

USING ATTORNEY REGISTRATION FEES OR BAR DUES to Fund Legal Services

- IL** In 2002, the Illinois Supreme Court authorized an attorney registration fee increase of \$42 for legal services. It had been generating about \$2,821,000 annually. In June, 2012, the Court announced a \$53 increase for legal services, bringing the total to \$95 per attorney annually. Total revenue in 2014 was \$6,842,000. (*Voluntary bar*)
- IN** In 2014, the Indiana Supreme Court approved an attorney registration fee increase of \$35, \$16 of which will go to help shore up IOLTA grants. This is temporary funding that is expected to generate \$325,000 annually. The additional fee went into effect as of the fall, 2014 payments. (*Voluntary bar*)
- MN** In 1997, the Minnesota Supreme Court approved the first attorney registration fee increase for legal aid. It was \$50 for attorneys admitted more than 3 years and \$25 for all others, with a 50% discount for those with adjusted gross income under \$25,000. In November, 2009, the Court approved an additional \$25 temporary increase, which was made permanent in March 2011. Total generated in 2014 was \$1,760,000. (*Voluntary bar*)
- MO** In 2002, the Missouri State Bar agreed to assess its members an additional \$20 in dues to fund legal aid. In 2013, the Missouri Supreme Court increased that fee by \$30, bringing the total to \$50. The \$50 fee is expected to generate about \$750,000. (*Unified bar*)
- PA** The Pennsylvania Supreme Court increased the attorney registration fee by \$25 in April, 2009. The additional revenue is paid to the Pennsylvania's IOLTA program to fund legal services to the poor. In addition, beginning in 2011, the Court provided a supplemental \$10 per attorney fee to legal aid. The fee generated \$2,256,000 in 2014. (*Voluntary bar*)
- TX** In 2003, legislation was approved by the Texas legislature to increase the bar dues by \$65. The funds are split evenly between civil legal aid and innovative criminal indigent defense projects. In 2007, the legislature removed a sunset provision that had been scheduled to take effect in 2008. The civil legal aid portion was \$2,313,000 in 2014. (*Unified bar*)
- WI** In 2005, the WI Supreme Court approved an annual assessment of \$50 per attorney starting FY 2006; in 2014 it generated \$900,000. The request was submitted to the Court by the WI IOLTA program and was opposed by the State Bar. (*Unified bar*)

Prepared by the ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives. For more information, contact Meredith McBurney, Resource Development Consultant, at 303/329-8091 or MeredithMcBurney@msn.com.