

Answering Member Questions



Questions or issues arise on a fairly regular basis that are common misperceptions. Here are a few of those frequently asked questions and what your Bar is doing to address them.

Question: Is the Board of Governors made up of large-firm lawyers? There are a total of 19 elected Board members:

- Four are solo practitioners.
- Five are in two-person firms.
- Two are public lawyers.
- One is in a 4-person firm, and one is in a six-person firm.
- One is in an 11-person firm, and one is in a 19-person firm.
- Three are in firms with 30 or more lawyers.

There are also four nonlawyer members, three members appointed by the Supreme Court (two of whom are currently nonlawyers) and three ex-officio members, for a total of 28 members (one seat is currently vacant).

Question: Do the lawyers in the office of bar counsel have real-world experience? Every lawyer in the lawyer regulation department had prior experience before joining the Bar. The average length of time in practice is seven years, including experience as solo practitioners, in small and large law firms and as public lawyers.

Question: Where does my dues money go? Approximately 85 percent of each dues dollar funds the lawyer regulation system. The remaining Bar programs and services are funded by non-dues revenue, including registration fees, advertising, sponsorships and fees for services. Member dues account for approximately 55 percent of the Bar's operating budget.

Question: Why doesn't the Bar have a toll-free number for lawyers outside Maricopa County? Because you have made this request, we now do! The number is 866-48AZBAR (866-482-9227). We also have an office in Tucson to serve those living and working in the southeast-

ern part of the State. The staff in this office are engaged in putting together a variety of CLE programs and hosting committee and

the Bar Foundation luncheon honoring three lawyers who offered their legal skills and their human compassion to help victims of September 11, the State Bar luncheon featuring David Fitzsimmons and a new event this year, a Wednesday night gala honoring John P. Frank and Harry Cavanagh. The State Bar's convention is the best attended in the country.

Question: Why is convention registration so expensive? Actually, the convention is one of the least expensive CLE opportunities available. You can receive a full 15 hours of credit, including ethics, for \$15 an hour. (Compare with non-State Bar offerings that cost an average of \$35 an hour.) You can register for one half-day program or for the full 15-hour package. You also may register for and attend any of the ticketed events without registering for the convention. And the convention covers its costs every year and is not subsidized by dues.

I'm sure there are other questions you have about the organization or programs, services and volunteer opportunities. Please give me a call at (602) 340-7200 or e-mail me at cynthia.zwick@staff.azbar.org with any questions or suggestions about how we may better serve you. ▀

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section meetings, and they can accept all inquiries or accept payment for services in the office or over the phone. The Tucson office number is (520) 623-9944.

Question: Why don't you ever hold the convention in Flagstaff? Oh that we could. Currently, and for the past 12 years, there are only two hotel properties in the state that can physically accommodate the size of our convention—The Phoenician and the Westin La Paloma. The average registration for this annual event is 2,000 lawyers. This year, they will be teaching and attending 42 seminars,