

ATTACHMENT B

Comments Received on Proposed Amendment to State Bar Rule 2.15, Fee Scaling for Employees of IOLTA Recipient Organizations

Organization	In Favor	Opposed	Excerpts
Disability Rights California	X		Like most legal services programs in California, DRC is facing unprecedented fiscal challenges due to cuts in our federal and state funding. In addition to full-time attorneys, many legal services programs, like DRC, employ part-time attorneys to meet client needs. Broadening the current reduction in bar dues to certain part-time attorneys would enable us to further reduce expenses in these difficult financial times.
Legal Aid Association of California	X		As legal services organizations' budgets are cut, many previous full-time attorneys may now be part-time attorneys. LAAC has seen this borne out in the data from IOLTA-funded programs. Part-time attorneys have grown from approximately 120 in 2007 to 150 in 2011. Allowing the 25% reduction for part-time attorneys who work at least 50% and who do not have additional legal income allows the programs who pay those dues to save money that can be allocated to client services. For the IOLTA-funded programs with qualifying part-time attorneys, the savings could be very meaningful.
National Senior Citizens Law Center	X		Like most legal services organizations, NSCLC pays the bar dues of our attorneys. In our organizations, fifty percent of our California attorneys work on a reduced schedule. Extending scaling to these employees recognizes their dedication to public service. And every dollar that we can save from reduced bar dues is money that we can use to support our mission of advocating for low income older adults.
OneJustice	X		Despite the State Bar's successful efforts to increase funding through the Campaign for Justice and through attorney dues statement opt-out giving opportunities, funding remains at an historic low. OneJustice is grateful that the State Bar continues to support new avenues for funding legal services for low-income Californians. As legal services organizations' budgets are cut, many previous full-time attorney positions may be downsized into part-time attorney positions. For the IOLTA-funded programs with qualifying part-time attorneys, the savings could allow for more clients to be served.



California's protection and advocacy system

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www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org

October 16, 2013

Frank Monti
Office of Legal Services
The State Bar of California
100 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: *Proposed Amendment to State Bar Rule 2.15*

Dear Mr. Monti:

I am writing to express support for the proposed amendment to State Bar Rule 2.15, which would broaden the current 25 percent reduction in State Bar dues for certain active members who are employed at IOLTA-funded organizations to apply to certain part time employees who have no other employment relating to the practice of law. Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization mandated to advance the human and legal rights of people with disabilities, is statewide legal services program that receives IOLTA funds.

Like most legal services programs in California, DRC is facing unprecedented fiscal challenges due to cuts in our federal and state funding. We appreciate the ability to reduce our expenses with the State Bar's attorney fee scaling rule. In addition to full-time attorneys, many legal services programs, like DRC, employ part-time attorneys to meet client needs. Broadening the current reduction in bar dues to certain part-time attorneys would enable us to further reduce expenses in these difficult financial times.

Monti
10/16/13
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Thank you for efforts to support the legal services community and the clients we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew Mudryk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Andrew Mudryk
Deputy Director

“The Unified Voice of Legal Services”



October 28, 2013

The State Bar of California
180 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94105
Sent via email to: frank.monti@calbar.ca.gov

Re: Comment on proposed changes to Fee Scaling for Employees of IOLTA Recipient Organizations - SUPPORT

On behalf of the Legal Aid Association of California, *I am writing to support the proposed changes to State Bar Rule 2.15 (Scaling).*

Founded in 1983, the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) is a nonprofit organization created to ensure the effective delivery of legal services to low-income and underserved people and families throughout California. LAAC is the statewide membership nonprofit for IOLTA-funded legal services organizations, so this proposal would directly benefit our members.

LAAC would like to thank the State Bar Board of Trustees for their consideration of this proposal. As the members of the Board of Trustees well know, funding for legal services has been decreasing for the past several years as the formerly reliable Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts funding has plummeted with interest rates. Despite the State Bar's successful efforts to increase funding through the Campaign for Justice and through attorney dues statement opt-out giving opportunities, funding is still lower than it was even five years ago. On behalf of our members, we are grateful that the State Bar continues to find ways to help fund legal services for low-income Californians.

