



## VA Lawyer Referral Service

### **What is the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service?**

The Virginia Lawyer Referral Service (VLRS) sponsored by the Virginia State Bar was founded in 1977 to assist the public with referrals to actively practicing in good standing members' of the Virginia State Bar. The service currently makes over 20 referrals a day or 4,000 a year; and receives over 12,000 calls yearly.

### **How does the service work?**

1. A person wishing to consult with an attorney calls the VLRS toll-free number, 1-800-552-7977. The caller is screened, and if there appears to be a legal problem, the caller is referred (given the name, address and telephone number) to an attorney in his or her geographic area who also practices in the needed area of law. Attorneys are selected for referrals by computer in strict rotation.
2. The VLRS staff informs the caller that he or she is expected to pre-pay the initial consult fee for up to a one-half hour consultation. The consultation fee collected is used to offset the administrative and operational costs of the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service. The fee should be paid at the time of the referral and arrangements for any additional legal services should be made between the attorney and the caller after the initial consultation.
3. Once the referral has been made, it is the caller's duty to arrange for a convenient appointment with the attorney.
4. The VLRS sends a confirmation slip by e-mail and fax to the referred attorney acknowledging the referral and alerting the attorney that the referred caller should be calling for a consultation.

### **How do I join the service?**

Furnish all of the information requested on the application/information form. Applications may be obtained by calling VLRS at 804-775-0591 or online at [www.VLRS.net](http://www.VLRS.net). Mail your completed application with the annual membership fee to the Virginia State Bar, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, Virginia 23219-0026. The month you pay your membership fee constitutes your anniversary date.

## What are the rules of the service?

1. Any active member in good standing with the Virginia State Bar may qualify as a VLRS panel member.
2. Applicants for panel referral membership will be grouped by judicial circuit and arranged by geographically convenient areas within such groups.
3. In submitting an application for membership on the panel, the applicant may indicate those types of legal work that he or she is competent to handle.
4. In filing an application for membership, the applicant agrees to the following:
  - a. The initial consultation, up to one-half hour, which has been pre-paid, will be granted to any caller referred to the panel member. Any charge for further service will be as agreed upon between attorney and caller. All callers referred by the service will be granted an appointment within 3-business days of referral date or as soon as practicable after a request is made. Immediately following the up to 30-minute initial consultation or within 10-days of referral notice date, e-mail or fax the completed referral notice back to the service indicating the outcome of the consult.
  - b. To accept any referral for initial interview in those areas of practice preference indicated on the application. Should any referral give rise to a conflict of interest, the attorney panel member should direct the referred caller to contact the service to receive a new referral. A panel member rejecting two consecutive initial referrals for reasons other than those set forth here will be moved to the bottom of referral rotation list. Panel members are not required to accept employment beyond the initial consultation.
  - c. To currently carry and continue to carry professional liability insurance; and be of record with the Virginia State Bar Member Compliance Department.
  - d. To follow all of the rules of the service and in no event hold the State Bar or any of its officers, members, or employees liable in connection with the operation of, or use of, the information contained in the application.

**Note: Administrative Hold**—If a panel member charged with misconduct has been referred to a District Committee, the Disciplinary Board, or any circuit court, or agrees to or is placed under disciplinary terms, the service will not make referrals to that panel member until a) completion of the disciplinary proceedings without limitations having been placed on the panel member's license to practice law or terms having been imposed, or b) following removal of such limitations and/or successful compliance with the terms imposed. Membership fees are neither refundable nor transferable regardless of whether the panel member is under administrative hold or suspension.

## How do I withdraw from the service?

A panel member may at any time withdraw his or her name from participation in the service upon five days of written notice to the Lawyer Referral Service addressed to the Virginia State Bar. Membership fees are neither refundable nor transferable. Please complete, e-mail or fax all outstanding pre-paid referral notices advising the service of the consultation outcome.

