



17. My license to practice law is not under any restriction, and I am not currently subject to any disciplinary action. I have not received any admonitions or other disciplinary action from the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility within the past 12 months, with the following exceptions: \_\_\_\_\_

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18. I agree to disclose in writing to ARS any discipline imposed by the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, the Minnesota Supreme Court, or related agency, **including any admonitions that I receive while a member**. I understand that any discipline I receive during my year of membership with ARS will be handled as outlined in paragraph A(xiv) of *Removal and Denial of Membership* included in this application.

19. I agree that in signing this application I am waiving confidentiality under the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility in favor of ARS and understand that ARS will conduct a check of disciplinary records of all panelists at least one time per year.

20. I agree to cooperate fully with ARS in assessing and investigating any formal or informal complaint made against me by a client to Attorney Referral Service staff.

21. I understand that ARS may conduct client satisfaction surveys. I agree that ARS staff may contact clients referred to me to obtain information regarding their satisfaction with the services I have provided. I understand that ARS may also contact clients to confirm fees paid for services rendered by me.

22. I agree that if I am a RCBA member, I will pay \$130.00 for ARS membership, which allows me to join one panel. I agree to pay the additional panel rate for each additional panel I join. I agree that if I am not a RCBA member I will pay \$260 for ARS membership, which allows me to join one panel. I agree to pay the additional panel rate for each additional panel I join.

23. I have the legal knowledge and skills necessary to represent clients on the panels for which I have registered.

24. I agree to provide each client referred through ARS a 30-minute in-office appointment, unless the client is calling long distance. I agree to waive all attorney fees for the initial 30-minute consultation with each client. I agree to collect a \$30 administrative fee from the client and remit it to ARS, along with the Referral Report **WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE CONSULTATION**. I understand that if I do not return the Referral Report and referral fee within 30 days, I will be put on inactive status until ARS receives it. I further understand that if after 60 days I still have not returned the Referral Report and referral fee, I will be removed from all ARS panels for the remainder of the membership year, pursuant to paragraph C(v) of *Removal and Denial of Membership* included in this application. I understand that I am responsible for the \$30 administrative fee if I fail to collect it from the client.

25. I understand that I have the right to refuse a case after the initial 30-minute consultation. I understand that I do not have a right to screen referrals at the time they are made in an attempt to only receive referrals with the potential of high legal fees.

26. I understand that referrals made to me are made to me individually, and not to my firm. **I agree that if I cannot help the client referred to me, I will refer the client back to ARS for a second referral. I will not refer the client to an attorney within my firm or to another attorney, whether the attorney is a member of ARS or not.**

27. I agree to binding arbitration by the appropriate Bar Association Fee Arbitration Committee for any fee dispute involving a client referred through ARS.

28. I understand that I may withdraw from a specific panel or all ARS panels at any time, upon written notice. I understand that there will be no refund of my membership fees, and I will still be responsible for paying any portion of percentage fees due to ARS.

29. I agree that if I collect more than \$500 in attorney fees from a client referred by ARS, I will remit 10% of the fees over \$500 to ARS within 30 days of my receipt of the fees from the client. (For example, for a case where the fees are \$501, the attorney would owe \$.10 (10% of \$1). For a case where the total fees are \$1000, the attorney would owe \$50 (10% of \$500).) I agree that if for any reason my membership with ARS terminates, I will pay percentage fees on any cases still in progress.

30. I agree that I will not pass the cost associated in participating in ARS on to the clients referred through ARS. I will not charge more to these clients than to any of my other clients to compensate for my panel membership or for any percentage fees I may owe.

31. I agree to notify every client referred to me at the outset of representation that a portion of the fees are payable to ARS, and that ARS is entitled (a) to know the outcome of any legal representation, and (b) to know the fees received by me and any other attorney with whom I associate in the course of representation of the client. Upon the settlement of any such action, I am obligated to include ARS with those who have a right to know about a settlement, to the extent necessary to allow ARS to have knowledge of the terms of the settlement, including all attorney(s) fees paid in the case, whether paid directly, by another party, or by settlement proceeds, so that ARS may determine the portion of my fees to which it is entitled.

