

Lawyer Referral

The Lawyer Referral and Information Service Newsletter



Vol. 7 No. 1

Spring 2014

LRIS launches pilot program to help veterans

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of more than 240 members from around the state, the Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) has launched a pilot project to provide discounted legal assistance to military veterans. The referral panel was established shortly after Veterans Day and runs through Memorial Day 2014.

Participating attorneys have agreed to provide free phone consultations and offer a 25 percent discount on their regular fees. The program provides veterans a host of legal services, not just those related to obtaining veteran's benefits.

The creation of a panel to assist veterans with legal matters was among the recommendations contained in a report issued in September 2012 by the State Bar's Special Committee on Veterans.

"New York is home to more than 988,000 military veterans, many of whom find themselves in situations in which they need legal assistance," said Anna K. Christian of Albany (Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP), who chairs the Bar Association's Committee on Lawyer Referral Service.

"I'm pleased that so many attorneys have enthusiastically embraced this opportunity to help our veterans in their time of need," said Christian.

Also participating in the program are the Westchester County Bar Association and the Richmond County Bar Association. The State Bar is continuing to recruit attorneys and local bar associations to participate in the program to meet the demand for these services.

Veterans who wish to take advantage of the discounted legal services should call 1-800-342-3661 or email lr@nysba.org. Attorneys who wish to assist veterans should visit www.nysba.org/vetvolunteer for an application. If attorneys are not available to assist veterans in a particular area, the State Bar will attempt to connect these veterans with other available resources.

Inside

- Note from Chair
Anna K. Christian
- Q & A
- Retired Committee
Member: Al Charne
- LRIS Quick Tips

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION



Lower-cost Legal Help for Veterans Statewide

Call 1-800-342-3661
or email LR@nysba.org

Coordinated by the Lawyer Referral Service of the New York State Bar Association
(Special program runs through Memorial Day 2014.)



Q&A

In an effort to assist you and your staff with some common inquiries below are answers to frequently asked questions.

What is the LRIS membership fee?

LRIS panel members pay an annual fee of \$75 (\$125 for non-NYSBA members).

What is the referral fee if a client retains my services?

LRIS panel members agree to remit 10% of their entire fee if the fee is \$500 or more.

Do I need to carry malpractice insurance?

Yes, LRIS panel members are required to provide proof of malpractice insurance in the minimum amount of \$100,000.

How much should I be charging for the initial ½ hour consultation?

The consultation fee is \$35.

What if I can't help a client that was referred to me?

If you decline a referral for any reason, you should refer the client back to the LRIS. A LRIS client can also be seen by another attorney in your firm but the referral will be tracked as a referral to you.

Do I have to have an office in the County that I want to receive referrals from?

Yes, attorney members must have an office in one of our 44* service counties to be eligible to participate in our referral panel.

How do I sign up?

Download the LRIS application at www.nysba.org/joinlr or call 1.800.342.3661 or email lr@nysba.org to have an application mailed to you.

* Go to www.nysba.org/joinlr for a complete list of service counties.

Note from the Chair

This year our special Veterans Panel came to fruition and marks the high level of commitment and excellence of our Panel Members- many of whom signed on to participate. We recognize: Mark E. Anderson, Michael E. Basile, Jeffrey Bochiechio, Peter Clark, Clifford Falk, Timothy J. Fennell, Daniel Heppner, Heather S. Lanza, Karl E. Manne, Jodi Lynn Mansion, Thomas J. Melanson, Robert Mullin, Jr., David J. Pajak, Courtney S. Radick, Rosemarie Richards, Barry Sack, Michael Shultes, John H. Snyder, Elena Jaffe Tastensen, James P. Trainor, Mark R. Walling, and Philip A. Wellner. Special thanks to each of you for being ready for our veterans in need of legal services. To be an effective LRIS is to respond to the changing needs of the communities and public we serve, with the Iraq and Afghanistan wars coming to

a close-out most recently deployed soldiers are coming home. (For more information go to: www.nysba.org/veterans.)

The themes in our Spring Newsletter: new Veterans Panel and accolades for Al Charne, an outstanding LRIS committee member now retiring from an admirable career in Lawyer Referral Service, each illustrate facets of the Lawyer Referral Service and LRIS Committee's mission and work in action: to make legal services more readily available to the public, to encourage and assist local bars in this mission, to cooperate with the ABA standing committee on LRS and to report to the Executive committee and the House of Delegates on our activities as appropriate.