## What constitutes suspension from the service?

1. Failure to comply with the rules will result in a written notice of proposed suspension being issued by the chair of the Virginia State Bar Lawyer Referral Committee, or his or her designee and served upon the panel member. Service shall be effectuated upon delivery, dispatched by commercial delivery service, transmitting by facsimile or mailing by certified mail, return receipt requested.
2. Upon service of suspension, the panel member may submit in writing the reasons for noncompliance or respond within 30 days of the notice of proposed suspension. The mailing of a notice of suspension to the panel member at his or her last address of record with the Virginia State Bar constitutes adequate service for the purposes of these rules.
3. Failure to respond in writing within the 30 days of the date of the mailing of the notice of suspension to the panel member will result in a final action of suspension that will run until such time as the panel member furnishes evidence of compliance with the rules and regulations of the service.
4. Upon receipt of a response to the notice of proposed suspension by the panel member, the VSB-VLRS Committee or its designee will review and recommend to the committee the following actions:
  - a. Final action of suspension;
  - b. Withdrawal of the notice of proposed suspension; or
  - c. Conditional participation on the panel.Any such action will be by majority vote of the committee at any regularly scheduled meeting or by telephone poll or other communication deemed appropriate.
5. Any such action may be appealed within 30 days of the service of the notice of the committee's action by written notice of appeal to the Chair of the VSB-VLRS Committee giving reasons and facts for appeal of the committee's action. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal, the Chair of the VSB-VLRS Committee or his or her designees will convene a three-member panel of current Bar Council members to review the committee's action and the written notice of appeal within 30 days of its receipt.
6. If the review panel finds the committee's action to be supported by substantial evidence, it will notify the panel member of its decision in writing. If the review panel finds the committee's action to be unsupported by substantial evidence, or otherwise finds evidence of compliance with rules and regulations cited for alleged noncompliance or violation, the review panel will notify the panel member, withdraw the committee's decision, and reinstate the panel member.
7. The filing or pendency of any notice for appeal by the panel member does not stay the VSB-VLRS Committee's action.
8. Complaints from members of the public or attorneys regarding conduct allegedly constituting violations of noncompliance with disciplinary provisions with the Code of Professional Responsibility will be referred for such other action as is necessary according to the disciplinary procedures defined by the Code of Virginia and the Rules of Professional Conduct.



# VA Lawyer Referral Service

VLRS  
1111 East Main Street  
Suite 700  
Richmond, VA 23219-0026  
(804) 775-0591 • www.VLRS.net

**For Office Use Only**  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Judicial Circuit \_\_\_\_\_

**This application reflects policy effective as of January 1, 2015.**

VLRS Attorney panel membership fee: \$95.00  
More than 35 categories, please remit an additional \$10.00 per category  
Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ VSB ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Law Firm \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Attorneys \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Is law office location handicap/wheelchair accessible?  Yes  No

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my referral notices by:  Fax  Email  Both

Courts Practiced:  JDR  Circuit  General District  Court of Appeals  
 Virginia Supreme Court  Federal  Bankruptcy  Tax

Active State Licenses \_\_\_\_\_ Licenses/Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

Office Hours: Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings \_\_\_\_\_ Weekends \_\_\_\_\_

I will take referrals from the following localities: \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign Languages spoken by Attorney Panel Member \_\_\_\_\_

I will accept inmate referrals (check one)  Yes  No

The Supreme Court of Virginia has never established standards for attorney specialization. I understand that this application and statement does not authorize me to hold myself out as a specialist. **I have read and I will abide** by all rules and regulations of the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service. Rules and regulations may be accessed at the above Web site and on the preceding page of this application.

### Statement for Panel Members of the Lawyer Referral Service

I regularly practice in the areas indicated in this application and I feel that I am competent to handle most cases in those areas, as stated in the VLRS rules. By submitting this application, I hereby certify I will continue to maintain competence in the areas of law I have selected in this application.

### Statement for Newly Admitted Attorneys

I plan to practice regularly in the areas indicated in this application and I will exercise all due diligence in making myself competent to handle most cases in those areas.

Malpractice Insurance Certificate: I want to become a member of the VLRS. I certify that I am licensed to practice in Virginia, that I am covered by an Errors and Omissions Insurance Policy with limits of not less than \$100,000/\$300,000 and that I will maintain this policy throughout the period of my participation on the VLRS panel.

Name of Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select regularly practiced areas of law on following page to complete your application. Incomplete application may result in delayed membership. Completed application must accompany VLRS membership fee.**

# VLRS recommends you select (check) no more than 35 categories

more than 35 categories are subject to review

## I. Admin/Government

- Municipal
  - Dept. of Social Services Complaints
  - Dept. of Health Complaints
    - Vital Records
    - Corrections
  - Child Protective Services Complaints
  - DMV Complaints
  - Driver License Restoration/Restricted
- Church
- Education
  - School Violence
  - Special Education/IEP Disputes
  - Universities/Colleges
  - Expulsion/Criminal Behavior
- Transportation
- Communication
- State Worker Compensation
- Federal Worker Compensation
- Longshoreman & Harbor Workers Compensation Act
- Veterans' Benefits/Pension/Disability
- Immigration
- Welfare/Food Stamps
- Environmental
- Restoration of Firearm Rights
- Appeals

