

## 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 more information about the Moderate Means Program 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

LEGAL  
REPRESENTATION  
AT  
REDUCED RATES

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

- Individuals seeking legal services for a family law matter at reduced rates must complete an application and submit it to PWJC.
- Completion of an application does not guarantee a referral to an attorney.
- A PWJC staff member will contact you to discuss the information provided by you.
- After consultation, you will be informed if you qualify for the program.
- If you are accepted, your issue will be presented anonymously to the Moderate Means Panel attorneys to determine interest and availability.

- This process may take up to 14 days.

### Referral Procedure

- If a private attorney expresses interest in working with you, PWJC will make the referral by sending you his/her contact information.
- The attorney will receive a copy of the application but is NOT responsible for contacting you regarding the referral.
- You must contact the attorney within 30 days of receiving this information, or the referral will expire.
- Once a referral is made, PWJC is no longer involved in the case.
- Generally, after you contact the attorney he/she will schedule a consultation with you.

### Fees

- Clients accepted to the Moderate Means Program receive a reduced rate, not free services.
- If you and the attorney agree that you will hire the attorney, he/she will draft a retainer agreement for you to sign.

- Attorneys participating in this program will require an initial payment of \$2,000 when hired. Their hourly rates start at \$100.
- Once the initial retainer is depleted you will be asked to replenish the \$2,000.
- Please note that should the facts or financial information provided be inaccurate or change, the attorney may request an adjustment of the retainer amount, or terminate services.

### Key Points

- You will be referred to only one attorney, with the exception of rare circumstances, ie. illness, retirement, when a second request will be considered.
- The attorney reserves the right to decline representation for any reason.
- The referral expires within 30 days.
- PWJC is no longer involved after the referral is made, all questions must be directed to the attorney.