

Your charity

020 8675 6440 sec@sba.org.uk
www.sba.org.uk

About us

SBA The Solicitors' Charity is the benevolent fund for solicitors past and present, and their families. We have been working at the heart of the legal profession for over 150 years.

Our core purpose is to relieve the financial hardship of eligible solicitors, former solicitors and their dependants who do not have the resources to pay for the normal things in life which most people take for granted.

We can help eligible individuals with:

- Grants & interest-free loans to help create financial breathing space in times of trouble
- Funded access to bespoke advice about personal insolvency
- Career, job-search and wellbeing support

If you know someone who might need our help, please ask them to get in touch — we would really like to help if we can.

SBA
The Solicitors' Charity
Acting for you

SBA

The Solicitors' Charity
1 Jaggard Way
London SW12 8SG

Telephone

020 8675 6440

Fax

020 3417 4600

sec@sba.org.uk
www.sba.org.uk

DX 41608 BALHAM



We offer a unique way to put your residual client balances to charitable use whilst providing an indemnity in every case, irrespective of amount.

Registered office

1 Jaggard Way
London SW12 8SG

Patron

HM The Queen

Supported by

The Law Society of England & Wales

Solicitors Benevolent Association Limited

A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales number 6601907
Registered charity number 1124512

SBA
The Solicitors'
Charity



Unlock your residual client balances

Your profession

No solicitor unsupported in times of need or crisis.

Your charity

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Preserve your clients' interests and put your old balances to work!

Old balances? Old problem

It is a fact of legal life that law firms of every shape and size carry old residual balances on their clients' ledger. These might be just a few pennies or quite a lot of pounds but, irrespective of the amount, they can still be a real headache because they have to be accounted for each year. To do otherwise is to risk compliance problems under the SRA Accounts Rules.

This is where SBA can help.

Problem solved

As the profession's own charity, run by and for solicitors, we know exactly how much of a burden unclaimed balances can be. We also know that law firms need to have complete confidence that the sums they pass on to charities will **always** be refunded, as and when they are reclaimed.

This is why SBA has sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that we can always re-pay old client balances. Moreover, we offer an indemnity in every case, irrespective of amount.

These funds, which would otherwise be dormant, can then be put to charitable use in the form of interest-free loans (usually secured) to solicitors and their families in need.

Balances of £500 or under

Good news! You do not need SRA approval to transfer amounts which do not exceed £500 in relation to any one client or trust matter, provided you have complied with Rule 20.2 of the Solicitors' Accounts Rules:-

- You have made reasonable attempts to establish the identity of the money's owner
- You have made adequate attempts to ascertain the proper destination for the money and return it to the rightful owner, unless the reasonable costs of so doing are likely to be excessive in relation to the amount held
- You record the steps you have taken above and keep all relevant documentation (such as attempted correspondence and the indemnity we will issue to you on receipt of funds) and
- You keep a central register in accordance with rule 29.22.

Balances over £500

SRA authorisation is required under Rule 20(1)(k) but the process is straightforward. Contact the Team at:

Professional Ethics
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN DX 720293 Birmingham 47
Tel: 0370 606 2577
Email: professional.ethics@sra.org.uk

Guidance and the relevant application form may be found at <http://www.sra.org.uk/guidance-sar/>.

How to transfer funds

Please send a cheque made payable to SBA The Solicitors' Charity to us at:

SBA The Solicitors' Charity
1 Jaggard Way
London SW12 8SG

You need to provide a note or letter with any payment which indicates that you have complied with SRA requirements. You are welcome to let us have accompanying SRA paperwork if you wish but this is not essential.

On receipt of your cheque, we will send you a letter of indemnity which states that we will refund all or any part of the received sum when requested, in order that you might comply with your professional obligations to the entitled party. In addition, if so requested, we undertake to pay interest (usually 2% above base rate) when there is a refund.

If you would like to have sight of the indemnity we offer, please email sec@sba.org.uk; we would be delighted to share this so that you can check it meets your needs.

"SBA has been the most wonderful helping hand during the past few years when, through a combination of unfortunate circumstances and ill health, I would not have been able to cope financially. Taking a loan on my home meant that I was able to maintain my pride and dignity through a very difficult period."