

**LRS MODEST MEANS PROGRAM PANEL REGISTRATION AGREEMENT**  
**(For Attorneys interested in participating in the SBM Modest Means Program)**

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ P# \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I understand the State Bar of Michigan Pilot LRS program is introducing a Modest Means Program (“MMP”) designed to assist lower and moderate income people who may be ineligible for legal aid programs. I wish to participate in the MMP and accept the terms of this Agreement.

Further information about the MMP, including eligibility requirements and attorney rates, is on page 3 of this Agreement and also available [online](#), both of which are a part of this Agreement.

1. I will be enrolled in the MMP for the time I am registered in the Pilot LRS program. I understand that I can withdraw from the MMP at any time, and that I will receive MMP referrals from within the same geographic area(s) in which I am currently registered. If not already registered for the LRS Panel, I will complete Page 2 of this form.

2. I will accept MMP referrals in the areas of practice marked below:

<u>Family Law</u>	<u>Consumer Bankruptcy</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorce/Separation	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Custody/Support	
<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Judgement Matters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paternity	

3. I understand the MMP will be governed by the Rules that govern the Pilot LRS program except as follows:

- a. Attorney fees are governed by the fee schedule found on the page 3 of this Agreement, and any legal services a Panelist provides must be consistent with the MMP written fee agreement, [available here](#), and which must be executed before legal services are provided and any retainer or fee is received.
- b. MMP referrals are not subject to the 10% attorney fee remittance that otherwise applies to Pilot LRS program referrals as the 10% fee is waived for MMP referrals.
- c. Absent a request for review from a consumer, the panelist assigned an MMP referral will decide whether the caller meets MMP eligibility standards. If the panelist determines that the consumer does not meet eligibility standards, the panelist must notify the MMP. The eligibility Standards are on page 3.

I accept this Agreement and agree to be bound by it, the [Pilot LRS Rules and the MMP Rules](#) set forth in this Agreement, including on page 3.

Signature of Panelist \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail completed form to [jsheppard@michbar.org](mailto:jsheppard@michbar.org)**



MODEST MEANS REGISTRATION AGREEMENT  
(For Attorneys not already part of LRS Panel)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Panelist Name: Last First P# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City County Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary E-mail Address (will be used for all Pilot LRS program communications) Tel. No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary E-mail Address (will be used for all Pilot LRS program communications in addition to the Primary E-mail address listed above)

**Geographical Preferences** (Please list the counties where you are willing to handle cases): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Disregard this section if you are already a panel member of the Lawyer Referral Service

**Annual Registration fee: \$75**  
Charge my Visa or Master Card \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit/Debit card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ CSC (3 digit code) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized signature for credit/debit card \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration fees can be paid by credit card using this secure fax line: (517) 372-5921.

**Mail your completed registration form, your annual registration fee, and a copy of your professional liability insurance declarations page to:**  
Registration — Pilot LRS  
Attn: Finance Department  
State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend Street  
Lansing, MI 48933-2012  
Enclosed is check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Make checks payable to the **State Bar of Michigan.**



We cannot finalize your registration until we have a copy of your professional liability insurance declarations page. Please be sure to include a copy with this registration form.

E-mail completed form to [jsheppard@michbar.org](mailto:jsheppard@michbar.org)

## The State Bar of Michigan Modest Means Program

The Bar's Modest Means Program ("MMP") is a reduced-fee referral panel operating through the SBM Pilot Referral Service and is designed to make legal services available to lower and moderate income people that may be ineligible for legal aid programs.

Further information about the MMP, including eligibility requirements and attorney rates, is available online at [http://www.michbar.org/programs/lawyerreferral\\_panel/MMP](http://www.michbar.org/programs/lawyerreferral_panel/MMP)

### Permissible Fees

- **Initial Consultation/Referral Fee:** Before making a referral, potential clients will pay a \$25 referral fee, which covers the initial 25 minute attorney consultation, as well as the cost of program administration.
- **Hourly Rates:** Panelists may charge no more than \$75.00 an hour for legal services billed on an hourly basis.
- **Retainer Maximum:** The initial retainer may not exceed 10 hours, i.e. 10 hours @ \$75.00 per hour = \$750.00, but excluding costs and fees. If the amount of work will likely exceed this cap, the attorney will promptly notify the client and MMP staff. The attorney and client will agree upon a plan for moving forward, how to reduce costs, and method of payment, which will be detailed in an additional retainer agreement that the attorney and client must sign. No costs or fees above the initial retainer may accrue unless an additional retainer agreement is first executed.
- **Fixed-Fee Services:** Services under the MMP Bankruptcy panel are provided on a fixed-fee basis. Providers will charge no more than \$500 for the preparation and filing of a Chapter 7 bankruptcy. This fee does not include the cost of filing fees or any adversarial or contested proceedings.
- **Court or Ancillary Fees:** The maximum retainer caps and fixed-fee arrangements do not apply to the court fees, such as filing, motion, or other court costs, or to ancillary fees, such as witness, expert, deposition and interpreter fees so long as such fees have been discussed and approved in advanced of the expenses being incurred. The attorney should notify the client of court fees that the court may waive and when appropriate, assist the client in preparing the waiver request.

### Client Eligibility

- The MMP is generally available to clients with an income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as posted annually on the federal register, based on household income and size, bank accounts and other assets will be taken into consideration.
- Clients will complete an application through the SBM LRS website, and an initial eligibility determination will be made based on income and the type of legal issue.
- Initial eligibility is determined electronically by the intake form. The eligibility determination will be made by the attorney at the initial consultation. The attorney may request income and asset verification such as pay stubs, tax returns, notice of social security benefits, or other relevant documentation. If the attorney determines the client ineligible for the program due to income or assets, the client may choose to hire the attorney at a higher rate. If the attorney determines the client ineligible, written notice must be provided to the MMP.
- A client who disagrees with an attorney's eligibility determination may seek review with the MMP but great weight is given to the attorney's determination.
- If the client's financial status changes significantly during the course of representation, the attorney may provide future legal services at their normal billing rate, after providing notice to MMP staff.