

BIRMINGHAM

BAR ASSOCIATION | EST. 1885

Birmingham Bar Association 2020 Lawyer Referral Service

1. Purpose of the BBA Lawyer Referral Service:

The BBA Lawyer Referral Service is a public service to the Birmingham community and a service to the members of our Bar. As a member of our referral service, you offer potential clients the ability to access needed legal services. In addition to serving the public, you have the opportunity to diversify and expand your client base and increase your revenue.

2. Lawyer Referral Service Membership Qualifications and Responsibilities:

Lawyer Referral Service membership is open to BBA members who submit an application along with the \$150 annual membership fee and who meet the following criteria:

- (a) Be a member in good standing of the Alabama State Bar. Membership must remain in force without lapse.
- (b) Have not been disciplined by the Alabama State Bar within the past three years.
- (c) Be engaged in the private practice of law, apart from any activity that could be a conflict of interest or could make the member inaccessible to clients during normal business hours.
- (d) Maintain active BBA membership.
- (e) Certify competency in those areas of law in which you will accept clients and/or designate areas of law in which clients will not be accepted.
- (f) Abide by all Lawyer Referral Service rules and the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct, as amended.
- (g) Abide by a final determination of the Birmingham Bar Association Fee Arbitration Committee in the event of any dispute over fees arising between the attorney and the referred client.
- (h) Maintain professional liability insurance.

3. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

The annual Lawyer Referral Service membership dues are determined by the BBA. All dues are non-refundable, except upon written request and as approved by the BBA. Membership runs from June 1 to May 31 each year.

4. ATTORNEY'S INTERVIEW WITH THE PROSPECTIVE CLIENT:

When an attorney receives a referral for a prospective client, it is the attorney's obligation (or the obligation of another attorney in his/her firm) to conduct the initial interview to determine if there will be an engagement. The referred attorney will negotiate the consultation and/or representation fee directly with the prospective client.

BIRMINGHAM

BAR ASSOCIATION | EST. 1885

5. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES:

Lawyer Referral Service members must notify the Executive Director of the Birmingham Bar Association in writing of any changes in contact information, insurance information, and/or practice category information.

6. SUSPENSION / DENIAL:

- (a) Suspension: The Executive Director of the Birmingham Bar Association may suspend any Lawyer Referral Service member for any violation of the rules. Any such suspension will be informal, need not be in writing, and will exist for a period of sixty (60) days. Any suspended panel member's status will not be jeopardized by such action except that referrals will not be made during the suspension period. The Executive Director may extend the period of suspension.
- (b) Denial: The Executive Director has the authority to deny membership to any applicant deemed to have failed to comply with any of the Lawyer Referral Service rules.

7. RESOLUTION OF SUSPENSIONS/DENIALS/CLAIMS:

After action by the Executive Director as indicated in 6(a) or (b) above, or if any Lawyer Referral Service member makes a claim against the Lawyer Referral Service program for any reason and a resolution cannot be reached, then upon written demand of either, the matter at issue will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association.

8. OTHER AUTHORITY:

Nothing herein shall be construed to infringe, and shall not infringe, upon the authority exercised and retained by the Supreme Court of Alabama.

Revised 5/1/20