

## ***Washington County Lawyers***

Clients have many qualified lawyers to choose from in Washington County. Your investment of time in the selection of a lawyer should result in a strong, positive relationship with the lawyer you ultimately choose to represent you.

### **WCBA Membership**

460 lawyers and judges are members of the Washington County Bar Association.



### **LRS Panelists**

20% of WCBA members practicing in 26 areas of the law serve on the LRS referral panel.



### **WCBA Public Service**

724.225.6710 is the number to call for more information on public education and community service programs.



This pamphlet has been issued as a public service of the Washington County Bar Association. It is intended to inform and not to advise. Information is current as of April 2020. LRS operations and fees are subject to change.

**Washington County Bar Association  
Lawyer Referral Services  
119 South College Street  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-225-6710  
www.washcobar.org**

**LRS phone service is subject to  
holidays and WCBA office hours;  
LRS office does not have walk-in hours.**

## **LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE**

## ***Finding a Lawyer***



## **Washington County Bar Association**



**ONLINE at  
[www.washcobar.org](http://www.washcobar.org)  
Or Call  
724-225-6710  
(NO WALK-INS)**

## ***How Do I Find a Lawyer?***

If you find yourself in a situation where you need a lawyer, but don't know how to find one, a lawyer referral service may be able to help you. Lawyer referral services are designed to help you find a private lawyer in your geographic area who welcomes new clients. Attorneys listed with these services frequently have special arrangements regarding the fee charged for an initial consultation. However, each service has its own specific rules, which you should ask about when you call. For a referral to a lawyer who practices in Washington County, go online at <https://washcobar.community.lawyer/> or call 724-225-6710.



**Washington County  
Lawyer Referral Service**  
[www.washcobar.org](http://www.washcobar.org)  
724-225-6710

## ***How Does a Lawyer Set Fees?***

An attorney may charge on a flat fee basis for handling a particular type of case; a contingent fee (based on percentage of recovery or amount involved); on an hourly basis; or a combination of these fees. Be sure to discuss fees at your initial meeting and to have the fee agreement confirmed in writing. Factors that influence fees include the novelty or difficulty of the case; time limitations; time and labor required; related business expenses; and the lawyer's experience and skill. Simple problems, involving routine, well-established procedures, will cost less than complex matters that raise unique questions or require work in a more specialized field of law.

## ***How Does the WCBA LRS Work?***

The fee for the first half-hour consultation with a lawyer is **\$50**, payable to the Washington County Bar Association **prior to** your appointment with an attorney.

If you are using the online referral service ([www.washcobar.community.lawyer](http://www.washcobar.community.lawyer)) you can pay by credit card. If you are calling 724-225-6710, you can pay by credit card, too. Or, send a check or a money order to 119 South College Street, Washington, PA 15301 (be sure to include your name, phone number, and information about your legal issue). Online or calling and paying by credit card is quicker.

Referrals are made based primarily on case-type and geographic location, with other factors such as handicapped-accessibility, languages spoken, etc. taken into account if applicable.

## ***How Can I Be Sure of a Lawyer's Qualifications?***

**To protect you, by law only lawyers may give legal advice.** The right to practice law in Pennsylvania is granted by the Supreme Court of PA. Only after a lawyer demonstrates knowledge and skill in the law is he or she admitted to the bar. This is your assurance that he or she has been found qualified to represent clients. Admission to the bar, however, does not ensure that a lawyer has knowledge and skill in every area of the law. You should ask questions to find out if a lawyer has experience with cases like yours. All lawyers on the LRS are members in good standing of the Washington County Bar Association and PA Supreme Court Disciplinary Board.

The practice and conduct of lawyers registered and qualified to practice law within Pennsylvania is governed by the Supreme Court of PA and by the Rules of Professional Conduct.

## ***What If Can't Afford a Private Lawyer?***

If you are income-eligible, you may qualify for representation by legal aid:

Southwestern PA Legal Services  
1-888-855-3873 (hotline) or 724-225-6170

If you have been charged with a criminal offense and are income-eligible, you may qualify for representation by a public defender:

Washington County Public Defender's Office  
724-228-6818

Other agencies may also be able to assist you with information (call the LRS for additional resources):

Area Agency on Aging Legal Services for the Elderly  
724-228-7080 (those who are 60+ years or age)

Women's Shelter Domestic Abuse Hotline  
724-223-9190 or 1-800-791-4000

Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline  
1-800-441-2555 or [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov)

General Legal Information: [www.paLawHelp.org](http://www.paLawHelp.org)

**The purpose of the consultation is for you to more fully explain your legal issue, and for the attorney to determine whether or not he/she is able or willing to represent you. Any arrangements beyond that first half-hour appointment should be discussed and agreed upon by you and your lawyer. You are not obligated to hire the attorney, and the attorney is not obligated to provide legal advice at the consultation.**

If you and the attorney are not able to schedule a mutually convenient consultation date/time, or if in the course of the consultation the attorney realizes that he/she has a conflict of interest in the case, the LRS can find another attorney for you without a second consultation fee, or we can refund your LRS fee. If the attorney notifies us that he/she feels the case has no legal merit, or if you want to discuss your case with a different attorney, you would need to pay a second LRS consultation fee to use the Service to find another attorney for a second opinion.