

## **Intellectual Property Section Hourly Rate Survey Results**

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

### **Methodology and Response Rate**

All members of the Intellectual Property Section with an email address on file with the bar were invited (via email) to participate. Of the 532 possible respondents, we received 106 responses, for a 20% 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 six regions of Oregon. The best-represented regions were downtown Portland (68% of total) and the Tri-County Area (24% of total). The least-represented were Central Oregon and Southern Oregon, each with only 1% of the total. There were no respondents from Eastern Oregon or the Oregon Coast.

The majority either work in firms with less than 10 attorneys (42%) or in large firms with more than 100 attorneys (16% of total).

The average number of years spent in a practice area is 8-10, with the largest group (22% of total) focusing on an AoP for only 3-5 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. Nearly 16% reported that they devote their entire practice to a specific area and 36% spend 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, it appears that most respondents are relatively new to this field of law. In fact, 65% have been in a given AoP for only 10 years or less.

The range of data goes from 0 years of experience up to 41+ years of experience. Of these ranges, the three largest represented groups were less than 5 years, 5-10 years and 11-15 years of experience.

### ***Representation of AoPs***

Eight different AoPs were listed. Respondents were asked which areas they practice in, and could choose more than one option. The most-represented group was Patent Law (26% of responses). The least-represented group was Trade Secrets (2 % 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 239. Respondents reported hourly rates in intervals of \$25. Intervals began at \$50 an hour and progressed up to \$450+ per hour.

No respondents reported an hourly rate of less than \$100 per hour. Approximately one in eight (14%) reported between \$100 and \$200 per hour. Almost half (48%) reported rates between \$200 and \$299. Slightly less than one in four (23%) reported rates between \$300 and \$399. And 15% reported hourly rates of more than \$400.

The average and median rate for Intellectual Property lawyers is approximately \$275-\$299 per hour.