As legal services organizations' budgets are cut, many previous full-time attorneys may now be part-time attorneys. LAAC has seen this borne out in the data from IOLTA-funded programs. Part-time attorneys have grown from approximately 120 in 2007 to 150 in 2011.¹

¹ As reported by IOLTA-funded field programs in their annual IOLTA applications. Note that we do not know what percentage of these attorneys would qualify for the dues based on employment, nor do we know how many programs pay those attorneys' dues. We simply want to note the increasing number of part-time attorneys.

Allowing the 25% reduction for part-time attorneys who work at least 50% and who do not have additional legal income allows the programs who pay those dues to save money that can be allocated to client services. For the IOLTA-funded programs with qualifying part-time attorneys, the savings could be very meaningful.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Salena Copeland
Interim Executive Director
Legal Aid Association of California

October 28, 2013

Via email to: frank.monti@calbar.ca.gov

The State Bar of California
180 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Proposed changes to Fee Scaling for Employees of IOLTA Recipient Organizations

The National Senior Citizens Law Center is pleased to submit these comments in support of the proposed changes to State Bar Rule 2.15 (Scaling).

The National Senior Citizens Law Center is an IOLTA funded non-profit legal services advocacy organization whose principal mission is to protect the rights of low-income older adults, especially women, people of color and other disadvantaged minorities.

We write to express our appreciation for the Bar's current policy of scaling dues for attorneys employed by IOLTA recipient organizations and to express support for the proposal of the Board of Trustees to extend scaling to include attorneys who are working at least half-time.

Like most legal services organizations, NSCLC pays the bar dues of our attorneys. In our organization, fifty percent of our California attorneys work on a reduced schedule. They are not spending other time pursuing for-profit legal work but, because of family obligations, currently require some flexibility in scheduling. Extending scaling to these employees recognizes their dedication to public service. And every dollar that we can save from reduced Bar dues is money that we can use to support our mission of advocating for low income older adults.

Thank you for the Bar's continuing support of legal services and for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,



Kevin Prindiville
Executive Director

October 29, 2013

The State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Sent via email to: frank.monti@calbar.ca.gov

Re: Comment on proposed changes to Fee Scaling for Employees of IOLTA Recipient Organizations - SUPPORT

On behalf of OneJustice, *I am writing to support the proposed changes to State Bar Rule 2.15 (Scaling).*

OneJustice is an IOLTA-funded statewide support center that expands legal help for underserved Californians by building infrastructure and partnerships in the legal community through our Pro Bono Justice and Healthy Nonprofits programs. OneJustice supports a statewide network of nonprofit legal organizations, law schools, law firms, and businesses in providing free legal assistance to those in need. As an IOLTA-funded program, this proposal directly benefits OneJustice.

OneJustice would like to thank the State Bar Board of Trustees for their consideration of this proposal.

As the members of the Board of Trustees well know, funding for legal services has been decreasing for the past several years as the formerly reliable Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts funding has plummeted with interest rates. Despite the State Bar's successful efforts to increase funding through the Campaign for Justice and through attorney dues statement opt-out giving opportunities, funding remains at a historical low. OneJustice is grateful that the State Bar continues to support new avenues for funding legal services for low-income Californians.

As legal services organizations' budgets are cut, many previous full-time attorney positions may be downsized into part-time attorney positions. Additionally, the proposed changes to State Bar Rule 2.15 provide meaningful support to organizations wishing to employ attorneys who may need to work part-time in order to care for a family member who is a minor, elderly, or has a disability.

Allowing the 25% reduction for part-time attorneys who work at least 50% and who do not have additional legal income allows the programs who pay those dues to allocate the money toward client services. For the IOLTA-funded programs with qualifying part-time attorneys, the savings could allow for more clients to be served.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Linda Kim
Deputy Director
OneJustice