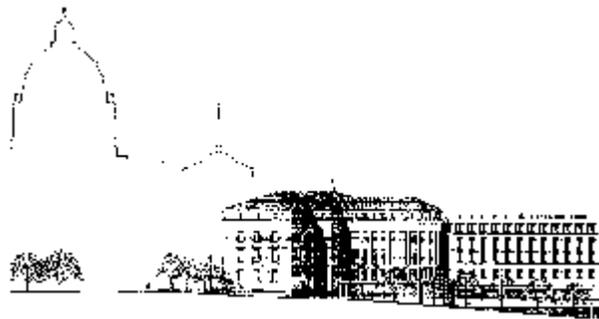


**State of Minnesota**

**Lawyer  
Registration  
Office**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
CALENDAR YEAR 2014**

**MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT  
LAWYER REGISTRATION OFFICE  
ANNUAL REPORT: 2014**

The Lawyer Registration Office (LRO) administers and maintains the database of Minnesota-licensed attorneys, which includes the names, addresses, license status information, and professional liability insurance information. LRO staff issues annual registration notices to all Minnesota-licensed lawyers, processes annual registration payments, and responds to inquiries from lawyers, courts, and the public about lawyer licenses and lawyer registration matters. All Minnesota lawyers are listed in the LRO database and are designated as either “Authorized” or “Not authorized” to practice law, depending upon their lawyer registration payment status, CLE compliance status, and disciplinary status.

**I. LICENSED ATTORNEYS**

In 2014, the Lawyer Registration Office processed 28,517 annual registration statements, compared to 27,669 processed in 2013. A total of 13,973 payments were processed online using a credit or debit card. Online payments accounted for approximately 49% of all payments received. Lawyers who do not pay by the deadline are administratively placed on suspended status. Lawyers are reinstated upon payment of the delinquent fee, plus a \$75.00 late fee. During 2014, LRO administratively suspended approximately 2,800 lawyers.

During the 2014 calendar year, there were a total of 28,786 licensed lawyers<sup>1</sup> in Minnesota, an increase of 91 from December 2013. As of December 31, 2014, a total of 3,790 lawyers were on inactive status, a decrease of seven from December 2013.<sup>2</sup>

**II. FISCAL SUMMARY**

**A. REVENUE**

The Lawyer Registration Office is funded primarily by late fees assessed to lawyers who fail to timely pay their annual registration fees. In calendar year 2014, the Lawyer Registration Office late fees generated \$246,455. By Court order dated July 24, 2014, the Lawyer Registration Office is now also supported by a \$4 allocation

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<sup>1</sup> The number of licensed lawyers does not include lawyers who are suspended for nonpayment of registration fees. Lawyers suspended for nonpayment are referred to as “noncompliant” and are not considered licensed.

<sup>2</sup> “Inactive” status means the lawyer is in good standing, but not authorized to practice law. This group of lawyers is considered to be licensed.

from the Lawyer Registration Fee. This change was effective October 1, 2014 and generated \$25,628 in 2014.

LRO is responsible for collecting lawyers' annual registration fees, which are allocated among the various Court Boards and other entities in accordance with Supreme Court rules. The Boards and entities to which the funds are allocated include the Lawyer Registration Office, Board of Law Examiners, Board of Continuing Legal Education, Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, Client Security Fund (CSF), and the Legal Services Advisory Committee (LSAC). In 2014, LRO collected \$7,045,575.50 in total revenue from Minnesota lawyers, which includes all Lawyer Registration annual fees and late fees, as well as fees for duplicate licenses and certificates of good standing. **Chart 1** lists the six lawyer payment categories of annual registration fees, as well as the three categories that do not generate fees.

**Chart 1: Registration Fees**

Active Status	\$ 254.00
Active Status - Income Less Than \$25,000	\$ 226.00
Active Status - Lawyers on Fulltime Military Duty <sup>3</sup>	\$ 0
Active Status - Lawyers Admitted Fewer than Three Years	\$ 120.00
Active Status - Lawyers Admitted Fewer than Three Years - Income Less Than \$25,000	\$ 106.00
Inactive Status - MN Resident or Out-of-State	\$ 211.00
Inactive Status - MN Resident or Out-of-State - Income Less Than \$25,000	\$ 183.00
Inactive Status – Retired	\$ 0
Inactive Status - Permanent Disability	\$ 0

**Chart 2** shows how each registration fee was allocated from January 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014. **Chart 3** shows the allocation after October 1, 2014.

**Chart 2: Fee Allocations prior to October 1, 2014**

	\$ 106.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 183.00	\$ 211.00	\$ 226.00	\$ 254.00
<b>BLE</b>	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00
<b>CLE</b>	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00
<b>OLPR</b>	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 122.00	\$ 122.00
<b>CSF</b>	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
<b>LSAC1<sup>4</sup></b>	\$ 23.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 71.00	\$ 47.00	\$ 75.00
<b>LSAC2<sup>5</sup></b>	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00

<sup>3</sup> Per *Minnesota Statute 325.56*, active duty military are exempt from paying attorney fees.

<sup>4</sup> LSAC1: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for civil legal services and grant program purposes.

<sup>5</sup> LSAC2: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for a lawyers assistance program.

**Chart 3: Fee Allocations after October 1, 2014**

	<b>\$ 106.00</b>	<b>\$ 120.00</b>	<b>\$ 183.00</b>	<b>\$ 211.00</b>	<b>\$ 226.00</b>	<b>\$ 254.00</b>
<b>BLE</b>	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00
<b>CLE</b>	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
<b>OLPR</b>	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 122.00	\$ 122.00
<b>CSF</b>	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
<b>LSAC1<sup>6</sup></b>	\$ 23.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 71.00	\$ 47.00	\$ 75.00
<b>LSAC2<sup>7</sup></b>	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00
<b>LRO</b>	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00

**B. EXPENSES**

The Lawyer Registration Office shares employees, resources, and facilities with the Board of Law Examiners, Board of Continuing Legal Education, and Board of Legal Certification, and contributes 9% to all-office overhead expenses. Beginning in July 2014, the salary allocation for staff was as follows: Director: 4%; Assistant Director and Counsel: 10%; LRO/CLE Administrator: 15%; Director’s Assistant: 2%; LRO Staff Assistant: 95%; Staff Assistant: 50%; Staff Assistant: 5%; Staff Assistant: 2%; Receptionist: 8%; and Office Manager: 6%.

**III. CONCLUSION**

The Lawyer Registration function touches every licensed Minnesota lawyer and is the official and sole source of public information identifying those lawyers who are authorized to practice law in Minnesota and those who are not. The Lawyer Registration Office database is the definitive source that lawyers, judges, and the public rely upon for this important information. With additional revenue now supporting its operations, the Lawyer Registration Office is on firm financial ground so that it can continue to seek greater efficiencies in its operations while increasing customer service to the lawyers and judges of the state of Minnesota.

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<sup>6</sup> LSAC1: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for civil legal services and grant program purposes.

<sup>7</sup> LSAC2: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for a lawyers assistance program.

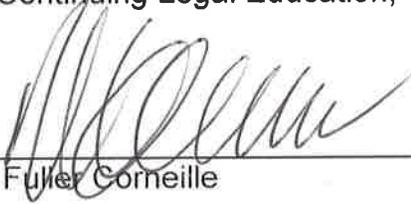
Respectfully submitted,

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT LAWYER REGISTRATION OFFICE



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Daniel R. Kelly  
Board of Continuing Legal Education, Chair



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Margaret Fuller Corneille  
Director

Dated: 6/30/2015