

ABOUT THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE...

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) is a great opportunity for junior counsel to increase their caseload and experience and for senior counsel to expand their areas of practice. Your participation in this service is greatly appreciated and is a great benefit to the community.

What is the Lawyer Referral Service?

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) is run by Community Legal Education Association (CLEA), and is funded by grants from the Law Society of Manitoba and the Manitoba Law Foundation. The service operates throughout Manitoba and is open to all members of the public.

Who uses the LRS?

The Lawyer Referral Service was designed to help people find a lawyer when they do not know any lawyers or when they are looking for a lawyer to assist them with a specific area of the law. The service is free for lawyers to participate in and free for clients to use.

How does the LRS work?

Lawyers send in their application forms listing their 3 preferred areas of practice and experience level. LRS staff lawyers screen calls to the service for potential referrals and upon assessing the complexity and nature of the case, match lawyers to clients appropriately. Lawyers receive referrals consistent with their preferred areas of practice and experience level.

How do I receive a referral?

When a referral is made, the client is instructed to contact the lawyer and set up an initial appointment. Each client is advised to inform the lawyer that they have been referred by the LRS. Confirmation letters are sent to both the client and the lawyer, providing each party with the name and contact information of the other, as well as the area of law the referral involves.

How do the fees work?

Clients are **NOT** charged for the first half-hour interview with the lawyer to whom they are referred. After the initial interview, the client is free to hire the lawyer (if the lawyer agrees to take the case) and the fee after the initial consultation is to be determined between the lawyer and the client. In the case of Legal Aid clients, the Legal Aid guidelines apply.

What if the client does not contact me?

Both the client and lawyer confirmation letters include evaluation forms, which the lawyers must complete and return to CLEA. In the event that a client fails to contact the lawyer, the LRS will endeavour to substitute another referral.¹

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____
Firm _____ Fax # _____
Address _____ e-mail _____
City/Town _____ Postal Code _____
Language(s) _____ Year of Call _____
Can you communicate in American Sign Language (ASL) _____

Subject Preferences

(Select no more than 3, and mark 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference)

Aboriginal Law _____	Human Rights _____
Administrative _____	Immigration _____
Agriculture _____	Insurance _____
Autopac _____	Intellectual Property _____
Aviation _____	Labour _____
Bankruptcy/Creditors Rights _____	Landlord & Tenant _____
Child Protection _____	Medical Malpractice _____
Civil Court Actions _____	Military _____
Commercial/Corporate _____	Municipal _____
Condominium _____	Real Estate _____
Consumer Protection _____	Securities _____
Corporate law/Non-Profits _____	Sexual Harassment _____
Criminal _____	Taxation _____
Employment-Wrongful Dismissal _____	Unemployment Insurance _____
Entertainment _____	Welfare _____
Environmental _____	Wills/Estates/Trusts _____
Expropriation _____	Workers Compensation _____
Family _____	Youth Court _____
Franchise _____	
Other (please specify) _____	

I have had the following experience in the above areas of law within the last 5 years:

Preference 1: 1-10 cases _____ 11-30 cases _____ over 30 cases _____
Preference 2: 1-10 cases _____ 11-30 cases _____ over 30 cases _____
Preference 3: 1-10 cases _____ 11-30 cases _____ over 30 cases _____

(Please continue on Page 2)

CASE EXPERIENCE & OTHER UNIQUE CASE EXPERIENCE

Please provide information about your experience in the areas of law chosen on the preceding page.

Please indicate any other unique case experience or specific area of practice you would like the LRS to know about: (for example: Charter experience; cases which set precedent or changed the law; representation of class action product liability actions; cases involving limitation periods in civil sexual abuse cases; etc)

CHECK ONE:

I will accept referral clients who are “shut-in” due to ill health, disability or old age, and agree to attend, if necessary, at their residence or hospital.

I will not accept referral clients who are “shut-in”.

CHECK ONE:

I am on Legal Aid’s panel list and agree to accept referral clients who may ultimately qualify for Legal Aid.

I am not prepared to accept referral clients who qualify for Legal Aid.

I am prepared to take Legal Aid cases on a reduced tariff.

I am not prepared to take Legal Aid cases on a reduced tariff.

CHECK ONE:

I am prepared to take cases on a contingency fee basis.

I am not prepared to take cases on a contingency fee basis

(Please continue on page 3)

- I agree to participate in the Lawyer Referral Service. Provided there is no conflict of interest, and it is not otherwise improper, I will personally provide an initial one-half hour consultation to anyone referred to me requiring legal assistance in the branches of law I have indicated on the preceding page.
- In the event of a conflict of interest, or other reason which would prevent me from personally providing the initial half-hour consultation, I agree to refer the client back to the Lawyer Referral Service for a substitute referral.
- I agree to provide the initial half-hour consultation for no fee. I understand that if additional services are required, the client is free to seek my assistance on my usual basis of legal charges.
- I agree to return Lawyer Referral evaluation forms promptly.
- I certify that I am not required to pay a surcharge on my insurance premium of 100% or more (representing 3 paid claims in the previous 5 years).
- I agree to notify the Lawyer Referral Service immediately should I become ineligible or unable to accept referrals.
- I will undertake to advise the Lawyer Referral Service and not to take referrals while I am under criminal investigation or investigation or suspension by the Law Society of Manitoba or any other law society.
- I agree to notify the Lawyer Referral Service immediately of any change of address, choice of category or other information contained in this application form.
- I certify that all information contained in this application form is correct.

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____