

Washington State Bar Association Moderate Means Program

Lawyers Helping the People of Washington



A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAW SCHOOLS OF
Gonzaga University, Seattle University, and the University of Washington

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the Moderate Means Program work?

This program is intended to offer reduced-fee assistance in family, housing, consumer, and unemployment law for moderate income clients. Potential clients apply for legal assistance online or by phone. Law students, under the supervision of a law school staff attorney, conduct a full intake in preparation for referral to a Moderate Means Program participant. This intake includes income information and details of the case. Law students contact legal professionals in the Moderate Means Program to place the case. If the attorney or LLLT agrees to speak with the applicant, the law student provides the legal professional's name and contact information to the applicant. The applicant directly contacts the legal professional for an initial consultation. Neither the WSBA nor the law schools schedule appointments between applicants and legal professionals.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Attorneys and LLLTs must be an active WSBA license holder in good standing and carry their own malpractice insurance.

What are the benefits to joining?

Moderate Means Program participants can enjoy a number of benefits to joining.

- ❖ **Build Your Practice:** The Moderate Means Program can help legal professionals build their practice by being added to a referral network with a large volume of clients.
- ❖ **Access Free CLE Trainings:** Moderate Means Program participants can access free CLE trainings. To access this portfolio of CLE programs, email publicservice@wsba.org with your name, bar number, and a confirmation of your participation in the program.
- ❖ **Join the Supreme Court Honor Roll:** Any lawyer who reports performing at least 50 hours of pro bono publico in a calendar year is placed on the WSBA Supreme Court Honor Roll. Low bono, reduced rate legal service hours provided through the Moderate Means Program count towards pro bono publico hours.
- ❖ **Mentorship:** The Moderate Means Program can connect you with experienced mentors in the areas of unemployment, housing, family, and consumer law to assist you with any MMP cases.

How do I sign up?

Sign in to MyWSBA.org using your Bar number, then click "Moderate Means Application".

I don't practice in family, housing, unemployment or consumer law; can I still participate?

Yes! Attorneys may request attorney mentors in family, housing, unemployment, or consumer law.

LLLTs may request LLLT mentors for family law matters, as set forth under [APR 28](#).

How many referrals will I get?

The number of referrals you get depends on the number of inquiries, the counties of need, and types of cases we receive. To maximize your chances of getting a referral, sign up outside your primary county of practice, especially in rural and Eastside counties in Washington. King and Spokane counties have the highest amount of legal professionals, while rural areas have very few. Spanish-speaking legal professionals are always in high demand.

Do you provide any free training?

Moderate Means Program participants can access [free CLEs](#) in the WSBA Public Service Education library. To gain access, contact publicservice@wsba.org with your name, bar number, and a confirmation of your participation in the Moderate Means Program.

The Alliance for Equal Justice organizations also offer COVID-19 specific trainings for professionals in the areas of [unemployment](#) and [housing](#).

How much do I charge?

The participating legal professional and client will negotiate and determine the fee for representation. Neither WSBA nor the law schools will be involved in setting, monitoring, or enforcing this negotiation and fee agreement. Any and all fees agreed upon by lawyers and their clients are subject to the requirements of [Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5](#) and [LLLT Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5](#). Lawyers and LLLTs are encouraged to provide written fee agreements to ensure that all parties understand the scope and cost of representation.

We suggest the sliding scale below based on where the client falls within the [Federal Poverty Level](#) (FPL). Each client's FPL will be provided upon

Attorneys:

Client income 200–250% of the FPL: reduce fee by 75%

Client income 250–350% of the FPL: reduce fee by 50%

Client income 350–400% of the FPL: reduce fee by 25%

Limited License Legal Professionals:

Client income 200-250% FPL = reduce fee by 50%

Client income 250-400% FPL = reduce fee by 25%

For comprehensive information, read our [Moderate Means Program Manual](#) and email publicservice@wsba.org.