

**SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN
LAWYER REFERRAL AND INFORMATION SERVICE
ANNUAL ATTORNEY MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
BASF ID #	
\$	
State Bar	

Bar Association of San Francisco

201 Mission Street, 4th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 477-2374

URL: www.sfbbar.org

☐ LRIS Full Membership Year: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

☐ LRIS Half Membership Year: Jan. 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

Name: _____ San Francisco Telephone #: _____

E-mail address: _____ Fax #: _____

San Francisco Office*: _____
(office number and street) (suite #) (zip)

*(For non-court appointment panels please note: The practice of law is evolving in terms of remote accessibility, please contact us if you have questions/concerns regarding the office requirement.)

Is your office wheelchair accessible? ☐ Yes ☐ No

State Bar Number*: _____

*(**Federal Attorneys, please note:** If you are an attorney focused on practicing in the federal jurisdictions of tax, immigration or bankruptcy law please contact the LRIS for more information concerning CA state bar membership rules)

Admission and ability to practice in other states: _____

Other languages spoken by ☐ applicant ☐ by office staff: _____
(must be sufficient fluency for purposes of consultation AND representation)

For the hearing impaired: ☐ American Sign Language ☐ TDD telephone equipment ☐ Email

DUES: Sign and return this form with appropriate LRIS panel dues as follows:

- \$125.00 (includes one regular fee panel)
- \$60.00 for each additional regular fee panel.

After January 1, 2024, LRIS half membership-year dues are \$60.00 for one panel/\$30.00 for each additional regular fee panel. Make checks payable to: The Bar Association of San Francisco.

NON-BASF MEMBERS: Attorneys who are not members of The Bar Association of San Francisco must pay an additional non-member fee of \$75.00, to help defray BASF's administrative costs.

BASF member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For more information on becoming a BASF member, please visit

https://login.sfbbar.org/membership_application/

NEW/RENEWING LAWYER REFERRAL AND INFORMATION SERVICE MEMBERS: Have you previously been a member of BASF's San Francisco-Marine Lawyer Referral and Information Service?

☐ Yes ☐ No

APPOINTMENTS: Please indicate whether your office can make appointments for you: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Do you take appointments: ☐ After 5:30 p.m. ☐ Saturdays ☐ Sundays

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS INSURANCE: Errors and omissions insurance, in the amount of not less than \$100,000.00 for each occurrence and \$300,000.00 aggregate per year, is a requirement of membership. Applicant must agree to maintain coverage throughout representation of clients referred by the Lawyer Referral and Information Service arising from the subject matter of the original referral. **Please provide a copy of the declarations page of your policy along with this agreement, if we do not already have one on file for you.**

OFFICE VISIT: New applicants to *non-court appointment* LRIS panels agree to a brief visit with an LRIS staff member and/or Director at the applicant's San Francisco office prior to admittance to the panel(s). The office visit is arranged once all membership qualifications and malpractice insurance requirements have been met, and applicable fees have been paid. The purpose of the office visit is to acquaint the applicant with the processes of the LRIS and answer any questions about the service that the applicant may have.

REGULAR FEE PANELS: Check the panels from which you wish to receive referrals. You must complete separate applications to qualify for all regular fee panels except for the General Law Panel (see below). Please call (415) 782-8951 for experience panel application forms or information about panel membership or visit our website at www.sfbar.org/lawyerreferral.

REGULAR FEE PANELS:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Law (please see below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration and Naturalization | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate, Wills, & Estate Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Insolvency Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate & Landlord-Tenant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquency Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxation Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dependency Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers' Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Malpractice | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Law and Veteran's Benefits Panel | |

GENERAL LAW PANEL: Check the appropriate boxes below for the areas on this panel for which you want to receive referrals. You may select as many areas of the General Law Panel as you wish. However, you must possess the knowledge and skill necessary to competently perform legal services for the areas selected. ALL applicants applying to the areas of *Collection/Collection Defense, *Consumer Credit, and *Lemon Law shall provide a written statement of experience for these areas. For all other areas selected, a written statement may be requested at the discretion of the LRIS Director.