32. I agree to keep accurate and organized files on any client referred to me through ARS for whom I render services beyond the 30-minute consultation. I agree, if requested, to provide ARS with information regarding billing structure and fees in relation to clients referred through ARS in a timely manner.

33. I understand that ARS will send out Quarterly Reports. I agree to provide accurate information on each report and remit a signed report **indicating the amount of fees I have collected from each ARS client and the dates on which the fees were collected**, on or before its due date. I understand that if I do not remit the Quarterly Report by its due date, I will be put on inactive status until ARS receives them. I further understand that if I fail to remit two consecutive Quarterly Reports, I will be removed from all ARS panels for the remainder of the membership year, pursuant to paragraph C(vi) of *Removal and Denial of Membership* included in this application.

### **Removal or Denial of Membership**

- A. A panel member may be removed from the panel rotation for good cause as determined by the ARS Committee. Good Cause may include, but is not limited to:
- i) Failure to truthfully report all fees collected from clients referred by ARS.
  - ii) False statements on any application or other certification to ARS.
  - iii) Unexcused failure to meet a client at the appointed time.
  - iv) Failure to provide a 30-minute consultation to a client.
  - v) Failure to provide a professional office space or other appropriate meeting place for clients.
  - vi) Failure to return phone calls or answer letters of clients.
  - vii) Failure to treat clients referred through ARS in the same manner as other clients.
  - viii) Failure to give notice to the client of fees and billing structure and to put any fee agreement in writing.
  - ix) Failure to keep the client reasonably informed of the progress of the case.
  - x) Repeated refusal to accept referrals from ARS when the reason is unrelated to the merit of the case.
  - xi) Failure to respond or cooperate in the resolution of a client's complaint.
  - xii) Failure to carry on a relationship with the client and ARS staff in a professional and businesslike manner.
  - xiii) Referral of a client to another attorney, instead of back to ARS.
  - xiv) Two or more admonitions from the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility within a period of 12 months.
  - xv) Failure to abide by the Application and Agreement of the Attorney Referral Service and all rules contained within it.
- B. Attorney Referral staff shall notify the panelist/applicant being considered for removal from the panel or denial of registration. The notice shall advise the panelist/applicant of the reason(s) for the proposed removal or denial, the right to a hearing, and the right to submit a written response.
- i) The panelist/applicant shall be entitled to a meeting with the Chair(s) of the Attorney Referral Service Committee.
  - ii) If the Chair(s) determines that there is cause for removal/denial, the panelist/applicant shall have a right to a hearing before a specially called meeting of the ARS Committee.
  - iii) ARS staff shall notify the panelist/applicant of the decision of the ARS Committee by registered mail
  - iv) If the ARS Committee determines there is cause for removal/denial, the panelist/applicant shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors of the Ramsey County Bar Association.
  - v) ARS staff shall inform the panelist/applicant of the decision of the Board of Directors by registered mail. The decision shall take effect on the date the notice is mailed.