## II. Real Estate

- Settlement
- Contract/Deeds
- Foreclosure
  - Loan Modification
- Boundary Disputes
- Partitions
- Zoning
- Condemnation/Eminent Domain/Easement
- Condo/Time Share
- Landlord
- Tenant
- Construction/Liens
- Homeowners Association
- Section 8/HUD
- Fair Housing/Discrimination
- Commercial Leasing
- Appeals

## III. Criminal Law

- Felony
- Misdemeanor
- Traffic
- DUI/DWI
- Expungement
- Civil Liberties /Miranda Rights Violation
- Firearms/Concealed Weapons Violation
- Juvenile
- Parole Board
- Pardons
- Probation
- Habeas Corpus
- Habitual Offender
- False Arrest
- Child/Spousal Abuse
- Appeals

## IV. Military Law

- Court Martial
- Benefit Disputes
- Discharge
- Military Divorce
- Appeals
- Injury/War-time

## V. Estates, Wills, Trusts

- Estate Planning
- Wills
- Living Wills
- Probate
- Will Contest
- Trusts
- Appeals

## VI. Disability Rights

- Education
- Housing
- Employment
- Access to Services
- SS Disability/ Adult
- SS Disability/Juvenile
- Appeals
- SSD Overpayment

## VII. Elder law

- Guardianship
- Power of Attorney
- Commitment
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- SSI/Adult
- SSI/Juvenile
- SSI/Survivor Benefits
- Appeals
- SSI Overpayment

## VIII. Labor Law

- Unemployment Compensation
- Discrimination/Harassment
- Disputes/Wages
- Union Disputes
- Pension/Benefits
- State/Federal Grievances
- Asbestos
- Black Lung
- Unfair Firing
- Sexual Harassment
- Appeals
- Non-compete Agreement/Contract
- Professional Contract/Physicians
- Employee  Employer
  - Private
  - State
  - Federal

## IX. Taxation

- Corporate
- Individual
- Property
- Small Business
- Appeals

## X. Business Law

- Contracts
- Federal Government Contracts
- Corporate
- Partnership
- Sole Proprietor
- Nonprofit
- Franchise
- Registered Agent
- Securities/Stocks
- Appeals

## XI. Family Law

- Adoption
- Name Change
- Divorce
- No Fault Divorce
- Annulment
- Custody
- Paternity
- Support/Alimony
- Visitation
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Terminate Parental Rights
- Grandparents' Rights
- Guardian Ad Litem
- LGBT Rights
- Appeals

## XII. Bankruptcy Law

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12
- Chapter 13
- Creditor

## XIII. Litigation

- Defamation/Slander/Libel
- Personal Injury/Property Damage
  - Mental/Emotional
  - Automobile/Vehicular Accidents
  - Slip and Fall
  - Pedestrian
  - School/Daycare Neglect/Abuse
  - Adult/Senior Neglect/Abuse
  - Nursing Home Abuse/Neglect
  - Products Liability
  - Dog Bite
  - Sexual Assault/Abuse/STDs
  - Assault/Malicious Wounding
  - Toxic Torts/Mold
  - Public Transportation Accidents
  - Maritime/Boating Injury
  - Aviation/Airplane Crashes
- Property Damage Only
- Medical Malpractice
- Dental Malpractice
- Legal Malpractice
- Veterinary Malpractice
- Professional Malpractice
- Pharmacy Malpractice
- Stockbroker Malpractice/Fraud
- Law Enforcement Misconduct/Battery

## XIII. Litigation (cont.)

- Uniform Commercial Code
- Plaintiff
- Defendant
- Class Action
- Pro Se
- Wrongful Incarceration
- Inmate Cases/1983 U.S.C.
- Wrongful Death
- Bullying/Stalking
- Appeals

## XIV. Intellectual Property

- Patents
- Trademarks
- Copyrights
- Infringements
- Computer Law
- Entertainment Law
- Domain Name Dispute
- Appeals

## XV. Consumer Law

- Contracts
  - Auto
  - Contractors
  - Internet/Cyber Fraud
  - Auction
- Credit Reporting Errors/Dispute
- Identity Theft
- Car Repair Disputes
- Lemon Law
- Discrimination/Civil Rights
- Civil Rights/Harassment
- Privacy Act
- HIPAA
- Patient Rights
- Auto Repossession
- Student Loan
- Defective Products
- Sweepstakes/Lottery Winnings
- Appeals

## XVI. Insurance

- Claims Dispute
  - Auto
  - Health/Medical
  - Home
  - Life
- Long/Short Term Disability
- Appeals

## XVII. Collections

- Debtor
- Creditor
- Appeals
- Small Claims

## XVIII. Other Specialties

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