



2009 Bar Member Survey Results Summary

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Total Distribution = 2,341 (All Active)
 Total Respondents = 668
 Response Rate = 29%

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. In which judicial district do you live?

	Response Percent	Response Total
First Judicial District	29.7%	177
Second Judicial District	11.9%	71
Third Judicial District	8.4%	50
Fourth Judicial District	6.2%	37
Fifth Judicial District	8.6%	51
Sixth Judicial District	6.2%	37
Seventh Judicial District	13.1%	78
Eighth Judicial District	2.9%	17
Ninth Judicial District	12.9%	77
Total Respondents		595
(skipped this question)		73

BAR SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

2. Please rate the following sections of the *Wyoming Lawyer*:

	Always Read	Usually Read	Sometimes Read	Never Read	Unaware	Response Average
President's Column	7.3% (43)	25.3% (150)	53% (314)	13.3% (79)	1% (6)	2.76
Executive Director's Column	5.8% (34)	21.6% (127)	53.7% (316)	17.8% (105)	1.2% (7)	2.87
Legal Beat	13.9% (82)	43.4% (256)	36.3% (214)	4.4% (26)	2% (12)	2.37
"As a Matter of Fact" – Bar Counsel Column	10.2% (60)	31% (182)	47.2% (277)	9.5% (56)	2% (12)	2.62
Pro Bono Notes	4.2% (24)	14.6% (84)	57% (328)	22.6% (130)	1.6% (9)	3.03
Feature Articles	9.8% (58)	44.4% (264)	42.8% (254)	2.9% (17)	.2% (1)	2.39
Attorney Discipline	40.3% (238)	34.7% (205)	20.6% (122)	4.2% (25)	.2% (1)	1.89
"Ethically Speaking" by John M. Burman	20.6% (124)	34.5% (208)	37% (223)	7.5% (45)	.5% (3)	2.33
Court Summaries	33.7% (203)	35.5% (214)	25% (151)	5.3% (32)	.5% (3)	2.03
Law School News	8.6% (51)	20.9% (124)	47.1% (279)	22.3% (132)	1% (6)	2.86
Classified Advertising	15.3% (90)	24.1% (142)	43.5% (256)	16.6% (98)	.5% (3)	2.63
Total Respondents						609
(skipped this question)						59

3. What else would you like to see in the *Wyoming Lawyer*?

To view the written responses, please contact Sharon Wilkinson at (307) 632-9061 or by e-mail at swilkinson@wyomingbar.org to request a hard copy of the results.

4. Each issue of the *Wyoming Lawyer* is posted on the Bar's website. Have you taken advantage of this feature to find a past article?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	25.7%	155
No	74.3%	449
Total Respondents		604
(skipped this question)		64

5. In the space provided, please describe other services you would like the Wyoming State Bar to provide its members.

To view the written responses, please contact Sharon Wilkinson at (307) 632-9061 or by e-mail at swilkinson@wyomingbar.org to request a hard copy of the results.

DISCIPLINE

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding Wyoming's disciplinary system.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unaware	Response Average
The disciplinary system is effective.	12.3% (74)	54.6% (53)	8.8% (53)	1.5% (9)	22.9% (138)	2.68
The disciplinary process is fair to lawyers.	10.6% (64)	53.2% (321)	8.3% (50)	2.8% (17)	25% (151)	2.78
The disciplinary process is fair to the public.	11.4% (69)	52.2% (316)	6.4% (39)	2.3% (14)	27.6% (167)	2.82
Disciplinary sanctions are consistent.	6.8% (41)	38% (228)	7.3% (44)	5.2% (31)	42.7% (256)	3.39
Total Respondents						605
(skipped this question)						63

7. At what point in the grievance process should a complaint be open to the public?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Upon receipt of a letter from a complaining individual	.3%	2
Upon the filing of a formal disciplinary complaint for hearing	10.7%	65
When a complaint goes to hearing	9.1%	55
Upon filing of a public discipline order by the court	79.8%	483
Total Respondents		605
(skipped this question)		63

JUDICIARY

8. What do you think of the judicial discipline system?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Effective	25.9%	154
Ineffective	15.7%	93
Don't Know	58.4%	347
Total Respondents		594
(skipped this question)		74

9. What is the best method for the Wyoming State Bar to improve communications between the members of the Bench and the Bar?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Offer more opportunities for informal communication	41.7%	231
More seminars involving judges on panels and as speakers	39.9%	221
More opportunities for social interaction	23.3%	129
Communication is already adequate.	27.8%	154
Other (see below)		31
Total Respondents		554
(skipped this question)		114

Other:

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10. Are you in favor of the Bar continuing the Judicial Advisory Poll?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	94.4%	539
No	5.6%	32
Total Respondents		571
(skipped this question)		97

11. Is courtroom security adequate in the courthouses in which you practice?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	75.4%	421
No	24.6%	137
Total Respondents		558
(skipped this question)		110

12. Have you used the Wyoming Supreme Court's electronic filing system?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	22.4%	132
No	77.6%	458
Total Respondents		590
(skipped this question)		78

13. The Wyoming Supreme Court electronic filing system is user friendly and efficient to use.

	Response Percent	Response Total
Strongly Agree	6.8%	9
Agree	73.5%	97
Disagree	15.2%	20
Strongly Disagree	4.5%	6
Comments (see below)		21
Total Respondents		132
(skipped this question)		536

Comments:

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14. Do you favor or oppose electronic filing in the trial courts?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Favor	67.9%	407
Oppose	14.2%	85
No opinion	17.9%	107
Total Respondents		599
(skipped this question)		69

15. Regardless of the Court, electronic filing should be:

	Response Percent	Response Total
Mandatory	29.4%	174
Optional	70.6%	417
Total Respondents		591
(skipped this question)		77

ECONOMICS & OFFICE PRACTICE

16. If you charge on an hourly basis, what is your usual hourly rate?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Less than \$75	1%	6
\$76 - \$100	3.1%	18
\$101 - 125	5.1%	30
\$126 – 150	13.4%	79
\$151 - \$200	25.6%	151
\$201 - \$300	14.4%	85
More than \$300	3.2%	19
Not applicable	34.1%	201
Total Respondents		589
(skipped this question)		79

17. What is the starting salary in your law firm or organization?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Less than \$40,000	17.7%	82
\$40,001 - \$60,000	57%	264
\$60,001 - \$80,000	19%	88
\$80,001 - \$100,000	3.7%	17
\$100,001 or more	2.6%	12
Total Respondents		463
(skipped this question)		205

18. In your office, what percent of your firm's gross income goes to cover overhead expenses to maintain your office on a monthly basis? *(Please include rent, equipment, regular monthly payables and support staff salaries, but not salaries for partners and associates.)*

	Response Percent	Response Total
Up to 30%	13.6%	79
31 – 40%	12.8%	74
41 – 45%	8.6%	50
46 – 50%	7.8%	45
51 – 60%	5.9%	34
More than 60%	2.9%	17
Don't know	17.8%	103
Not applicable	30.6%	177
Total Respondents		579
(skipped this question)		89

19. In your office, which of the following is the highest-cost item other than salaries?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Rent	26%	149
Benefits	22%	126
Technology	7.7%	44
Legal Research	1.4%	8
Don't know	18.5%	106
Not applicable	24.4%	140
Total Respondents		573
(skipped this question)		95

20. How much do you spend per month on legal research?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Less than \$500	29.5%	168
\$500 - \$1,000	14.1%	80
\$1,001 - \$1,500	4%	23
\$1,501 - \$2,000	1.9%	11
\$2,001 - \$2,500	1.6%	9
\$2,501 - \$3,000	1.1%	6
\$3,001 - \$3,500	.4%	2
\$3,501 - \$4,000	.2%	1
\$4,001 - \$4,500	.2%	1
\$4,501 - \$5,000	.2%	1
More than \$5,000	1.4%	8
Nothing; I utilize Casemaker	10.7%	61
Do not know	34.8%	198
Total Respondents		569
(skipped this question)		99

21. In 2008, what was your personal net income or earnings from the practice of law? (If you are in private practice, please give a pre-tax estimate of your personal income.)

	Response Percent	Response Total
Less than \$40,000	14.5%	80
\$40,001 - \$60,000	14.5%	80
\$60,001 - \$80,000	19.8%	109
\$80,001 - \$100,000	13.2%	73
\$100,001 - \$125,000	12.3%	68
\$125,001 - \$150,000	8.3%	46
\$150,001 - \$200,000	6.5%	36
More than \$200,000	10.7%	59
Total Respondents		551
(skipped this question)		117

22. Do you keep time records?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Always	47.9%	279
Usually, except in fixed fee or contingency cases	19.2%	112
Sometimes	7%	41
Never	2.6%	15
Not applicable	23.3%	136
Total Respondents		583
(skipped this question)		85

23. Do you discuss your fees and how you determine them in your first interview with a client?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Always	46.1%	266
Usually	18.2%	105
Sometimes	2.3%	13
Rarely	.3%	2
Not applicable	33.1%	191
Total Respondents		577
(skipped this question)		91

24. Do you use written fee agreements with your clients?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Always	28.1%	163
Usually	23.4%	136
Sometimes	10.7%	62
Rarely	4.3%	25
Not applicable	33.4%	194
Total Respondents		580
(skipped this question)		88