- vi) At each stage of the Removal or Denial process, the panelist/applicant shall have the right to submit a written response to ARS staff, the ARS Committee and/or the Board of Directors of the Ramsey County Bar Association.
- C. Subject to a subsequent hearing as provided above, an applicant shall be denied registration and a panel member removed from the panel immediately and without hearing should any of the following occur:
- i) Filing of a petition against the attorney for suspension or disbarment;
  - ii) Suspension or disbarment from the practice of law;
  - iii) Institution against the attorney of felony charges or of misdemeanor charges involving the theft, embezzlement, or fraudulent appropriation of money or other property;
  - iv) Failure of the attorney to maintain current membership in the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Ramsey County Bar Association, if applicable;
  - v) Failure of the attorney to return a Referral Report after 60 days as outlined in Rule 24;
  - vi) Failure of the attorney to remit two consecutive Quarterly Reports or Affidavits, as outlined in Rule 33;
  - vii) Failure of the attorney to remit a current copy of his or her malpractice insurance within three months of its expiration, as outlined in Rule 16;
  - viii) Adjudication by the Minnesota Supreme Court or related agency, or stipulation by the attorney to the following discipline: a) reprimand b) probation c) suspension or d) disbarment.
  - ix) Misrepresentation by the panelist/applicant or failure to disclose in writing within thirty days of receipt, any discipline imposed by the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, the Minnesota Supreme Court, or related agency.
- D. A panelist removed from the ARS panels for failure to comply with Rule 16 regarding proof of malpractice insurance, Rule 24 regarding Referral Reports, or Rule 33 regarding Quarterly Reports, will be eligible to reapply for membership at the beginning of the next membership year. A panelist/applicant removed for violation of any other ARS rule must apply to the ARS Committee for reinstatement. After the decision to remove a panelist from the ARS panels/deny an applicant membership is made by either the ARS Committee or the Board of Directors of the Ramsey County Bar Association, the removed panelist must wait one year from the date of the removal before applying for reinstatement.
- i) A panelist/applicant applying to the ARS Committee for reinstatement to the ARS panels must first submit a letter to ARS staff noting his/her interest in applying.
  - ii) A meeting with the ARS Committee will be scheduled.
  - iii) At the meeting, the panelist/applicant must demonstrate to the ARS Committee that steps have been taken to correct the mistake that caused the panelist/applicant's removal from the membership panels/denial of membership, and that the mistake will not occur again.
  - iv) ARS staff shall notify the panelist/applicant of the decision of the ARS Committee by registered mail.
  - v) If the ARS Committee determines that the applicant/panelist is not eligible for reinstatement, the applicant/panelist may appeal the decision to the Board of Directors of the Ramsey County Bar Association.
  - vi) ARS staff shall notify the panelist/applicant of the decision of the Ramsey County Board of Directors by registered mail.

**You may select up to one panel with your membership fee.  
(RCBA members, \$130; non-members, \$260)  
For additional panels, please pay the listed additional panel charge.**

**Please be specific by checking sub-categories within each panel. Some sub-categories have experience requirements. Please read carefully to ensure you meet all the requirements.**

- Administrative Law (\$10)**
  - Licensing
  - Medicare/Medicaid
  - Military/Veteran's Issues
  - HIPAA
  - Social Security-Disability\*  
(\*You must have had 5 SSA hearings in the past 2 years.)
  - Social Security-Income\* (\*You must have had 5 SSA hearings in the past 2 years.)
- Bankruptcy (\$30)**
  - Business
  - Contested/Complex
  - Personal
  - Bankruptcy-Creditors
  - Foreclosure
- Business Law (\$20)**
  - Contract Litigation
  - Formation/Dissolution of Business
  - Pension & Profit Sharing
  - Securities Law
  - Non-Profit Corporations
- Civil Litigation (\$20)**
  - Appeals
  - Conciliation Court
  - Libel/Slander
  - Property Damage
  - Civil Rights
  - Police Brutality
  - Prisoner Rights
  - Discrimination  
(not employment)
- Computer Law (\$10)**
  - E-Commerce
  - Information Technology
- Consumer/Commercial Law (\$20)**
  - Automobile
  - Credit/Banking
  - Collection
  - Conciliation Court
  - Contracts/Warranties
  - Insurance
  - Identity Theft
- Criminal Law (\$30)**
  - DWI
  - Expungement
  - Felony\* (\*Must have fully prepared for trial, including all pre-trial motions, or must have tried at least 2 felony cases within the past 3 years.)
  - Misdemeanor/Gross Misdemeanor
  - Appeals
- Education Law (\$10)**
  - Private
  - Public
- Entertainment & Art Law (\$10)**
  - Art Organizations
  - Music
  - Visual Arts
  - Writers
- Employment Law (\$10)**
  - ADR\* (\*Must be listed on the Supreme Court's roster of neutrals.)
  - Contracts
  - Discrimination/Harassment
  - Employee Benefits
  - Unemployment
  - Union Matters
  - Wrongful Termination
- Family Law (\$40)**
  - Adoption
  - ADR\* (\*Must be listed on the Supreme Court's roster of neutrals.)
  - Cohabitation
  - Custody/Support
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Paternity
  - Separation/Divorce
  - Post Decree Matters
  - Juvenile Protection (CHIPS)
  - Grandparent's Rights
  - Pre-Marital Agreements
  - Name Change
- Harassment Orders (\$20)**

