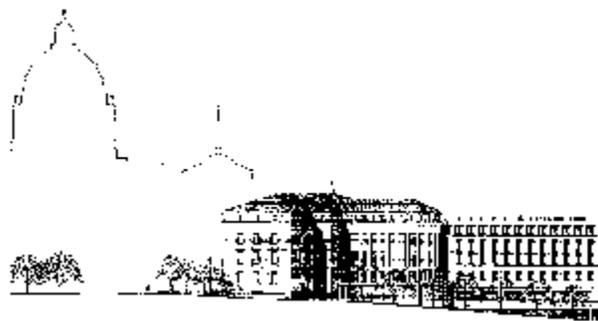


**State of Minnesota**

**Lawyer  
Registration  
Office**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
CALENDAR YEAR 2015**

**MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT  
LAWYER REGISTRATION OFFICE  
ANNUAL REPORT: 2015**

The Lawyer Registration Office (LRO) provides a service to the Judicial Branch of the State of Minnesota, as well as to the public, by administering the Lawyer Registration Rules (Rules) and maintaining the database of Minnesota-licensed lawyers. This database includes the name, address, license status information, and professional liability insurance information of each Minnesota-licensed lawyer. LRO staff issue annual registration notices to each Minnesota-licensed lawyer, process annual registration payments, and respond to inquiries from lawyers, courts, and the public about lawyer licenses and lawyer registration matters. All Minnesota lawyers listed in the public LRO database 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 2015, the Lawyer Registration Office processed 27,976 annual registration statements, compared to 28,517 processed in 2014, a decrease of 1.9%. There were 16,512 payments processed online through payment by credit or debit card. Online payments accounted for approximately 69% of all payments received, which is an increase of 20% since 2014. This increase in part is attributable to a new \$10 paper filing fee that the Court adopted effective with the January 1, 2016 registration cycle.

During the 2015 calendar year, there were a total of 27,976 active licensed lawyers in Minnesota, a decrease of 810 or 2.8% compared to December 2014. As of December 31, 2015, a total of 3,959 lawyers were on inactive status, an increase of 169 from December 2014.<sup>1</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 2015, the Lawyer Registration Office late fees generated \$147,576. By Court order dated July 24, 2014, the Lawyer Registration Office is now also supported by a \$4 allocation from the Lawyer Registration Fee. This change, effective October 1, 2014, generated revenue totaling \$113,211 in 2015. By Court order dated September 29,

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<sup>1</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.

2015, the total Lawyer Registration Fee charged to all Minnesota lawyers was decreased by \$6 per lawyer effective with the January 1, 2016 annual statements, which are paid partly in 2015. The decrease of \$6 reduced allocations to the Board of Continuing Legal Education and the Legal Services Advisory Committee

LRO is responsible for collecting lawyers' annual registration fees that are allocated among the various Court Boards and other entities in accordance with Supreme Court rules. The Boards and entities to which the funds it collects 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 2015, LRO collected \$7,044,652.30 in total revenue from Minnesota lawyers. This amount 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**

Status	Fee prior to 1/1/16 statements	Fee effective with 1/1/16 statements
Active Status	\$254	\$248
Active Status - Income Less Than \$25,000	\$226	\$220
Active Status - Lawyers on Fulltime Military Duty <sup>2</sup>	-	-
Active Status - Lawyers Admitted Fewer than Three Years	\$120	\$114
Active Status - Lawyers Admitted Fewer than Three Years - Income Less Than \$25,000	\$106	\$100
Inactive Status - MN Resident or Out-of-State	\$211	\$205
Inactive Status - MN Resident or Out-of-State - Income Less Than \$25,000	\$183	\$177
Inactive Status – Retired	-	-
Inactive Status - Permanent Disability	-	-

<sup>2</sup> Per *Minnesota Statute 325.56*, active duty military are exempt from paying attorney fees.

**Chart 2** shows how each registration fee was allocated from January 1, 2015 to the beginning of the January 1, 2016 statement period. **Chart 3** shows the allocation effective with the January 1, 2016 statement period.

**Chart 2: Fee Allocations for 2015 Statements**

	\$ 106	\$ 120	\$ 183	\$ 211	\$ 226	\$ 254
<b>BLE</b>	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21
<b>CLE</b>	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4
<b>OLPR</b>	\$ 26	\$ 26	\$ 83	\$ 83	\$ 122	\$ 122
<b>CSF</b>	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
<b>LSAC1<sup>3</sup></b>	\$ 23	\$ 37	\$ 43	\$ 71	\$ 47	\$ 75
<b>LSAC2<sup>4</sup></b>	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16

**Chart 3: Fee Allocations Effective with January 1, 2016 Statements**

	\$ 100	\$ 114	\$ 177	\$ 205	\$ 220	\$ 248
<b>BLE</b>	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21
<b>CLE</b>	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 1
<b>OLPR</b>	\$ 26	\$ 26	\$ 83	\$ 83	\$ 122	\$ 122
<b>CSF</b>	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
<b>LSAC1<sup>5</sup></b>	\$ 23	\$ 37	\$ 43	\$ 71	\$ 47	\$ 75
<b>LSAC2<sup>6</sup></b>	\$ 13	\$ 13	\$ 13	\$ 13	\$ 13	\$ 13
<b>LRO</b>	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4

## **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 2015, the salary allocation for staff was as follows: Director: 5%; Assistant Director and Counsel: 10%; LRO/CLE Administrator: 20%; Director's Assistant: 5%; LRO Staff Assistant: 90%; Staff Assistant: 50%; Staff Assistant: 5%; Staff Assistant: 5%; Receptionist: 5%; Staff Attorney: 5%; and Office Manager: 10%.

<sup>3</sup> LSAC1: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for civil legal services and grant program purposes.

<sup>4</sup> LSAC2: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for a lawyers assistance program.

<sup>5</sup> LSAC1: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for civil legal services and grant program purposes.

<sup>6</sup> LSAC2: Payments allocated to Legal Services Advisory Committee for a lawyers assistance program.

### 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 authorized. 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 and is able to continue to seek greater efficiencies in its operations while increasing customer service to the lawyers and judges of the State of Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT LAWYER REGISTRATION OFFICE



Nancy McLean  
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Dated: July 27, 2016