Continued on page 4

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT

It's All New!

RESPONSIVE DESIGN

NYSBA's new website and Communities feature responsive design – so when you access our site using a tablet or smartphone you get to view the site in a way that is optimized for your device. If you prefer the full view, that's always an option.

When you need information fast while using a mobile device, NYSBA's at your fingertips.

TAKE YOUR COMMUNITIES WITH YOU TOO!

Take your Communities with you using the new MemberCentric mobile app and make the most of NYSBA meetings using NYSBA's new EventSentinal mobile app. Both apps are available in the Apple and Android App stores.



Farewell to Retired Committee Member

LRS Committee Member, Allen J. Charne, retires after 30 years as the Executive Director of the New York City Legal Referral Service.

Al served on the State Bar's Committee on Lawyer Referral Service for nearly a decade. He was the recipient of the Lawyer Referral Service Angelo T. Cometa Award in 2008 for providing the people of New York City with outstanding lawyer referral services.

Prior to LRS

Al is also a veteran, having served in the United States Navy for four years before entering Thomas Jefferson Law School in San Diego. He practiced law for seven years in California before relocating to New York.

From our Chair

"Al Charne exemplifies the very best for those in the field of legal

referral services. His directorship at the NYC Legal Referral Service, and membership on our Committee reflect what legal referral services can and should be about: meeting the highest standard of public service through quality referrals, innovative thinking, and developing the field by training and mentoring others at the annual ABA referral service workshops. The committee will miss Al's wealth of knowledge, wit and dedication. We wish him well in his retirement", said Anna K. Christian of Albany (Boies, Schiller & Flexner), Chair of the Committee on Lawyer Referral Service.

Al is being succeeded by George Wolff, who most recently worked as the Oregon State Bar's Referral and Information Service Manager.



Allen J. Charne, Esq.

LRIS Quick Tips and Reminders

- Please refer callers back to the LRIS if you can not assist them.
- Be sure to provide our office with the most up- to-date copy of your malpractice insurance declaration page.
- If you are going to be out of the office for an extended period of time contact the LRIS to hold your referrals. Let us know the date you are leaving and the date you want referrals to resume.
- Please let us know if you practice an area of the law not listed on the LRIS application.



Committee on Lawyer Referral Service

Anna K. Christian, Esq., *Chair*

Michael E. Basile, Esq.

Benjamin D. Bianco, Esq.

Donna C. Chin, Esq.

William A. Favreau, Esq.

Timothy J. Fennell, Esq.

Nadine Y. From, Esq.

Lawrence W. Golden, Esq.

Ronald J. Kim, Esq.

Michael C. Lancer, Esq.

David J. Pajak, Esq.

Mark T. Starkman, Esq.

Soma S. Syed, Esq.

Elena Jaffe Tastensen, Esq.

Arthur N. Terranova, Esq.

Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq.

Note from the Chair

Continued from page 2

In October, Eva Valentin-Espinal and I attended the ABA Lawyer Referral Service Workshops in Atlanta-topics of import: Implementation of an LRIS Strategic Plan, presented by *Carole Conn, LRIS Director of Public Service Program, San Francisco*, (every day Eva implements and develops plans of action that encompass all aspects of achieving LRIS's goals-from marketing, financing, recruiting, training, educating, networking and outreach into NYSBA and the greater community- the Committee gives her the support and oversight she needs to achieve these goals); *The Art and Politics of LRIS Budgeting and Financing*, presented by

Marion Smithberger, Director, Columbus Bar Association, (finances and resources available being the crux of any project); and *Building a Better LRIS Committee* presented by: *Jack Beckford, Nonprofit University Georgia Center for Nonprofits*, teaches four fundamentals implemented by effective committees: strategy, accountability, relationships, dynamics. The NYSBA LRIS thrives due to our active, dynamic, experienced, problem solving, and caring committee members- as our recent meeting in NYC proved. So thank you and let's keep up the good work!

Anna K. Christian, Committee Chair



"I know I'm a lawyer. What I'm saying is it might be time to hire a better lawyer."



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
Lawyer Referral

Eva Valentin-Espinal, Coordinator,
Lawyer Referral and Information Service

www.nysba.org

Copyright 2014

CONNECT WITH NYSBA

Visit us on the Web: www.nysba.org

Follow us on Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/nysba](https://twitter.com/nysba)

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nysba

Join the NYSBA LinkedIn group:

www.nysba.org/LinkedIn

