

Summary of responses from local bar associations regarding the proposed increase for reimbursement for fee arbitrations assigned

	Support the increase?	Caseload shift since 2010?	Increase cost?	Impact on budget if not receiving increase	Impact of fee waivers	Additional Info
Los Angeles County Bar Association	Yes	None reported	Increased by 11% since 2010		22% of cases file fee waivers	While not all cases proceed to arbitration, case management of this volume requires an enormous amount of administrative time and expense. In addition, because of the volume, often the time from submission of the request until the program staff serves the award on the parties is delayed due to the number of volunteers (and the time it takes to identify volunteers who have no conflict-of-interest) available to take cases. The increase, if approved, would provide additional dollars to help fund occasional temporary assistance and ongoing recruitment, expansion and updating of
Alameda	Yes	16% increase in caseload	Overall operating costs increase by 8% since 2010.	Return to discussion of running program?	Loss of 14% of revenue from fee waivers	Filing fees cover 70% of the costs. There have been several times during the past decade where the ACBA Board of Directors and/or its Finance Committee has debated whether to continue operating a voluntary fee arbitration program because of its negative impact on the bar's bottom line.
Beverly Hills	Yes, especially because there is a sole staff person.	Increased slightly.	Overhead has increased steadily throughout the years.	Would help defray costs for copying additional copies of materials for arbitrators as well as increased postage for mailing these materials	Minimal issues in this area.	
Santa Monica	Yes	Increased significantly	Expenses such as postage, photocopies, ink, additional office supplies, internet and telephone, etc have steadily increased since 2009.	Staffing pay cuts	We cannot afford to offer complete fee waivers, only partial fee waivers to clients. More and more clients are requesting fee waivers in these tough economic times. Clients are also requesting installment plans to help be able to pay for the filing fees. This lengthens the time it takes for the program to receive the appropriate filing	Multiple panels have been required recently due to larger, more complex fee disputes, requiring copies of files to be made and mailed to 3 arbitrators; instead of 1, increasing the costs for expenses for the panel cases.

Summary of responses from local bar associations regarding the proposed increase for reimbursement for fee arbitrations assigned

	Support the increase?	Caseload shift since 2010?	Increase cost?	Impact on budget if not receiving increase	Impact of fee waivers	Additional Info
Santa Clara	The SCCBA strongly supports a meaningful increase to the fee arbitration reimbursement rate.	Our fee arbitration caseload increased 10% from 2010.	Our expenses have increased \$11,000 from 2009, which represents a 9% increase in expenses (some of this is due to salary/benefit increases and a larger portion is represented by health care cost increases; most of the increase is due to non-discretionary expenses).	Since 35 – 40% of the Fee Arbitration Program expenses are subsidized by general bar dues to subsidize a State Bar mandated program, a meaningful reimbursement rate from the State Bar is more than justified.	Since 2009, we have granted 16 fee request waivers, some of which were partial waivers. Those waivers cost the program \$4,517 in income. While that is not an insignificant sum, it likely will not impact our decision to continue with full and partial waivers unless it was to dramatically increase. However, it should be noted again that our total yearly reimbursement income barely covers the amount we have lost each year since implementing the waiver program, at the request of the State Bar.	The State Bar reimbursement has covered 2% since 2009, which is down from the 3% that it covered from 2007 – 2009.
BASF	Strongly in support	Slight decrease		An increase in the reimbursement would assist with the financial stability of the program and our ability to offer it.	Increase in fee waivers	The increased expenses coupled with the decrease in income has recently forced us to lay-off the Fee Disputes Coordinator
Sonoma	Support	Down slightly	6% increase	Nominal	No impact	

Summary of responses from local bar associations regarding the proposed increase for reimbursement for fee arbitrations assigned

	Support the increase?	Caseload shift since 2010?	Increase cost?	Impact on budget if not receiving increase	Impact of fee waivers	Additional Info
Ventura	Yes	Since 2010, the number of the fee arbitrations have dropped. In 2010, we had 33 fee arbitrations set. In 2011, we had 29 fee arbitrations set, and this year (2012), we have only had 1 fee arbitration request come into our office. Although there was only a difference of 3 fee arbitration cases from 2010 to 2011, the fee arbitrations requests for 2010 were for higher dollar amounts, which in turn netted more revenue for	Rising price of mailing fees to send out the fee arbitrations via regular mail.	Our program has spent more money managing the program in 2011 and 2010 then we got in revenues.	No impact	None
Contra Costa	Yes	slightly down in 2011	CCCBA Fee Mediation/Arbitration Program always operates at a loss. Overhead costs constantly increase and LRIS fees which are used to partly fund the program are still down significantly	An additional \$14 per case in State Bar reimbursements would help continue the operation of our Fee Arbitration Program by covering some of the costs.	We are waiving more fees and not getting reimbursed.	CCCBA regards the Fee Mediation/Arbitration Program as an important public service that benefits both the community and attorneys. An increase would help justify the continued operation of the program.
San Luis Obispo	Yes, even though the program is financially sound.	Average of 23 cases per year.	Postage primarily.	Not a significant impact.	Generally grant 5 fee waivers per year on average. Those primarily come from incarcerated clients.	