25. What one area of law constitutes the largest portion of your practice?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Tort/Plaintiff	8.2%	43
Tort/Defense	6.3%	33
Business Law	9.1%	48
Employment Law	1.9%	10
Criminal Prosecution	8.2%	43
Criminal Defense	8%	42
Domestic Relations	7.8%	41
Real Estate Law	4.4%	23
Estate Planning/Probate	7.2%	38
Insurance	1.1%	6
Litigation	8.9%	47
Tax Law	1.3%	7
Oil & Gas	5.3%	28
Bankruptcy	1%	5
Banking Law	.8%	4
Administrative Law	4.8%	25
Government Law	8.4%	44
Judicial Functions	3%	16
Environmental Law	2.3%	12
Workers' Compensation	2.1%	11
Other (see below)		54
Total Respondents		526
(skipped this question)		142

Other:

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TECHNOLOGY

26. In the space provided, please describe technology services you think the Bar should provide.

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27. Have you ever visited the Wyoming State Bar's website – www.wyomingbar.org?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	97.3%	573
No	2.7%	16
Total Respondents		589
(skipped this question)		79

28. What area of the Bar's website do you find most useful?

	Response Percent	Response Total
My Bar Page	69.2%	375
Online Membership Directory	34.1%	185
Casemaker	34.3%	186
CLE Section	41%	222
Bookstore	1.8%	10
Job Bank	17.7%	96
Other (see below)		8
Total Respondents		542
(skipped this question)		126

Other:

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29. How often do you visit the Bar's website?

	Response Percent	Response Total
A few times per week	8.9%	51
Weekly	11.7%	67
A few times per month	26.6%	152
Monthly	27.6%	158
Rarely	25.2%	144
Total Respondents		572
(skipped this question)		96

30. Do you take advantage of Casemaker, the online legal research library available through the Wyoming State Bar?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	42.3%	247
No	57.7%	337
Total Respondents		584
(skipped this question)		84

31. If you do not utilize Casemaker, what is the main reason?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Too expensive	.4%	1
Utilize other legal research tools	80.9%	229
Not user friendly	11%	31
Not aware it was available	13.8%	39
Other (see below)		49
Total Respondents		283
(skipped this question)		385

32. How often do you utilize Casemaker?

	Response Percent	Response Total
A few times per week	13%	35
Weekly	11.9%	32
A few times per month	29.3%	79
Monthly	18.1%	49
Rarely	27.8%	75
Total Respondents		270
(skipped this question)		398

33. I use Casemaker:

	Response Percent	Response Total
Exclusively	26%	65
In conjunction with other legal research providers	74%	185
Total Respondents		250
(skipped this question)		418

34. Have you taken advantage of the free Casemaker training opportunities?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	38%	111
No (please explain)	62%	181
Total Respondents		292
(skipped this question)		376

Comments:

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35. Was the training helpful?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	92.7%	102
No (please explain)	7.3%	8
Total Respondents		110
(skipped this question)		558

Comments:

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36. What additional resources would you find useful on the Wyoming State Bar website?

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PUBLIC SERVICE & CHARITABLE WORK

37. How many hours per week do you devote to non-law-related community service?

	Response Percent	Response Total
None	14.9%	85
5 hours or less	57.7%	330
6 – 10 hours	20.1%	115
11 – 20 hours	5.8%	33
21 or more hours	1.6%	9
Total Respondents		572
(skipped this question)		96

38. On average, how many hours per month do you devote to pro bono clients or clients accepted at a substantially reduced rate? (Please do not include hours spent on cases billed but not collected.)

	Response Percent	Response Total
5 hours or less	38%	207
6 – 10 hours	24.4%	133
11 – 20 hours	7.2%	39
21 or more hours	3.7%	20
I make cash donations to Legal Services or to the Bar Foundation in lieu of doing pro bono legal work	5.9%	32
I do not accept pro bono cases and do not donate cash in lieu of pro bono work.	20.9%	114
Total Respondents		545
(skipped this question)		123

39. What is the average number of hours of law-related volunteer work (not pro bono) that you perform in an average month (e.g. Law Day, Mock Trial, Bar committee/board service, etc.)?