I possess the necessary knowledge and skills to competently represent clients in the following areas of law:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Property Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment Hearings | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Claims Court Appeal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interstate Commerce Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> *Lemon Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Claims Court Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DMV | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Infractions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Collection/Collection Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change | <input type="checkbox"/> TRO (non-domestic) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Consumer and Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> Penal Rights or Prison Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

LOW FEE PANELS: (no additional membership dues) There are no specific experience requirements for Low Fee Panels, except for the Criminal, Delinquency, Dependency Law Panels and the Collaborative Law and Limited Scope Representation categories of the Family Law Panel. However, you must possess the knowledge and skill to competently perform legal services for the areas selected. ALL applicants applying to low fee panels, who are not otherwise qualified on the Regular Fee Panel(s) for the selected area(s), must provide a written statement of experience for the area(s) selected.

To qualify for a low fee referral, individual clients must meet income eligibility guidelines established by the Service. Attorneys who serve on a low fee panel must agree to charge substantially less than their customary rate, understood to mean at least a 50% reduction in fees. Flat fee and payment plans for services are strongly encouraged when working with low-income clients.

I possess the knowledge and skill necessary to competently represent clients in the following areas of law:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Law | <input type="checkbox"/> General Law (check above) | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Relations (Defense only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Law* | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration and Naturalization | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury (Defense only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquency Law* | <input type="checkbox"/> Insolvency Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate, Wills, & Estate Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dependency Law* | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate & Landlord-Tenant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law** | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Law* | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxation Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Fee Education Panel | | |

* Must meet experience requirements for membership on the regular fee panels

**Collaborative Law and Limited Scope Representation categories of the Family Law Panel require regular fee panel experience.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) Attorneys participating in this program assist military personnel and their families, as well as veterans, with legal services at a substantially reduced fee (50% reduction or more) in a wide variety of civil law practice areas. The LRIS attorney must meet the experience requirements as established on the regular fee panels to participate (see above). Please indicate if you would like to be a MAP attorney: ☐Y ☐N

LAWYERS ON CALL PROGRAM: This program affords members of the public who have very basic legal questions an opportunity to speak with an LRIS panel attorney by telephone for up to 15 minutes for brief legal advice. The LRIS attorney must meet the experience qualifications for a given practice area panel(s) to be scheduled for an advice call. Please indicate if you would like to participate in this program: ☐Y ☐N

JUSTICE AND DIVERSITY CENTER PRO BONO REPRESENTATION PROGRAM: If you do not already participate in the Justice and Diversity Center's Pro Bono Representation Program, and would like to, please check here and you will be contacted with further information: ☐

VOLUNTEER COURT-APPOINTMENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS: These programs are designed to help attorneys gain experience in the areas of criminal, delinquency and dependency law by working with an experienced practitioner who has volunteered to act as a mentor. All work undertaken by the attorney being mentored shall be done in collaboration with the mentor who, as the attorney of record, shall make all court appearances unless the mentor, client and Court agree an appearance may be made by the attorney being

mentored so long as the mentor is present in Court. In order to serve as a mentor, you must be a member of the regular fee Criminal, Delinquency, Dependency or Family Court Panels.

- ☐ Yes, I am interested in participating as a mentor on this program
☐ Criminal Law ☐ Delinquency Law ☐ Dependency Law ☐ Family Law

ATTORNEY-TO-ATTORNEY ADVICE PROGRAM: This service is available to any attorney seeking expertise in a particular practice area and LRIS panel attorneys are strongly encouraged to use this resource as necessary. Advice is needed for simple procedures as well as complex, esoteric legal issues. This attorney service is available to facilitate compliance with the State Bar of California Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1. There is no referral fee for attorney-to-attorney advice referrals. Please indicate that you meet the experience panel requirements and are interested in advising other attorneys, especially legal service lawyers or inexperienced attorneys, in the following areas of law:

- ☐ Yes, I am interested in participating in this program and can advise in the subject following areas:

AGREEMENT

The San Francisco-Marin Lawyer Referral and Information Service (“LRIS”) of the Bar Association of San Francisco (“BASF”) makes available to the public the services of experienced qualified attorneys who are members of the LRIS. The applicant is applying for Panel membership in the LRIS. In exchange for LRIS referrals, applicant agrees to the following conditions and covenants:

