

**Oregon State Bar
Special Meeting of the Board of Governors**

October 4, 2023

3:30 p.m.

Videoconference

Open Session Agenda

The mission of the OSB is to serve justice and the public interest by promoting respect for the rule of law, improving the quality of legal services, and increasing access to justice.

The Special Open Session Meeting of the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors will begin at 3:30 p.m. October 4, 2023. Items on the agenda will not necessarily be discussed in the order as shown.

1. Call to Order

2. Approve 2024 Licensed Paralegal Fees

Action

Exhibit

OREGON STATE BAR

Board of Governors Agenda

Meeting Date: October 4, 2022
From: Helen M Hirschbiel
Re: Licensed Paralegal Member Fee

Action Recommended

Approve 2024 Member Fees for Licensed Paralegals (LPs).

Background and Discussion

In May 2022, as part of the approval process for the Licensed Paralegal Program, staff presented the Board of Governors with a proposed fee for LPs equivalent to roughly half of the regular license fee.¹

In developing the proposed 2024 OSB budget, staff assumed a fee for Active Licensed Paralegals of \$330, which represents roughly half of the \$658 base member fee. In addition, LPs will be charged the \$20 Client Security Fund Assessment, for a total fee of \$350. Although staff has shared this information with board members, the Board has not yet approved the license fee for LPs. As far as we are aware, there has been no discussion of the inactive or retired fee with members of the board.² However, staff recommends that those fees be the same for LPs as for lawyers.

In order to charge LPs fees for 2024, the Board will need to approve proposed fees for inclusion on the HOD Agenda. The Bar Act requires that notice of member fees be published with the HOD annual meeting agenda, at least 20 days in advance of the meeting. ORS 9.191. The deadline for publication of the HOD Agenda is October 6, 2023.

Options

1. Approve the fee schedule for Licensed Paralegals as set forth in the attached Notice of 2024 Oregon State Bar Member Fees.
2. Approve an alternate fee to charge Licensed Paralegals in 2024.
3. Decline to approve any fee for Licensed Paralegals.

Attachment: Notice of 2024 Oregon State Bar Member Fees

¹ See Hirschbiel BOG Memo dated May 13, 2022, *Paralegal Licensing Program Rules and Operations*. The fee listed was \$350, with a note “assumes 56% of expected active Bar Membership Fee.”

² Per OSB Bylaw 6.2, Licensed Paralegals are not eligible for Active Pro Bono Status.

Notice of 2024 Oregon State Bar Member Fees

The first chart below shows the Fee Schedule for the 2024 Annual Member Fees for lawyers, which is the same as 2023. The fee below includes the 2024 assessments for the Client Security Fund (CSF) and the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). The assessment amounts for 2024 remain at \$20.00 and \$10.00, respectively.

Based on a recommendation from the CSF Committee, the Board of Governors resolved to keep the CSF assessment for 2024 at \$20.00. As of August 31, 2023, the fund balance was \$1.636 million. Throughout 2023, there has been a significant decrease in the number and dollar amount of claims, which is forecasted to allow the balance to be above the \$1.25 million reserve level through 2024.

The second chart shows the Fee Schedule for Licensed Paralegals (LPs). The LP license fee shown below includes the \$20 CSF assessment, but no LRAP assessment, as LPs are not currently eligible for loan repayment assistance through the bar's program.

The due date for all 2024 member fees is Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

Regular Member Fee/Status	Fee Through January 31, 2024	Fee Effective February 1, 2024
Active	\$ 688	\$ 788
Active Under \$45k AGI **	\$ 557	\$ 657
Active Pro Bono	\$ 150	\$ 200
Inactive	\$ 150	\$ 200
Retired	\$ 150	\$ 200
** Based on 2023 annual gross income		

Licensed Paralegal Fee/Status	Fee Through January 31, 2024	Fee Effective February 1, 2024
Active Licensed Paralegal	\$ 350	\$ 450
Inactive	\$ 150	\$ 200
Retired	\$ 150	\$ 200