

# Attorney Referral: Personal Problems

MSTA membership provides members with job-related legal services free of charge. For non-job-related personal problems, the MST/NEA Attorney Referral Program provides members consultations at no cost, and discounts on attorney fees.

## Who Is Eligible?

All active, life, or retired MST/NEA members and, at the request of the member, his or her spouse and dependent children.

## What Services Are Covered and What Do They Cost?

Each eligible member is entitled to one free consultation session of up to 30 minutes twice each year on any topic not arising out of the employment relationship between a member and a school district (except income tax preparation).<sup>\*</sup> If a consultation leads to follow-up legal services of at least one billable hour, or equivalent services at a flat fee, it will not be counted as one of the consultations to which the member is entitled that year. If the member decides to use the services of a participating attorney, the attorney's regular fees will be discounted 30 percent if the problem falls into one of the following five "core areas" covered by the program. These areas, and some examples of covered matters, are:

**Real Estate** Purchase or sale of property for residential purposes, disputes with landlords, property line disputes, problems with zoning laws or land use regulations.

**Wills and Estates** Preparation of wills, assistance with estate planning, representation of a member who is named executor or administrator of an estate, guardianship proceedings.

**Domestic Relations** Representation in proceedings for annulment, divorce, separation, alimony, custody, child support, guardianship, adoption, paternity, name change.

**Consumer Protection** Disputes with creditors or finance agencies, proceedings for garnishments and attachments, disputes with retailers concerning defective merchandise.

**Traffic Violations** Defense of charges of operating under the influence, reckless driving, or other offenses involving potential loss of license, financial liability in excess of \$50, or jail sentence.

While fees may vary from attorney to attorney, a particular attorney's fees will be 30 percent less than his or her regular rate for services in the five core areas, whether

billing is on an hourly or a flat-fee basis. (The discount does not apply to incidental fees such as court imposed filing fees and attorney's out-of-pocket expenses.)

*\*Free consultation sessions are limited to a teacher explaining his or her problems and being given advice as to what, if any, legal remedies are available. If the session continues beyond this basic consultation, the attorney is entitled to be paid for legal advice and/or services rendered, even if such advice or services fall within the half-hour session.*

## Are There Any Legal Problems That Are Not Covered?

Almost any problem can be discussed with an attorney during the free advice and consultation sessions. Certain matters, however, are excluded from the 30 percent discount, including assistance with bankruptcies, preparation of federal income tax returns and defense of criminal violations (other than traffic). Any matter in which the attorney was retained prior to participating in the program or involving a member's business dealings is also excluded. The fee in the excluded matters would be determined by you and the attorney and may be higher than the program rates.

Participating attorneys cannot represent you or any other NEA member under any arrangement if the adverse party is the NEA, an NEA affiliate or another NEA member. The one exception is that an attorney may represent you in a separation or divorce proceeding if your spouse is also an NEA member.

## How Do I Contact An Attorney?

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of law firms participating in the program are listed below. A member may use any firm listed.

## Attorney Referral Program

Members may contact any of the following attorneys to receive free consultations and to investigate the need for additional services. Participating attorneys have requested that members mention the MST/NEA Attorney Referral Program when setting up an appointment—some firms are instituting special office procedures to expedite the handling of inquiries. MST/NEA members should expect to receive a 30% discount for matters in the five core areas of real estate, wills and estates, domestic relations, consumer protection and traffic violations.

Teachers should inquire about specific fees before engaging the services of an attorney.

**Robert B. Aguilar, Jr.,**  
105 Federal Street  
Suite B  
Easton, MD 21601  
410/822-5300  
FAX 410/822-5783  
(Wills, Domestic, Traffic)

**Law Offices Albertini & Darby**  
3201 N. Charles Street  
Suite 1A  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
410/243-9400  
FAX 410/243-9599  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic, Traffic)

**Bodie, Nagle, Dolina,  
Smith & Hobbs, P.A.**  
21 West Susquehanna  
Towson, MD 21204-5279  
410/823-1250  
(Consumer, Traffic)

Branch 143 Main Street  
Reisterstown, MD 21136  
410/833-1221

**Clower, Parrack & Seaman**  
226 E. Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
410/398-7400  
FAX 410/398-6010  
(Real Estate, Wills, Consumer)