1. Applicant represents that she or he has read the LRIS Rules and agrees to abide by them and by those that may be later adopted. Rules are incorporated by reference. Applicant further represents that she or he has read and is familiar with the State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct, especially Rule 1.1.
2. For each Panel referral, applicant shall personally conduct a one-half hour consultation without charge. If the consultation exceeds 30 minutes and the attorney intends to charge the client, applicant shall inform the client of the fee to be charged at the conclusion of the LRIS arranged consultation. Applicant shall then obtain the client’s consent to provide any further services in advance of providing such services. All fee arrangements with LRIS clients must be in writing. The completion of all or any part of the initial consultation shall not be conditioned upon the acceptance by the client of the applicant’s fee agreement. In the event that the client has not prepaid the LRIS consultation fee by credit card, Applicant shall collect and forward that fee, along with the referral disposition form, to the LRIS within 7 days of receipt.
3. If for any reason the applicant is unable or unwilling to handle the client’s matter, the applicant shall refer the client back to the LRIS. If the applicant has a recommendation of a referral to a non-LRIS panel attorney, the applicant must contact the Director to further discuss.
4. Applicant shall pay to the LRIS forwarding fees according to the schedules set forth under A, B, C, and D, below. These fees are based on the total attorneys’ fees which arise out of the subject matter of the original referral. “Total attorneys’ fees” are fees received by the applicant, partners, or associates, **or by any attorney should the case have been transferred, with or without LRIS consent.** If you refer an LRIS client to another attorney, you remain responsible for all forwarding fees due to LRIS. The forwarding fee you will be responsible for is based on the total attorneys’ fees received by yourself and/or by any attorney to whom you have referred the client, even if you receive no fee yourself. If more than one case arises out of the subject matter of the original referral, attorneys’ fees from the separate cases shall be combined for purposes of calculating the forwarding fees owing to the Service. Applicant shall

not pass LRIS forwarding fees on to any client, either directly or indirectly, through an increase in the rate that would ordinarily be charged for the matter, or in any other manner.

Your signature here indicates that you understand and agree to the contents of paragraph 4, above.

X Date: _____ Signature: _____

FORWARDING FEE SCHEDULES

Please note that forwarding fees are not due on matters referred on the Low Fee Panels

A. On all **contingent fee** cases (excepting medical malpractice cases and landlord-tenant cases, see schedules below) where the clients' obligation to pay fees is dependent upon the outcome of the matter and court/board approved fees as in state workers' compensation cases and probate cases (excepting extraordinary fees awarded in probate cases which are calculated at the non-contingency fee rates), applicant shall pay the following forwarding fees AND shall include with each payment to the LRIS a copy of the settlement statement, including but not limited to: court awards, compromise & release agreements, Social Security Administration benefits decisions, signed settlement agreements. Settlement documentation shall include the total settlement amount, attorneys' fees, itemized costs, the amount received by the client, and a copy of the signed fee agreement.

(1) On fees of \$1,000-\$1,999, 15% of total attorney fees;	(7) On fees of \$12,000-13,999, 21% of total attorney fees;
(2) On fees of \$2,000-\$3,999, 16% of total attorney fees;	(8) On fees of \$14,000-15,999, 22% of total attorney fees;
(3) On fees of \$4,000-\$5,999, 17% of total attorney fees;	(9) On fees of \$16,000-17,999, 23% of total attorney fees;
(4) On fees of \$6,000-7,999, 18% of total attorney fees;	(10) On fees of \$18,000-19,999, 24% of total attorney fees;
(5) On fees of \$8,000-9,999, 19% of total attorney fees;	(11) On fees of \$20,000 and above, 25% of total attorney fees
(6) On fees of \$10,000-11,999, 20% of total attorney fees;	

B. On all **contingency fee medical malpractice cases** where the clients' obligation to pay fees is dependent upon the outcome of the matter, applicant shall pay the following forwarding fees

(1) 15% of total attorney fees.

C. On all **contingency fee landlord tenant cases** where the clients' obligation to pay fees is dependent upon the outcome of the matter, applicant shall pay the following forwarding fees:

(1) 15% of total attorney fees.

D. On all **non-contingent fee** cases referred on a regular fee panel, applicant shall pay the following forwarding fees (with the exception of family law cases, see D. below):

(1) 10% of total attorney fees.

E. On all **non-contingent family law cases** referred on the regular fee panel, applicant shall pay the follow forwarding fee:

(1) 5% of attorney fees.

F. On court-appointed family, juvenile dependency, delinquency and adult criminal cases, pursuant to contract with the Superior Court, applicant shall pay 5% of total fees paid by the Court as determined by the Superior Court. A portion of these fees is deducted and remitted to the Service; the balance of the deducted fees is retained by the Court to help defray the administrative cost of the court-appointment billing programs.

