

# OMBUDS OFFICE

Harvard Medical School  
Harvard Dental School  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health



## Legal Referral Services

### **National Lawyers Guild**

Boston

Phone: 617-227-7008

<http://www.nlgmass.org/>

Call between: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (M-F) Clients are referred to attorneys who charge fees on a sliding scale basis. Charge for the initial half hour phone consultation is \$15.00. People in serious financial straits should say so; they have attorneys who may be able to accommodate.

### **Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA)**

Boston

Phone: 617-654-0400 (Referrals)

<http://www.massbar.org/for-the-public/need-a-lawyer>

*Serves all of Massachusetts*

Call between the hours of: 9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. (M-F). A fee of \$25.00 may be charged for the first half-hour of the consultation. They will make up to three referrals per case, one at a time, no lists provided and no referrals to free attorneys. *Not a free legal service.*

\*\* **CAUTION:** After the initial consultation period is over, the attorney may charge his/her normal rate for the rest of the session. With this in mind, it is advisable to ask about the length of the initial consultation and fee immediately.

\*\*\* Since March of 1991, the **MBA has sponsored a monthly *Dial-A-Lawyer*** program that encourages members of the public to call with their legal problems and questions. First Wednesday of each month, attorneys volunteer at the MBA's Boston headquarters by providing free, basic legal information by phone to callers from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

### **Boston Bar Association**

Boston

Phone: 617-742-0625

<http://www.bostonbar.org/>

*Serves all of Massachusetts*

Agency will first "evaluate" problems via telephone and then refer client to a lawyer or appropriate agency. No charge for the telephone referral. The charge for a consultation with a lawyer is no more than \$25.00 for the first half-hour. There are reduced fee referrals for those who make \$15,000 or less (gross) and those on public assistance.

\* Reduced fee attorneys charge up to \$75 per hour. *No free attorneys.*

\* Decision to take a case on a reduced fee basis is made by the attorney.

### **Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association**

Boston

Contact: Lynn Girton, Esq.

Phone: 617-423-0648 ext. 132

<http://www.vlpnet.org/>

The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association (VLP) provides free civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Greater Boston, primarily through the pro bono services of private attorneys.

## Mediation Services

### **Community Dispute Settlement Center**

Cambridge

Phone: 617-876-5376

<http://www.communitydispute.org/>

Fees are per session (not per hour) and are based on a sliding scale determined by your income level. A mediation session typically lasts 2-3 hours.

### **Harvard Mediation Program**

Cambridge

Phone: 617-495-1854

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/hmp/>

### **Mediation Works Inc.**

Boston

Phone: 617-973-9739 or

1-800-348-4888

<http://www.mwi.org/>

Located 4 Faneuil Hall – Fourth Floor



HMS/HSDM/HSPH OMBUDS OFFICE

Melissa Brodrick, Ombudsperson, [melissa\\_brodrick@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:melissa_brodrick@hms.harvard.edu)

164 Longwood Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115

617-432-4040 (Ombuds) 617-432-4041 (office)