

Antitrust Section Hourly Rate Survey Results

In March 2008, the Oregon State Bar conducted a survey on behalf of the Antitrust, Trade Regulation & Unfair Business Practices Section on hourly rates for Oregon lawyers. The survey aimed to provide detailed information on hourly rates charged by attorneys in specific areas of practice. *To see more detailed results from the survey, please see the attached printouts. All results in this report pertain to members of the Antitrust, Trade Regulation & Unfair Business Practices Section and might not represent all Oregon lawyers.*

Methodology and Response Rate

All members of the Antitrust Section with an email address on file with the bar were invited (via email) to participate. Of the 149 possible respondents, we received 29 responses, for a 19% response rate. Respondents were asked four questions: geographic area, firm size, years of experience, and hourly rates for specific practice areas.

Demographics

Survey respondents came from only three regions: downtown Portland, the Tri-County Area, and the Upper Willamette Valley. The vast majority – 93% - came from downtown Portland.

The majority, 55%, work in law firms with more than 50 attorneys.

The average number of years spent in a practice area is 23-25, with the largest group represented having practiced 29-31 years (17% of the total). No respondents have reported practicing Antitrust law for more than 37 years.

Discussion of Survey Responses

Percent of time devoted to an Area of Practice (AoP)

Respondents were asked to specify how much of their work is devoted to a specific AoP. All respondents indicated they practice in multiple fields, with 0.0% devoting their entire practice to a specific area and only 5.26% spending 60% or more of their time on a single area of practice.

Experience in a specific AoP

When examining the amount of time spent in a specific AoP, the results seem spread evenly between all levels of experience – up to 35-37 years. The range of data goes from 0 years of experience up to 41+ years of experience. Of these ranges, the two largest represented groups were 26-30 years of experience (35% of total) and 11-15 years of experience (18% of total).

Representation of AoPs

Five different AoPs were listed. Respondents were asked which areas they practice in, and could choose more than one option. The most-represented groups were: Unfair Competition/Unfair Business Practices - Litigation (34% of responses), and Antitrust - Litigation - Civil (27% of responses). The least-represented group was: Antitrust - Litigation - Criminal (3% of responses).

Hourly Rates Aggregate

Because individual respondents sometimes provided rates for more than one AoP, the total number of responses for hourly rates was 37. Respondents reported hourly rates in intervals of \$25. Intervals began at \$50 per hour and progressed up to \$450+ per hour.

No respondents claimed an hourly rate of less than \$200 per hour. Only 10.81% reported rates between \$200 and \$299. The majority (54.05%) reported rates between \$300 and \$399 per hour. And more than one third (35%) of respondents claimed hourly rates of more than \$400.

The average and median hourly rate for Business Litigation lawyers is approximately \$375 per hour.

What region (county) is your office in?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Downtown Portland	93.1%	27
Tri-County area (Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas)	3.4%	1
Oregon Coast (Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Coos, Curry)	0.0%	0
Upper Willamette Valley (Yamhill, Polk, Marion)	3.4%	1
Lower Willamette Valley (Benton, Linn, Lane)	0.0%	0
Southern Oregon (Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath)	0.0%	0
Central Oregon (Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson)	0.0%	0
Eastern Oregon (all other Oregon counties)	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		29
<i>skipped question</i>		0

What size is your firm?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Sole practitioner	6.9%	2
2-5 Attorneys	3.4%	1
6-10 Attorneys	6.9%	2
11-15 Attorneys	6.9%	2
16-20 Attorneys	13.8%	4
21-25 Attorneys	0.0%	0
26-30 Attorneys	3.4%	1
31-35 Attorneys	0.0%	0
36-40 Attorneys	0.0%	0
41-45 Attorneys	3.4%	1
46-50 Attorneys	0.0%	0
51-75 Attorneys	13.8%	4
76-100 Attorneys	10.3%	3
101+ Attorneys	31.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>		29
<i>skipped question</i>		0

How long have you been practicing law?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0-2 Years	6.9%	2
3-5 Years	6.9%	2
5-7 Years	3.4%	1
8-10 Years	0.0%	0
11-13 Years	3.4%	1
14-16 Years	13.8%	4
17-19 Years	6.9%	2
20-22 Years	0.0%	0
23-25 Years	13.8%	4
26-28 Years	13.8%	4
29-31 Years	17.2%	5
32-34 Years	0.0%	0
35-37 Years	13.8%	4
38-40 Years	0.0%	0
41-44 Years	0.0%	0
45+ Years	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		29
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Percent of practice devoted to this type of case						
Answer Options	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%	Totals
Antitrust - Compliance/Counseling	6		1			7
Antitrust - Litigation - Civil	7	3				10
Antitrust - Litigation - Criminal	1					1
Unfair Competition/Unfair Business Practices - Compliance/Counseling	7					7
Unfair Competition/Unfair Business Practices - Litigation	11	1		1		13
TOTALS:	32	4	1	1	0	38
% of Total:	84.21%	10.53%	2.63%	2.63%	0.00%	

Number of years handling this type of case										
Answer Options	<5	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41+	Totals
Antitrust - Compliance/Counseling	1		2	1		4				8
Antitrust - Litigation - Civil	1	1	1	1	2	5				11
Antitrust - Litigation - Criminal						1				1
Unfair Competition/Unfair Business Practices - Compliance/Counseling	1	1	2		1	1				6
Unfair Competition/Unfair Business Practices - Litigation	1	3	2	1	3	3	1			14
TOTALS:	4	5	7	3	6	14	1	0	0	40
% of Total:	10.00%	12.50%	17.50%	7.50%	15.00%	35.00%	2.50%	0.00%	0.00%	

AVERAGE

Hourly rate charged for this type of case																		
Answer Options	\$50-\$74	\$75-\$99	\$100-\$124	\$125-\$149	\$150-\$174	\$175-\$199	\$200-\$224	\$225-\$249	\$250-\$274	\$275-\$299	\$300-\$324	\$325-\$349	\$350-\$374	\$375-\$399	\$400-\$424	\$425-\$449	\$450+	Totals
Antitrust - Compliance/Counseling												2	1	2			2	7
Antitrust - Litigation - Civil											1	1	1	3	1	1	2	10
Antitrust - Litigation - Criminal																	1	1
Unfair Competition/Unfair Business Practices - Compliance/Counseling							2						1	2			1	6
Unfair Competition/Unfair Business Practices - Litigation							2				1	1	1	3	1	2	2	13
TOTALS:	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	4	4	10	2	3	8	37
% of Total:	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.81%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.41%	10.81%	10.81%	27.03%	5.41%	8.11%	21.62%	

AVERAGE