

The Moderate Means Program

A PWJC program designed to match attorneys with individuals with a moderate income, who have some resources, but cannot afford prevailing attorney rates. PWJC manages the client application process and facilitates the attorney match.

If you are interested in joining the Moderate Means Panel, or want to learn more, contact:

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About Pace Women's Justice Center

The Pace Women's Justice Center (PWJC) is a self-funded nonprofit legal center located at Elisabeth Haub School of Law, under the 501(c)(3) status of Pace University. Each year, PWJC provides free legal services to over 3,800 victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse, as well as conducts or participates in over 140 training and outreach events. Serving Westchester and Putnam Counties, PWJC's mission is to pursue justice for victims and prevent abuse through quality legal services, community partnerships, education, and awareness. With an experienced staff and a team of dedicated volunteers, including attorneys, paralegals, students, and other community members, PWJC has built an effective, coordinated community response to interpersonal violence.

Illustration by Edel Rodriguez

PWJC's Moderate Means Program

JOIN THE PANEL

Safe Families
make
Safe Communities!

Contact us

MAIN OFFICE: 914.422.4069
Legal Helpline: 914.287.0739

Multilingual Services Available
Servicios Bilingües - Llámenos para más información

78 N Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603
WWW.LAW.PACE.EDU/WJC





“PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES IN THE VICTIM'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE
SIGNIFICANTLY LOWERS THE INCIDENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.”

-Institute for Policy Integrity - New York University School of Law

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HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Pace Women's Justice Center's Moderate Means Program is a **legal referral program** by which qualified individuals are connected with experienced, private attorneys who offer reduced-fee services to low- and middle-income individuals.

Application Process

- Attorneys who are interested in joining the Moderate Means panel must complete an application, providing the following information:
- Firm name, Education, Employment history, Bar Association and Professional Committee memberships, Specialized training, Numbers of years in practice
- Additional information: Areas of practice, Counties in which you practice, State bar admissions other than New York, Participation in assigned counsel panels
- Completion of an application does not guarantee acceptance to the panel.

References

- Contact information for three adversaries on recently handled cases.
- Three reference letters, two professional and one personal, addressing the following: Integrity, Familiarity with area of practice, Vigor of advocacy

Malpractice Insurance

- A copy of the Declarations pages of your malpractice insurance policy must be provided.

Attorney-Client Match

- If an attorney expresses interest in working with a client, a letter of confirmation, including the attorney's contact information and fee structure, and stating that the rates are based on the information provided by the applicant on the application, is sent to the client.
- A letter containing the client's contact information is sent to the attorney, with a copy of the client letter.
- At this point, PWJC is no longer involved in the case.
- It is the client's responsibility to contact the attorney.

Fees

- Clients accepted to the Moderate Means Program receive a reduced rate, not free services.
- The retainer and hourly rate amounts are set by PWJC and agreed to by the panel attorneys.
- PWJC requires clients to attest that they have funds to pay the retainer fee before a Moderate Means attorney is contacted.
- The application states clearly that inaccurate financial information provided by the client may result in either an adjustment of the retainer amount and hourly rate, or termination of the attorney's services.

Representation

- After consultation, the attorney and client mutually agree to work together.
- The client signs a retainer agreement provided by the attorney and pays the retainer fee, and the attorney-client relationship is established.
- PWJC has no further involvement in the matter and is not a party to any dispute or arbitration regarding the case.