- Intellectual Property (\$10)
  - Copyrights
  - Patents (USPTO registration # \_\_\_\_\_)
  - Trade Secrets
  - Trademarks
- Immigration (\$10)
  - Visas and Naturalization
  - Deportation
- International Law (\$10)
- Landlord/Tenant (\$20)
  - Landlord Representation Only
  - Tenant Representation Only
  - Both
- Municipal Law/Local Government (\$10)
- Native American Indian Affairs (\$10)
- Personal Injury (\$40)
  - Assault
  - Defense of P.I. claims
  - Law Enforcement Personal Injury
  - Motor Vehicle Accidents
  - Product Liability
  - Slip & Fall
- Probate, Wills & Estate Planning (\$40)
  - Commitment
  - Elder Law
  - Estate Planning, Wills and Trusts
  - Guardianship/Conservatorship
  - Power of Attorney
  - Probate
- Professional Negligence (\$20)
  - Dental
  - Legal
  - Medical\* (\*You must have fully prepared for trial, including all discovery, or tried at least 3 personal injury cases within the past 5 years.)
  - Psychiatric
- Real Estate (\$40)
  - Business
  - Commercial Leases
  - Construction Law
  - Residential
  - Zoning, Condemnation
  - Foreclosure
- Structured Settlement Transfers (\$10)

- Workers Compensation (\$20)
  - Federal
  - State
- Taxation (\$10)
  - Property
  - Business
  - Individual
- Out-State Referrals  
 Callers from outside Minnesota and the Metro area often call seeking a phone consultation with an attorney. By signing up for this panel, the attorney agrees to accept out-state and out of state referrals for the areas of law he/she has marked. ARS staff will set-up a 30-minute phone consultation with the attorney, where all the rules of ARS apply, including percentage fees. **There is no fee to the attorney for signing up for this panel.**
- Lawyer to Lawyer Referrals  
 The attorney agrees to consult with colleagues in out-state Minnesota and in other states in the areas of law he/she has marked. There is no \$30 administrative fee, but all other rules of ARS apply, including percentage fees. **There is no fee to the attorney for signing up on this panel.**

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**By signing this form, I affirm that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all the rules of the Attorney Referral Service. I waive my confidentiality under the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility in favor of the Attorney Referral Service, and authorize the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility to release a record of any and all disciplinary action, whether completed or pending, public or private, during the current membership year, and two years prior, to Attorney Referral staff of the Attorney Referral Service. I agree to notify the Attorney Referral Service of any complaints filed against me with a disciplinary agency within my year of membership. I understand that the rules of ARS are subject to change during the membership year, and I agree to abide by the changes to these rules. I will not hold the Attorney Referral Service responsible for, or party to, an action for negligent referral and will inform the Attorney Referral Service of cases I cannot handle.**

Signature of Attorney:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name

**\*\* Please attach a copy of your Declaration page of Malpractice Insurance.**

**\*\*\* Please send completed application, copy of insurance, and check (payable to RCBA) to: RCBA, E-1401 First National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN, 55101.**

