

The Rural Practice Development Program

Employer Information

The State Bar of Wisconsin's Rural Attorney Recruitment Program is intended to help mitigate the shortage of legal representation in rural areas of the state. Each year, three eligible attorney applicants are selected for the program and will receive a financial stipend (described more below in Program Basics). Selected attorneys will move to and practice law in a designated rural community for at least two years. By incentivizing attorneys to establish their practices in underserved regions, the program helps to improve access to legal services in rural Wisconsin while offering a unique opportunity for professional and community engagement.

Program Goal:

The goal of this program is to promote long-term attorney retention in rural communities by encouraging attorneys to become deeply invested in the local area. Attorneys are encouraged to engage in networking and community activities to integrate into the community, fostering a sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship between themselves and the residents.

Additionally, the program will highlight the critical issue of limited legal representation in rural areas and aim to showcase viable solutions for addressing this gap, ensuring that rural communities have access to the legal support they need for years to come.

Program Basics:

Attorneys must be willing to relocate to and practice for two years in a [county](#) defined in the program. If accepted into the program the attorney will receive \$5,000 at the start of the two-year period and additional \$5,000 upon completion of the two-year (24-month) commitment.

Attorneys may open their own firm or work for an employer full-time.

Requirements for Employers:

- A law firm, nonprofit organization, or government entity where the attorneys provide representation to the residents. (not in-house counsel)
- Physical location of employment in a [defined rural community](#).
- Anticipate a minimum of two-years (24-month) of full-time employment.
- Accommodate employee starting within six months of acceptance into the program.
 - Projected acceptance is the end of April, therefore a start date prior to the end of October for example.

Employer Listing: (optional)

The State Bar will provide a listing on the Wisbar.org website of employers interested in hiring an attorney in the defined counties in the program. This listing may be used as a resource for those attorneys accepted into the program to find employment. However, participants can find employment outside of the State Bar list or open their own practice.

We will begin posting employers interested in late February or early March. This is not an offer of employment nor a job posting.

If you would like to be listed as an interested employer, please provide the following information to Kim Burns, kburns@wisbar.org or 608-250-6181.

Company Name, Contact Name, Phone Number, Email Address

Physical Address, Mailing Address, website address

Company Narrative – could includes things such as: company size, culture, community activities, school district information, etc. (please no more than 250 words)

Who to contact if interested in learning more about a position.

Please note, this is not a job posting. If you would like to post an ad on the State Bar Classifieds page, we can link to it in your listing.

The State Bar is not involved in the employee/employer relationship and is not endorsing any individuals for employment. All applicable labor and employment laws must be observed.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Burns, kburns@wisbar.org or 608-250-6181.