

What are You All Paying for Bar Dues?

Just paid my annual Florida bar dues (reminder, folks, due by 8/15 or \$50 late fee) and the charge is \$265 per year, not including section fees and donations.

What are you all paying?

That's similar to what we pay in Texas. Mine was \$330, including REPTL section membership.

Michael Koenecke, Texas

The CA Bar charged \$515 in 2021. CA is a mandatory bar state.

"The total fees will be \$515. This includes a \$395 base fee and the following legislatively mandated fees:

\$25 for disciplinary activities

\$40 for the Client Security Fund

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Complaints-Claims/Client-Security-Fund>

\$10 for the Lawyer Assistance Program

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/Member-Records/Lawyer-Assistance-Program>

\$45 for legal ai

Lawyers earning below a certain amount can qualify for a fee reduction and some of the fees, like for lobbying, can be opted out of.

Corrine Bielejeski, California

\$350 every 2 years in Ohio. I don't pay anything in MO after they upped the inactive fee from \$50 to \$100 (I'd just need to make up those fees if I ever want to activate again)

Erin M. Schmidt, Ohio

\$99 per year for the mandatory bar; an additional \$230 for the voluntary bar.

Duke Drouillard, Nebraska

\$660 a year mandatory fee. One free section included. Additional sections are an extra \$15.00 each.

Lisa A. Mariotti, Alaska

I paid fees of \$425 to the State of Vermont for two years for my law license.

Vermont Bar Association is a separate (voluntary) membership, and I pay \$225/year to be a member. That fee includes access to Casemaker/Fastcase for legal research.

L. Maxwell Taylor, Vermont

Over \$600 for Hawaii (annually), plus \$375-ish every two years for NY (can't go "inactive" in NY until totally retired from practice, anywhere).

Cynthia Hannah-White, Hawaii

Prior to my retirement:

NYS Office of Court Administration biennial registration fee (mandatory) - \$375.00

NYS Bar Assn (voluntary) - \$300.00 / yr plus section fees (typically \$15-25.00 each)

County Bar Assn (voluntary) - \$55.00 /yr

After retirement:

NYS Office of Court Administration biennial registration (registration is mandatory if you wish to remain "licensed", but fee is waived upon certification of retirement status) - \$0

NYS Bar Assn (voluntary) - \$100.00 / yr (upon certification of retirement status) plus section fees (typically \$15-25.00 each)

County Bar Assn (voluntary) - \$55.00 /yr *

* - No consideration shown by your colleagues after retirement. But then, none was shown before retirement, either.

Rod Klafehn, New York

Michigan: \$315 required annually

Alex Salmu, Michigan

AZ \$505

Nicholas I. Fuerst, Arizona

Washington is mandatory, \$478 plus extra for sections.

Susan L. Beecher, Washington

Pennsylvania is \$335 with discounts for new attorneys and government attorneys. Membership is not mandatory.

My county doesn't have a bar association.

Christine J. Kuntz, Pennsylvania

My base fee for Georgia was \$254, plus a couple other add-ons that I can't remember off-hand. Individual section memberships range from \$10-\$35 each.

Renewal is annually.

JB Hilliard, Georgia

Virginia State Bar: Mandatory \$285 (\$250 bar dues, \$5 client protection fund, \$30 attorney wellness--funds a lawyers' assistance program) Voluntary section dues of \$15 for Intellectual property, \$15 for corporate counsel. The VSB dues include access to FastCase.

Williamsburg Bar Association: \$80, waived last year because of the pandemic. I get enough free food and beer from this one that it seems pretty cheap. Kevin Grierson, Virginia

Oklahoma is a mandatory bar & does a sliding scale based on years in practice. I'm in my second year of practice & paid \$137.50 plus \$20 for the estate planning section. Section fees vary.

Katherine M. Bushnell, Oklahoma

KY is \$310, same as it has been for the past 5 years. It includes our annual CLE requirement provided at no additional cost.

Ed Burcham, Kentucky

We have local Bars (none of our bars are mandatory, only the licensing dues to the state) but I pay for my local one which runs about \$230 ish a year, but you can break that down into monthly payments. I do it because they run a ton of free CLE's and it almost fills all my CLE requirements for the

2-year reporting period and definitely all my professional conduct ones, plus a few extra perks.

Erin M. Schmidt

Louisiana has a mandatory Bar (for now...there is litigation ongoing). For an attorney practicing for more than 3 years, the costs is \$200, plus \$235 for the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board mandatory assessment.

Mark E. Peneguy, Louisiana

Oregon is a mandatory bar - base fee for 2021 is \$617, sections fees vary.

For 2021, there was a reduced fee for those who anticipate gross income under \$40,000. The base fee also includes an assessment supporting the Client Security Fund - \$30/active member in 2021. Active Pro Bono, Inactive, and Retired fees were \$150 for 2021.

Oregon also has a required assessment for attorneys in private practice for coverage by the Professional Liability Fund. The basic assessment for 2021 is \$3,300 - payable in up to 4 installments. Excess coverage is available from the PLF or a number of private insurance companies - excess coverage is not required.

Sarah Kessler, Oregon

I'm dually licensed in Indiana and Illinois, but neither require bar membership, only annual registration fees.

Jennifer D. Norris, Indiana

Yup for Hawaii and we have a mandatory bar.

Naomi Fujimoto, Hawaii

I'm in WA, so ditto Susan Beecher.

Hi Susan!!

AnnMichelle G. Hart< Washington

We have three bars, two of them mandatory.

- We must pay dues to the State Bar to maintain active practice status, currently \$300/year.

-- Plus \$25/year to the Client Security Fund (or whatever it's called;
bails out clients when attorneys are disbarred for trust fund abuses).

- We must pay dues to the County Bar in the county in which our practice is domiciled and in which we principally practice;

you can only be in one County Bar Association, and you must be in one. These dues are tiered, and may vary by county.

-- Judges, Law Professors, and Attorneys over age 70, \$70

-- Active members in practice > 3 years, \$95

-- "Sustaining Membership", \$120

-- Lawyers in second or third year of practice, \$70

- The North Carolina Bar Association is a voluntary membership organization akin to the American Bar Association, and dues vary by membership level, number of sections, etc. Membership includes some free CLE (potentially enough to satisfy your year's requirements), access to group insurance policies, etc.

-- Years 1-2, \$0

-- Years 3-5, \$180

-- Years 6+ \$360

-- Retired, \$90

-- Judges, \$180

-- Paralegals, \$90

-- Affiliates, \$90

-- Law Students, \$0

-- Emeritus, \$180 (40+ years or > 70 years old, not full-time practice)

We have other membership bars, as well. For instance, for a number of years, I was in the North Carolina Advocates for Justice, "The Plaintiff's Bar."

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

Louisiana is a mandatory bar (currently in limbo due to 5th Circuit ruling in *Boudreaux v. LSBA*

<<https://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/20/20-30086-CV0.pdf>>) and costs are \$235 for the disciplinary board and \$200 for the Louisiana Bar for a total of \$435.

Loyd J. Bourgeois, Jr., Louisiana
