

Charging for Wiring of Funds for International Clients

Hi Friends:

Just curious for those of you with international clients and/or do a lot of wiring, do you pass on the costs of receiving and sending wires, even for receiving funds from client for legal fees deposit and returning trust funds.

TIA

I think the issue would be, does one spell out in one's engagement agreement what will and won't be nickled-and-dimed. One approach is to make sure one's hourly fee allows one to reasonably absorb such costs without needed to spend time and energy on such minutia. Another approach, of course, is to grab every penny one can squeeze out of a client. I suspect folks who like lawyering go more for the first, folks who should have gone into accounting or sales will prefer the latter.

ymmv

Robert Link, California

It may depend on your bank. Some banks charge as high as \$65.00 per wire.

Danny E. Meek, Florida

Back when I was dealing with my aunt's estate in Texas. I'd call the estate; attorney and I get a bill for 37.50 for talking and 2.50 for cost of the phone. I thought it was silly why not just charge \$40? So in my fee agreement unless it's a filing fee if it's under \$5 I don't charge above

\$5 I can if it's a big expense I ask the client first.

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

If I am wiring money to a non-client party on behalf of a client, I will pass on the cost of the fee charged by the bank. I don't pass on the cost of receiving funds. I wouldn't pass on the cost of returning the balance of trust funds.

Bert Krages, Oregon

Yes,

John DeBruyn, Colorado

For real estate closings, I pass on bank fee for wiring payoffs domestically.

I do not recall the last time I had to wire funds or receive wired funds for an international client. If it were a situation involving my legal fees, I would probably look at it as overhead.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

Yes also. If I didn't pay those overseas bills directly, they would have to do so. Not going to get away from the wire fees (unless they have some deal with the bank).

But I'll mail USD-denominated checks when I can. Then the client pays nothing.

Tim Ackermann
