

DRBA Membership Fee and Fee Waiver Policy

1. DRBA's Membership Fees: Benefits and Structure

DRBA's annual membership period begins January 1st of each year. The benefits of membership are many, and include:

- Profile on DRBA's Member web page;
- Participation in DRBA's listserv with leading disability rights lawyers;
- Access to DRBA's quarterly newsletter
- Access to DRBA's listserv archives;
- Opportunities to collaborate with, support, and mentor other disability rights attorneys through amicus briefs, co-counseling, and public education and advocacy activities; and
- Early notice of developments in disability rights law.

The fee structure for DRBA membership is as follows:

- First year: Free (applies only to first-time applicants)
- Regular Membership: \$100 per year, per individual member.
- Supporting member or organization: \$500 or more in membership dues and/or donations – includes name recognition on DRBA's website.
- Sustaining member or organization: \$1000 or more in membership dues and/or donations – includes name recognition and display of firm/organization logo on DRBA's website.

2. Purpose of DRBA Membership Fees

DRBA's annual membership fees support the Association's ongoing relationship with its host, the [Burton Blatt Institute](#) (BBI) at Syracuse University and allow the Association to function. Fee revenue is used for the following things, among others:

- Maintenance and upkeep of DRBA's website.
- Maintenance and upkeep of DRBA's brief bank.

- Processing member applications and maintaining the listserv.
- Preparing alternative format materials for conferences and DRBA's Annual Meeting.
- Arranging and paying for interpreters and captioning,
- Defraying the overall costs of conferences and DRBA's Annual Meeting
- Providing staff to accept and track registration for conferenced and DRBA's Annual Meeting.
- Providing on-site staff to facilitate conferences and DRBA's Annual Meeting
- Fund DRBA Board Members' participation in national conferences and outreach events.

In sum, fee revenue is essential in ensuring that DRBA can offer information, resources, training, mentorship, and public education to advocates and academics in the disability rights community.

3. Invoices and Failure to Pay Membership Fees

Invoices for DRBA membership fees will be sent annually each spring via email. The invoice will provide detailed instructions on how to remit payment. It is the responsibility of each DRBA member to ensure that DRBA has their updated email address for billing purposes. Failure to remit payment for membership fees will result in removal from the listserv.

4. Availability of Membership Fee Waivers

Despite its reliance on fee revenue to function, DRBA is committed to ensuring that its membership fee does not prohibit qualified individuals from DRBA membership. In recognition of the fact that even the regular membership fee of \$100 per annum may present difficulty for some, DRBA's Membership Committee will award partial and, on rare occasions, full fee waivers to individuals experiencing financial hardship.

Examples of financial hardship include loss of income or employment, unexpected medical expenses, and displacement or damage due to natural disaster. These are not the only situations for which will a fee waiver may

be considered but represent examples of past situations where such waivers were approved. *Please note: employment at a non-profit agency by itself does not qualify an individual for a fee waiver. Nor does an individual's status as a retired person or solo practitioner.*

In order to be considered for a fee waiver, please send an email with "DRBA Fee Waiver Request" to the attention of Kate Battoe, kvbattoe@syr.edu, with the following information:

- Your name;
- Type of waiver sought (partial or full); and
- A brief description of the hardship you are experiencing and your related inability to pay.

Fee waivers must be applied for annually.

Because DRBA membership fees provide for services, activities and programs that benefit all members, we request that all individuals applying for a fee waiver carefully and honestly assess their ability to pay the fee and request a fee waiver only if absolutely necessary.