

Five-Year Member Survey

Since 2001 the Bar has collected basic demographic information on licensed attorneys every five years and asked additional questions related to the State Bar and practice of law.

In previous years the State Bar has entered into a contract with an outside consulting firm to design and implement the survey. The 2016 survey will be designed and delivered by Bar staff. Staff are currently soliciting input regarding the survey and going through a process of stakeholder review. Working with the Stakeholders, Access to Justice and Appointments Committee, Bar staff will solicit input from throughout the Bar and from external stakeholders, including the Legislature.

Preliminary conversations with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Stakeholders, Access to Justice and Appointments, and State Bar have resulted in a number of modifications to the questions that were asked in the previous five-year survey. These modifications are marked below in redline.

The changes are guided, generally, by the goal of reorienting the survey to focus much more explicitly and narrowly on public protection. To this end, the survey will:

- Solicit information about public protection from licensed attorneys while simultaneously pushing out information about elements of the Bar's public protection mission. For example, rather than asking whether or not they like mandatory training on substance abuse – as the previous survey did – we could reorient this to ask if attorneys are aware of the greater risk that attorneys have for substance abuse, point them to literature demonstrating this and possibly resources (such as the LAP or online self-assessments for substance abuse);
- Collect information relevant to program management and policy development. Examples of questions that would assist the Bar in this area might include questions related to Client Trust Accounts such as: Do you have a client trust account? If so, have you received training related to the management of a client trust account? Would you be interested in receiving such training?"

*The baseline text is taken directly from the 2011 survey. Questions marked with an * represent those which have appeared on both the 2006 and the 2011 surveys for reference.*

1. Since you were admitted to the State Bar of California, how many years have you been practicing law?*
2. Do you currently work as an attorney?
3. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?
- ~~4. Are you actively seeking work as an attorney?~~
- ~~5. How long have you been seeking work as an attorney?~~
- ~~6-4.~~ What kind of legal practice do you have?*
- ~~5.~~ Are you an associate, partner or solo practitioner? [Ask only of those in private practice]*
- ~~6.~~ On average, how many hours per week do you work in your law practice? [Ask only of those in private practice]*
- ~~7.~~ What percentage of the average hours above are deemed to be billable hours .vs administrative or hours devoted to generating new clientele? [Ask only of those in private practice]
8. What is your primary area or field of legal practice?
9. Roughly how many attorneys practice in your firm or organization?
- ~~10. Do you ever work as a mediator or arbitrator?~~
- ~~11. Do you do any pro bono work for people of limited means?~~
- ~~10.~~ Including Excluding all types of charitable volunteer legal services you provide (i.e. serving on Board of charitable organization, coaching Little-League), approximately how many hours of pro bono legal work to persons of limited means do you perform in an average year?
- ~~12-11.~~ What can the State Bar do to help you provide additional pro bono legal services?
- ~~13.~~ On average, how many hours per week do you work in your law practice?*

- ~~14. Do you use social media such as Facebook or Twitter in your legal practice?~~
- ~~15. Which social media do you use in your legal practice? [Check all that you use]~~
- ~~16. How often do you visit the State Bar website?*~~
- ~~17. Overall, how would you rate the usefulness of the State Bar website?*~~
- ~~18. What features of the State Bar website do you find most useful? [Check all that you use]*~~
- ~~19. Are there any features of the State Bar website you feel could be improved or you would like to see added in the future?~~
- ~~20. What features of the State Bar website do you feel could be improved or added in the future?*~~
- ~~21. Have you ever taken a course for MCLE credit on the Internet? What percentage of your MCLE is provided in-house by your employer?~~
- ~~22. 12. Do you think you will take a course for MCLE credit on the Internet in the next two years? What percentage of your MCLE coursework do you complete online?~~
- ~~23. 13. Do you personally pay the costs of your MCLE courses, or does the firm or organization where you work pay these costs?~~
- ~~24. 14. Do you feel MCLE courses are helpful or informative?~~
- ~~15. How would you rate the overall quality of MCLE courses taken during your last compliance period? Would you please tell us why you feel that way?~~
- ~~25. 16. Can you offer any suggestions on how to improve the quality of educational programs currently offered?~~
- ~~26. Do you feel substance abuse is a significant problem in the legal profession?~~
- ~~17. Do you use client trust fund accounting in your legal practice? [Ask only of those in private practice]~~
- ~~18. Have you ever utilized trust accounting resources offered by the State Bar or taken specific MCLE courses on this topic? [Ask only of those in private practice]~~
- ~~19. Are you aware of the research that has shown a higher propensity for drug and alcohol problems among attorneys than in the general public? Has the State Bar's requirement that every attorney take one hour of substance abuse training been helpful or informative?~~
- ~~20. Are you aware of the services offered by the Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) to lawyers suffering from substance abuse or mental health problems?~~
- ~~21. Have you ever used these services, and if not, why?~~
- ~~22. What are your opinions regarding the extent of Immigration Fraud? [select all statements that apply: awareness, reporting, solutions, etc.]~~
- ~~23. Have you ever filed a complaint against another attorney, or had a complaint filed against you?~~
- ~~27. 24. If the complaint was not pursued, how else did you try to address the misconduct you observed?~~
- ~~28. Have you ever called the State Bar's Ethics Hotline?~~
- ~~29. Was the State Bar's Ethics Hotline helpful in resolving your question?~~
- ~~30. Have you ever used any State Bar member discount or insurance programs?*~~
- ~~31. Are there any other member benefit programs you would like the State Bar to offer?*~~
- ~~32. What other member programs or services would you like the State Bar to offer?~~
- ~~33. Do you feel the annual \$410 California attorney licensing fee is too low, too high or about right?~~
- ~~34. Do you receive a monthly email of the online California Bar Journal?~~
- ~~35. Do you read any part of the Bar Journal?~~
- ~~36. Which parts or features of the California Bar Journal do you usually use?~~
- ~~37. If there are any additional features you would like to see in the California Bar Journal, please list them below:~~
- ~~25. Are you currently an active or inactive member of the State Bar?*~~
- ~~38. 26. Do you, your firm or organization carry malpractice insurance?~~
- ~~39. 27. Do you belong to a local or another type of Bar Association?~~
- ~~40. 28. Where is your office located?*~~
- ~~41. 29. What is your date of birth age group?*~~
- ~~42. 30. What is your gender identity?*~~
- ~~31. What is your ethnic or racial background?*~~
- ~~32. Do you have any physical or mental disabilities?~~
- ~~33. How can these disabilities be accommodated in your practice?~~

~~43.~~34. Are you a military veteran?

~~44.~~35. What is your domestic status?*

~~45.~~36. What is your sexual orientation?*

~~46.~~37. What is the approximate annual income you receive from your legal practice?*

~~47. How were you contacted about this survey?*~~

~~48.~~38. Are there any comments you would like to add about any of the topics we discussed in this survey?*

~~49. To stay in touch with the needs of our members, the State Bar plans on conducting more surveys like this in the future. Would you be interested in participating in future research studies?*~~