**Cohen & Dwin, P.A.**  
201 Milford Mill Road  
Second Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21208-5919  
410/653-6000  
FAX 410/653-6053  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic)

**Council, Baradel, Kosmerl & Nolan**  
125 West Street, 4th Fl  
P.O. Box 2289  
Annapolis, MD 21404-2289  
410/268-6600  
FAX 410/269-8409  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic)

**DeCaro, Doran, Siciliano,  
Gallagher & DeBlasis**  
4601 Forbes Blvd, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 40  
Lanham, MD 20703-0040  
301/306-4300  
FAX 301/306-4988  
(Wills, Domestic, Consumer, Traffic)

Branch 11166 Main Street  
Suite 400  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
703/273-0110

Branch 740 Stagwell Road  
P.O. Box 338  
Queenstown, MD 21658  
410/827-5013

**Dorsey & Associates, P.C.**  
22835 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 530  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301/475-5000  
FAX 301/475-3872  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic, Traffic)

Branch 193 Green Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410/268-9145

**Foster, Braden, Thompson & Palmer**  
102 E. Main Street  
Suite 203  
Stevensville, MD 21666  
410/643-4000  
FAX 410/643-6620  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic, Traffic)

**Law Offices of David E. Grover**  
401 North Washington  
Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301/251-9310  
FAX 301/251-9260  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic, Traffic)

Branch 8957-A Edmonston Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301/251-9310

**Law Office of Thomas C. Hayden, Jr.**  
P.O. Box 1119  
La Plata, MD 20646  
301/934-9531  
FAX 301/934-5473  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic)

**Richard L. Healy, P.C.**  
18526 Office Park Dr.  
4th Floor  
Gaithersburg, MD 20886-0585  
301/990-6100  
(Wills, Domestic, Traffic)

Branch 5300 Westview Drive, #408  
Frederick, MD 21703

**Hoffman, Comfort & Offutt**  
24 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410/848-4444  
FAX 410/876-9263  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic)

**Law Offices of Dona E. Houseal**  
216 N. Adams Street  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301/762-7635  
FAX 301/340-6947  
(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic)

**Law Office of William C. Hudson**  
107 Market Street  
Pocomoke City, MD  
410/957-3465  
FAX 410/957-2419  
(Real Estate, Wills, Traffic)

**Law Offices of James B. Kraft**  
9192 Red Branch Road  
Suite 300  
Columbia, MD 21045-2054  
410/522-1324  
FAX 410/522-1325

Branch 445 South Robinson Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224  
410/522-1324  
(Wills, Domestic, Traffic)

**Northrop, Walsh, Becker & Spears**

14300 Gallant Fox Lane

Suite 218

Bowie, MD 20715

301/262-6000

FAX 301/262-4403

*(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic, Traffic)***Edward J. O'Connor, Jr., Esq.**

Courthouse Walk

5407 Water Street

Professional Ctr, Suite 108

Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

410/268-5100

FAX 301/574-5592

*(Wills, Domestic, Consumer, Traffic)*

Branch 2927 Southhave Drive

Annapolis, MD 21401

410/268-5100

**Poole & Kane, P.A.**

29 W. Franklin St.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

301/790-3600

Fax 301/714-0082

*(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic,**Consumer, Traffic)***Miller S. Redden, P. A.**

5840 Hubbard Drive

Rockville, MD 20850

301/468-1080

FAX 301/770-9227

*(Real Estate, Wills)***Don E. Richardson, P.A.**

130 East Main Street

P.O. Box 258

Salisbury, MD 21803-0258

410/742-8744

FAX 410/742-0288

*(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic, Traffic)***Law Office of Stuart Jay**

24 E. Pennsylvania Avenue

Bel Air, MD 21014

410/879-5050

FAX 410/893-3669

*(Wills, Domestic, Traffic)***Russell & Heffner**

151 West Patrick Street

Frederick, MD 21701

301/695-2977

FAX 301/695-0189

*(Real Estate, Domestic, Traffic)***Stoner, Preston & Boswell**

188 East Main Street

P.O. Box 389

Westminster, MD 21158-0389

410/848-7777

FAX 410/876-6194

*(Real Estate, Wills, Domestic, Traffic)*

Branch 28 West Allegheny Avenue

Suite 500

Towson, MD 21204