRS shall inform the referred person of the substance of this Rule at the time the referral is made.

**B.** Every member shall establish his/her fees in accordance with the spirit and letter of the provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

**11. AREAS OF LAW—**A listing of areas of law will be published from which an applicant or member may select or change the areas for which he or she will be available. Attorneys must practice actively in the areas of law selected by them. Any changes in the areas of law must be made in writing.

**Allegheny County  
Bar Association**

*Raising the Bar  
on Legal and Community Service*

**Lawyer Referral Service  
Credit Card Remittal Form**

Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Ave., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

This form is for the sole purpose of the payment of the ACBA LRS Panel Registration Fee.

Attorney Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type (MC/VISA/AM EX): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Signature: \_\_\_\_\_