

Litigation Section Hourly Rate Survey Results

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

Methodology and Response Rate

All members of the Litigation Section with an email address on file with the bar were invited (via email) to participate. Of the 1479 possible respondents, we received 338 responses, for a 23% 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, with the most coming from downtown Portland (55%) and the Tri-County Area (17%). The least-represented area was the Oregon Coast, which accounted for 2% of all responses.

The majority, 57%, work in law firms with 10 or fewer attorneys.

The average number of years spent in a practice area is 17-19, with the largest group represented (10%) having practiced for 11-13 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. The majority indicated they practice in multiple fields of litigation, with only 9% (1 in 12) devoting their entire practice to a specific area. The percentage of lawyers spending 100% of their time on a single AoP were markedly higher for the following categories: Personal Injury (20%), Employment Litigation (15%), and Administrative Law - including workers' compensation (14%).

Experience in a specific AoP

When examining the amount of time spent in a specific AoP, the results seem spread out normally. The range of data goes from 0 years of experience up to 45+ years of experience, and no data group appears to be over- or under-represented. Hourly rates tend to rise with experience up to the 30th year, after which rates tend to plateau.

Representation of AoPs

Fourteen different AoPs were listed. Respondents were asked which areas they practice in, and could choose more than one option. The most-represented groups were: Personal Injury (16% of responses), UCC (14% of responses) and Construction (10% of responses). The least-represented groups were: Environmental (3% of responses), Criminal (3% of responses) and General Litigation (4% of responses).

Hourly Rates Aggregate

Because individual respondents generally provided rates for more than one AoP, the total number of responses for litigation hourly rates was 672. *Note that this data is reported in the aggregate – information on how geography, experience, and firm size affect rates is available below and in the attached reports.*

Respondents reported hourly rates in intervals of \$25. Intervals began at \$50 an hour and progressed up to \$450+ per hour. Less than 1% of the respondents (one person) claimed an hourly rate of less than \$100 per hour, and 5% claimed less than \$150 per hour. A total of 30% of respondents reported rates between \$100 and \$199 per hour. Almost half (49%) reported rates between \$200 and \$299. Approximately one in six (16%) reported rates between \$300 and \$399. And 7% claimed hourly rates of more than \$400.

The average and median hourly rate for members of the Litigation Section is approximately \$250 - \$274.

Filtered Results

Full results can be found in the attached spreadsheets. The following are summaries, filtered by one of the identifying demographic questions asked in the survey.

Filtered by Geography

Downtown Portland

- The majority (57%) reported rates between \$175 and \$299 per hour
- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 16% reported rates less than \$200 per hour
- 45% reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 24% reported rates between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 14% reported rates more than \$400 per hour

Tri-County Area

- The majority (54 %) reported rates between \$175 and \$275 per hour
- 5% reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 33% reported rates less than \$200 per hour
- 53% reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 13% reported rates between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 1% reported rates more than \$400 per hour

Oregon Coast

- The majority (62%) reported rates between \$175 and \$199 per hour
- 8% reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 77% reported rates less than \$200 per hour
- 23% reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$300 per hour

Upper Willamette Valley

- The majority (78%) reported rates between \$175 and \$275 per hour
- One respondent (3%) reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 39% reported rates less than \$200 per hour
- 53% reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 8% reported rates between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$325 per hour

Lower Willamette Valley

- The majority (67%) reported rates between \$175 and \$275 per hour
- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 45 % reported rates less than \$200 per hour
- 45% reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 9 % reported rates between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$350 per hour

Southern Oregon

- The majority (61%) reported rates between \$200 and \$249 per hour
- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 32% reported rates less than \$200 per hour
- 66% reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 2% reported rates between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$325 per hour

Eastern Oregon

- The majority (54%) reported rates between \$150 and \$199 per hour
- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 71% reported rates less than \$200 per hour
- 29% reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$225 per hour

Filtered by Experience**0-2 Years**

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 83% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 17% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$275 per hour

3-5 Years

- 5% reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 59% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 41% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$275 per hour

5-7 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 35% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 59% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 5% reported rates between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$325 per hour

8-10 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 31% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 31% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 7% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 2% reported more than \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$425 per hour

11-13 Years

- One respondent reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 26% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 66% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 26% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$400 per hour

14-16 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 28% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 68% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 4% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$350 per hour

17-19 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 17% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 50% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 19% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 15% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 2% reported more than \$450 per hour

20-22 Years

- 2% reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 13% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 58% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 27% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 2% reported more than \$450 per hour

23-25 Years

- 9% reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 33% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 37% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 24% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 7% reported more than \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported rates more than \$425 per hour

26-28 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 22% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 30% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 29% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 19% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 1% reported more than \$450 per hour

29-31 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 12% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 42% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 37% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 10% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 2% reported more than \$450 per hour

32-34 Years

- 3% reported less than \$125 per hour
- 26% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 54% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 5% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 15% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 5% reported more than \$450 per hour

35-37 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 27% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 41% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 18% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 14% reported more than \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$450 per hour

38-40 Years*

- All respondents reported rates between \$200 and \$300 per hour

41-44 Years

- No respondents reported rates less than \$125 per hour
- 9% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 27% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 9% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 55% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 18% reported more than \$450 per hour

45+ Years*

- All respondents reported rates between \$275 and \$325 per hour

* These groups had low response rates

Filtered by Firm Size**Sole Practitioner**

- 1% reported less than \$125 per hour
- 29% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 52% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 13% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 6% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 2% reported more than \$450 per hour

2-5 Attorneys

- 3% reported less than \$125 per hour
- 37% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 48% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 15% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$400 per hour

6-10 Attorneys

- 1% reported less than \$125 per hour
- 41% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 57% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 2% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$325 per hour

11-15 Attorneys

- 3% reported less than \$125 per hour
- 46% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 41% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 8% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 5% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 5% reported more than \$450 per hour

16-20 Attorneys

- 2% reported less than \$125 per hour
- 18% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 53% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 26% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 3% reported more than \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$450 per hour

21-25 Attorneys

- No respondents reported less than \$125 per hour
- 35% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 31% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 15% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 19% reported more than \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$450 per hour

26-30 Attorneys

- No respondents reported less than \$125 per hour
- 14% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 71% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 14% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$400 per hour

31-35 Attorneys*

- No respondents reported less than \$125 per hour
- All respondents reported less than \$200 per hour

* These groups had low response rates

36-40 Attorneys

- No respondents reported less than \$125 per hour
- 14% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 57% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 29% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$350 per hour

41-45 Attorneys*

- No hourly rate information received for this group

46-50 Attorneys

- No respondents reported less than \$125 per hour
- 40% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 40% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- No respondents reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 20% reported more than \$400 per hour
- No respondents reported more than \$450 per hour

51-75 Attorneys*

- All respondents reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour

76-100 Attorneys

- No respondents reported less than \$125 per hour
- 10% reported less than \$200 per hour
- 40% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 30% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 20% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 5% reported more than \$450 per hour

* These groups had low response rates

101+ Attorneys

- No respondents reported less than \$125 per hour
- No respondents reported less than \$200 per hour
- 36% reported between \$200 and \$300 per hour
- 33% reported between \$300 and \$400 per hour
- 32% reported more than \$400 per hour
- 4 % reported more than \$450 per hour