

Make a Difference

Now, more than ever, citizens of our community are struggling to make ends meet. A new segment of our population—the working poor—make too much to qualify for pro bono or Legal Aid services yet cannot afford legal representation at market rates.

You can help.

Join the Nashville Bar Association Modest Means Initiative and provide a much-needed community service...access to justice for the working poor.

For more information, contact Wendy Cozby at 242.9272 or wendy.cozby@nashvillebar.org



Nashville Bar Association Modest Means Initiative

315 Union Street
8th Floor
Nashville, TN 37201

Phone: 615.242.9272

Fax: 615.255.3026

E-mail: wendy.cozby@nashvillebar.org



Access to justice for
the working poor

A program of the
Nashville Bar Association
Lawyer Referral & Information Service

What is the Nashville Bar Association Modest Means Initiative?



There are many individuals in the Nashville area who earn too much to qualify for pro bono or Legal Aid services yet cannot afford an attorney's regular rates.

The NBA Modest Means Initiative (MMI) was developed to fill this need. Local attorneys who sign up for the MMI panel agree to provide legal services to eligible clients at a reduced rate.

Client eligibility for the program is based on the type of legal matter, applicant income and assets, and availability of participating attorneys. If an individual qualifies for the program, the Modest Means panel attorney will charge the client no more than \$75 per hour and may charge an initial retainer fee of up to \$300. Additional pre-payments may be required for extended and/or complex matters.

The program is made possible by a generous grant from the **Nashville Bar Foundation** and is administered through the NBA Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS).

Why Participate in the NBA Modest Means Initiative?

By joining the Modest Means Initiative as a panel attorney, you will be providing a **valuable community service** helping the working poor gain access to justice that they might not otherwise have.

What Areas of Service are Offered?

The Modest Means panel provides legal services at reduced rates in the following areas:

- Domestic Relations
- Consumer Debt (other than Bankruptcy)
- Landlord/Tenant
- Small Business Creation and Management

What are the Requirements for Being a Member of the MMI Panel?

Attorney panel members must:

Be members of the NBA

Be members of the NBA Lawyer Referral & Information Service MMI panel

Provide legal services in one or more of the offered areas

Charge an hourly fee of no more than \$75

Client Eligibility:

Potential clients are asked to complete an application form and must meet income and asset guidelines.

Income must fall between 200–250% of the Federal Poverty Level and assets cannot exceed \$5,000.

Clients are required to pay a \$25 fee to the NBA to cover administrative costs.

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