

Business Litigation Section Hourly Rate Survey Results

In March 2008, the Oregon State Bar conducted a survey on behalf of the Business Litigation 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 Business Litigation Section and might not represent all Oregon lawyers.*

Methodology and Response Rate

All members of the Business Litigation Section with an email address on file with the bar were invited (via email) to participate. Of the 638 possible respondents, we received 166 responses, for a 26% 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 every region of the state except for the Oregon Coast, with the most coming from downtown Portland (70%) and the Tri-County Area (11%).

The majority, 56%, work in law firms with twenty or fewer attorneys, although a high percentage (20%) come from firms with more than 100 attorneys.

The average number of years spent in a practice area is 17-19, with the largest group represented having practiced 8-10 years (11% of the total).

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. The majority indicated they practice in multiple fields of Business Litigation, with only 7% (1 in 14) devoting their entire practice to a specific area and 41% 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 are spread evenly between all levels of experience. 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 (21% of total) and 5-10 years of experience (19% of total).

Representation of AoPs

Six different AoPs were listed. Respondents were asked which areas they practice in, and could choose more than one option. The most-represented groups were: General Business Litigation (62% of responses), Securities (13% of responses) and Intellectual Property (10% of responses). The least-represented groups were: Antitrust (4% of responses), Real Estate (5% of responses) and Bankruptcy (7% of responses).

Hourly Rates Aggregate

Because individual respondents sometimes provided rates for more than one AoP, the total number of responses for Business Litigation hourly rates was 273.

Respondents reported hourly rates in intervals of \$25. Intervals began at \$50 an hour and progressed up to \$450+ per hour.

No respondents claimed an hourly rate of less than \$100 per hour, and only 1.83% claimed less than \$150 per hour. A total of 9.16% of respondents reported rates between \$100 and \$199 per hour. Almost half (46.89%) reported rates between \$200 and \$299. Almost one third (29.3%) reported rates between \$300 and \$399 per hour. And 14.65% of respondents claimed hourly rates of more than \$400.

The average and median hourly rate for Business Litigation lawyers is approximately \$299 per hour.

What region (county) is your office in?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Downtown Portland	69.9%	116
Tri-County area (Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas)	10.8%	18
Oregon Coast (Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Coos, Curry)	0.0%	0
Upper Willamette Valley (Yamhill, Polk, Marion)	6.0%	10
Lower Willamette Valley (Benton, Linn, Lane)	8.4%	14
Southern Oregon (Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath)	2.4%	4
Central Oregon (Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson)	1.8%	3
Eastern Oregon (all other Oregon counties)	0.6%	1
<i>answered question</i>		166
<i>skipped question</i>		0

What size is your firm?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Sole practitioner	15.7%	26
2-5 Attorneys	19.9%	33
6-10 Attorneys	6.6%	11
11-15 Attorneys	4.2%	7
16-20 Attorneys	9.6%	16
21-25 Attorneys	8.4%	14
26-30 Attorneys	3.0%	5
31-35 Attorneys	1.2%	2
36-40 Attorneys	1.2%	2
41-45 Attorneys	0.0%	0
46-50 Attorneys	1.2%	2
51-75 Attorneys	4.8%	8
76-100 Attorneys	4.2%	7
101+ Attorneys	19.9%	33
<i>answered question</i>		166
<i>skipped question</i>		0

How long have you been practicing law?

Answer Options	Response	Response
0-2 Years	8.4%	14
3-5 Years	6.6%	11
5-7 Years	5.4%	9
8-10 Years	11.4%	19
11-13 Years	7.2%	12
14-16 Years	4.8%	8
17-19 Years	6.0%	10
20-22 Years	6.0%	10
23-25 Years	7.2%	12
26-28 Years	9.6%	16
29-31 Years	10.8%	18
32-34 Years	6.6%	11
35-37 Years	6.0%	10
38-40 Years	1.8%	3
41-44 Years	1.2%	2
45+ Years	0.6%	1
<i>answered question</i>		166
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Percent of practice devoted to this type of case						
Answer Options	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%	Totals
Antitrust	9	1	1			11
Securities	20	10	6			36
Intellectual Property	20	1	1	3	3	28
Business	38	44	49	26	17	174
Bankruptcy	9	3	2	3		17
Real Estate	7	2	3	1		13
TOTALS:	103	61	62	33	20	279
% of Total:	36.92%	21.86%	22.22%	11.83%	7.17%	

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	2		1	2	2	5	2			14
Securities	4	7	4	3	1	8	5	1		33
Intellectual Property	6	5	5	4	2	3	1			26
Business	21	34	18	21	17	34	18	5	2	170
Bankruptcy	3	2	1	1	4	5	3			19
Real Estate	1	3		1	2	2	3	1		13
TOTALS:	37	51	29	32	28	57	32	7	2	275
% of Total:	13.45%	18.55%	10.55%	11.64%	10.18%	20.73%	11.64%	2.55%	0.73%	

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						1		1				2		3	1		3	11
Securities							3	4	2	4	4	3	1	3	4	3	3	34
Intellectual Property				1		2	3	2	3	2	4	1		3	1	2	2	26
Business			1	3	3	12	15	25	26	19	16	13	3	13	7	5	9	170
Bankruptcy						2		4	2	2	2	1		6				19
Real Estate							2	2	5	2	1			1				13
TOTALS:	0	0	1	4	3	17	23	38	38	29	27	20	4	29	13	10	17	273
% of Total:	0.00%	0.00%	0.37%	1.47%	1.10%	6.23%	8.42%	13.92%	13.92%	10.62%	9.89%	7.33%	1.47%	10.62%	4.76%	3.66%	6.23%	

AVERAGE