G. All forwarding fees are to be paid within twenty (20) days of receipt of the attorneys' fees and are due whether or not applicant is at that time an LRIS member. An additional interest charge at the then maximum legal rate may be assessed on any fees not received by the LRIS 60 days after receipt of attorney fees. Upon request, applicant shall provide the LRIS with copies of all fee agreements.

H. Whether or not applicant is still an LRIS member when they are due, applicant shall complete and return to the LRIS all reports requested by the LRIS, including, but not limited to, quarterly Case Status Reports and disposition reports.

I. The LRIS reserves the right to contact clients referred to the panel attorney in the event that the panel attorney does not provide timely reporting of the status of the case, or as appropriate.

J. The prevailing party in any proceeding or action arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be entitled to receive its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with such proceeding or action.

Your signature here indicates that you understand and agree to the contents of paragraph 3(G), above.

X Date: _____ Signature: _____

4. Applicant shall immediately notify the LRIS should the applicant become ineligible or unable to accept referrals.

5. Applicant shall notify the LRIS within 10 days of written notice that a complaint has been filed against applicant with or an investigation has been commenced by the State Bar of California ("State Bar"), or like federal or state disciplinary entity in any state, or that any complaint criminal in nature has been filed anywhere against applicant. This obligation to notify also applies should the applicant know or have a reasonable belief that such a complaint has been filed with or investigation has been commenced by the State Bar of California or like federal or state disciplinary entity in any state. In instances where past discipline has occurred, applicant must notify the LRIS of such fact and provide a copy of the record of discipline imposed by the State Bar of California or other federal or state disciplinary entity.

6. Applicant shall submit any fee dispute with a person referred by the LRIS, concerning the subject matter of the original referral, to arbitration by the State Bar of California's Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program, regardless of when the dispute arises. Arbitration will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the appropriate BASF Committee. Applicant or the LRIS shall submit any dispute regarding fees owed to the LRIS, regardless of when the dispute arises, to binding arbitration by JAMS, or such other independent arbitration service with which BASF has entered into an agreement to provide arbitration services to BASF on

a pro bono basis, which service shall appoint an arbitrator. The claimant first filing for arbitration shall select the forum, e.g., JAMS or other independent arbitration service with which BASF has entered into an agreement to provide arbitration services to BASF on a pro bono basis. Arbitration will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the arbitration service provider. For attorneys appointed by the Superior Court through BASF's Indigent Defense Administration (IDA) or Dependency Representation Program (DRP), applicant agrees to submit fee disputes in court-appointed cases for review by such committee(s) as may be established by the LRIS Committee to resolve such disputes, according to the Fee Audit Procedures, and when a resolution is not reached with an IDA or DRP Attorney Administrator.

7. Applicant represents that she or he is an active member of the State Bar of California, in good standing (**Federal Attorneys, please note:** If you are an attorney focused on practicing in the federal jurisdictions of tax, immigration or bankruptcy law please contact the LRIS for more information concerning CA state bar membership rules); has not been previously removed from a panel of the LRIS; maintains a designated office open to the public in San Francisco County available to receive mail, accept service of process and meet with clients during regular business hours; lists the office address on all web pages, court pleadings, business cards and stationery; and lists the areas of practice for which applicant has been approved to participate in the LRIS on his or her website as well. (**For non-court appointment panels please note:** The practice of law is evolving in terms of remote accessibility, please contact us if you have questions/concerns regarding the office requirement.) Applicant also represent that applicant is not the subject of any disciplinary proceeding with any State Bar, or like federal or state disciplinary entity in any state; has no criminal charges pending anywhere; has not been convicted of a criminal offense; and has had no disciplinary proceedings adversely resolved against applicant which have resulted in public discipline by the State Bar, or like federal or state disciplinary entity in any state. If applicant cannot make these representations, applicant shall attach a complete explanation along with a copy of their record of discipline from the State Bar, or like organization in any other state.

8. Applicant shall provide written notification to the Director of the LRIS if he/she has filed for bankruptcy during the course of his/her membership with the LRIS, or after membership with the LRIS while forwarding fees are still owing to the Service.

9. Applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless BASF, its officers, directors, members, and employees and the Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee from any claim, demand, action, liability, expense, or loss resulting in whole or in part from applicant's handling of any LRIS referral or by applicant's failure to comply with any provision of the Agreement.

10. Applicant waives all claims against BASF and the San Francisco-Marín Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee for any liability or loss arising out of the operation of the LRIS.

Your signature here indicates that you understand and agree to the entire contents of this agreement.

X Date: _____ Signature: _____