

International Law Section Hourly Rate Survey Results

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

Methodology and Response Rate

All members of the International Law Section with an email address on file with the bar were invited (via email) to participate. Of the 148 possible respondents, we received 17 responses, for an 11% 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 five regions of Oregon: Downtown Portland, the Tri-County Area, the Upper Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon, and Central Oregon. The best-represented regions were downtown Portland (47% of total) and the Tri-County Area (35% of total).

The majority, 56%, work in law firms with 10 attorneys or less, although a significant percentage (25%) come from firms with more than 100 attorneys.

The average number of years spent in a practice area is 8-10, although the spread of experience ranges is wide.

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. None reported that they devote their entire practice to a specific area and only 13% (one in eight) 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, most respondents (59%) have been practicing in their AoP for less than 20 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 less than 5 years of experience (41% of total) and 21-25 years of experience (41% of total).

Representation of AoPs

Ten different AoPs were listed. Respondents were asked which areas they practice in, and could choose more than one option. The most-represented groups were International Transactions and International IP, each with 29% of the responses. No respondents selected Enforcement of Judgments, Custom and Tariffs, Immigration Issues, International Employment Law and International Criminal Law.

Hourly Rates Aggregate

Because individual respondents sometimes provided rates for more than one AoP, the total number of responses for hourly rates was 20. 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. One in ten (10%) reported between \$100 and \$200 per hour. Another 45% reported rates between \$200 and \$299. Two out of five (40%) reported rates between \$300 and \$399. And 5% reported hourly rates of more than \$400.

The average and median rate for International Law lawyers is approximately \$250-\$274.