	Response Percent	Response Total
None	42%	234
1 – 5 hours	45.8%	255
6 – 10 hours	8.3%	46
11 – 20 hours	2.5%	14
21 – 30 hours	.9%	5
More than 30 hours	.5%	3
Total Respondents		557
(skipped this question)		111

40. What would make pro bono service more appealing to you?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Reimbursement for expenses	23.2%	76
CLE	48.8%	160
Mentoring with an experienced attorney	14.3%	47
“Easy” cases	9.5%	31
Public recognition	4.3%	14
Other (please specify)		79
Total Respondents		328
(skipped this question)		340

Comments:

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41. Thirty-nine states have a mandatory IOLTA participation requirement. Should Wyoming adopt this mandatory participation rule?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	44.9%	246
No	55.1%	302
Total Respondents		548
(skipped this question)		120

42. What do you believe are the most critical challenges preventing attorneys from doing pro bono work?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Employers not allowing employees to take on pro bono cases	21.4%	98
Solo practitioners unable to afford doing pro bono work	57.1%	262
Distance and time	35.1%	161
New attorney not having enough experience	17.6%	81
Other (please specify)		79
Total Respondents		459
(skipped this question)		209

Comments:

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43. Are you a member of the Wyoming State Bar Foundation?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	25%	139
No	75%	416
Total Respondents		555
(skipped this question)		113

44. What is your main reason for not becoming a member of the Wyoming State Bar Foundation?

	Response Percent	Response Total
I am not unaware of the Wyoming State Bar Foundation	44.6%	146
Membership would not benefit me	35.2%	115
I cannot afford to be a member	20.2%	66
Other (please specify)		55
Total Respondents		327
(skipped this question)		341

Comments:

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45. Do you make a donation to the Access to Justice Campaign on your annual license fee statement?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	26.4%	146
No	73.6%	406
Total Respondents		552
(skipped this question)		116

46. If you do not donate to the Access to Justice Campaign, what is your main reason?

	Response Percent	Response Total
I am unaware of the Access to Justice Campaign	65.5%	173
I cannot afford to make a donation	34.5%	91
Other (please specify)		88
Total Respondents		264
(skipped this question)		404

Comments:

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47. What do you believe are the most critical challenges facing the legal profession in Wyoming? (Rank the top five challenges by using 1 – 5, with 1 being the most critical.)

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Response Average
Access to the legal system for all citizens	39.8% (160)	14.4% (58)	16.4% (66)	14.7%(59)	14.7%(59)	2.50
The use of the Internet and related technology	10.1% (23)	23.2% (53)	22.8% (52)	17.5% (40)	26.3% (60)	3.27
Loss of professionalism and civility among lawyers	26.9% (108)	20% (80)	20.7% (83)	20.9% (84)	11.5% (46)	2.70
The practice of law by non-lawyers	12.2% (29)	14.8% (35)	19.8% (47)	26.6% (63)	26.6% (63)	3.41
Legislative intervention in the judicial branch	10.1% (17)	17.2% (29)	22.5% (38)	21.9% (37)	28.4% (48)	3.41
Loss of popular respect for an independent judiciary	8% (25)	25.3% (79)	24.7% (77)	22.1% (69)	19.9% (62)	3.21
Loss of confidence in the legal system by the public	27.7% (129)	31.2% (145)	18.9% (88)	13.8% (64)	8.4% (39)	2.44
Loss of job satisfaction among attorneys	19.1% (76)	20.9% (83)	22.7% (90)	17.9% (71)	19.4% (77)	2.97
Total Respondents						536
(skipped this question)						132

Comments:

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48. What do you think the top priorities of the Wyoming State Bar should be?
(Rank the top five priorities using 1st as the top priority.)

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Response Average
Offering Continuing Legal Education	35.8% (169)	23.5% (111)	21% (99)	11.4% (54)	8.3% (39)	2.33
Helping attorneys adapt to changing technology	10.9% (29)	22.8% (61)	16.5% (44)	23.2% (62)	26.6% (71)	3.32
Certifying or recognizing practice specialties	8.2% (14)	15.9% (27)	27.1% (46)	21.8% (37)	27.1% (46)	3.44
Reviewing and examining new admittees	42.2% (173)	24.1% (99)	15.1% (62)	10.7% (44)	7.8% (32)	2.18
Identifying new markets for legal services	1.9% (2)	13.6% (14)	22.3% (23)	32% (33)	30.1% (31)	3.75
Helping attorneys respond to changing needs of legal consumers	12.3% (32)	14.2% (37)	21.9% (57)	27.3% (71)	24.2% (63)	3.37
Educating the public about the legal profession	17.5% (61)	20.7% (72)	22.7% (79)	22.1% (77)	17% (59)	3.00
Reviewing ethical complaints	21% (90)	29.4% (126)	24.8% (106)	13.8% (59)	11% (47)	2.64
Becoming more involved in legislative issues	10.3% (21)	14.7% (30)	20.1% (41)	26% (53)	28.9% (59)	3.49
Total Respondents						536
(skipped this question)						132