

# DO YOU NEED A LAWYER?

*The Westchester County Bar Association (WCBA) offers a Lawyer Referral Service.*



## **How does the Lawyer Referral Service work?**

If you need legal advice or have a specific problem that needs professional attention, call the WCBA Lawyer Referral Service. Our staff will listen to your problem, evaluate your situation and immediately refer you to one qualified lawyer.

## **Will you answer a legal question for me?**

No, Lawyer Referral Service staff cannot answer legal questions and are not attorneys. If you wish to consult an attorney, we can refer you to someone with whom you can make an appointment to discuss your legal problem.

## **Can you help me find a lawyer?**

Yes. Call the WCBA Lawyer Referral Service Office for a referral to a qualified attorney for a discounted initial one-half hour consultation.

## **What if I already have a lawyer for this matter?**

If you have already retained the services of a lawyer, we can not refer you to another attorney for the same matter unless you obtain a written release from that attorney, stating that he/she is no longer handling the matter and no fees are due.

## **How do I know this lawyer is qualified?**

All lawyers in the Lawyer Referral Service are required to be insured, in good standing with the State Court system, and have experience with your particular legal problem.

## **How good is this attorney? Can you give me a rating?**

We do not rate attorneys. All lawyers in the Lawyer Referral Service are admitted to practice, are members of the bar in good standing, and have met many requirements to be listed with our Service. Beyond that, it is up to you to make an appointment and interview the attorney.

## **Can I get the name of more than one lawyer?**

No, the Lawyer Referral Service will only give you the name of one qualified attorney. We do not give out a list of attorneys.

## **What if I need a lawyer who speaks my language or is in my neighborhood?**

The Lawyer Referral Service will work with you to find a lawyer

who meets your needs.

## **Why do you need my name?**

Your information is kept confidential. It is Lawyer Referral Service policy to take your name, address and phone number in order to refer you to an attorney. We confirm the referral in writing to the attorney, but it is up to you to make the appointment. The attorney will not call you.

## **I just want to get information over the phone, but not make an appointment. Can you help me?**

I'm sorry, the attorneys in our Lawyer Referral Service do expect you to make an office appointment to talk to them.

## **How much do I pay?**

You pay the lawyer \$40 at the time of the first half-hour consultation. There is no additional charge for the referral. That first interview may solve your problem and there is no obligation on your part to pay more or go further. If you need further legal work, you can arrange for it at a cost agreed upon between you and the attorney who will do that work. You will pay the lawyer directly.

## **Do I pay the WCBA Lawyer Referral Service too?**

No, the WCBA Lawyer Referral Service will never charge you for this service. This is a public service performed by the Westchester County Bar Association.

## **I cannot afford an attorney. Can the Lawyer Referral Service still help me?**

If you cannot afford an attorney and Legal Aid can't help you, you will need to find an attorney with whom you can make payment arrangements. The lawyers in our Service are private attorneys who set their own fees and make their own arrangements for payment. We do not have information on what they charge for their services beyond the initial \$40 consultation.

## **The Right Lawyer For You...**

The WCBA Lawyer Referral Service is available to anyone who may need legal advice. The WCBA Lawyer Referral Service can provide you with an unbiased referral to a lawyer who is in good standing, who is insured and who has experience with your particular legal problem.

**CALL THE WCBA LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE at (914) 761-5151**  
**Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Monday through Friday**