

Summary Results  
Survey of Members of The State Bar of California  
December, 2011

1. Since you were admitted to the State Bar of California, how many years have you been practicing law?

- |                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Less than 1 year | 6%  |
| 2. 1 - 5 years      | 14% |
| 3. 6 - 9 years      | 9%  |
| 4. 10 - 19 years    | 21% |
| 5. 20 or more years | 50% |

2. Do you currently work as an attorney?

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes [ <i>Skip to Q. 6</i> ] | 77% |
| 2. No                          | 23% |

3. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. You have a law-related job   | 22% |
| 2. You have a job in which you use your legal education                   | 28% |
| 3. You are employed in a job in which you do not use your legal education | 13% |
| 4. You are currently unemployed   | 26% |
| 5. Other  | 11% |

4. Are you actively seeking work as an attorney?

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Yes                                     | 11% |
| 2. No [ <i>After this, skip to Q. 16</i> ] | 89% |

5. How long have you been seeking work as an attorney?  
[*After this, skip to Q. 16*]

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Under 3 months                | 10% |
| 2. Between 3 and 6 months        | 15% |
| 3. Between 6 months and one year | 15% |
| 4. Between 1 and 2 years         | 31% |
| 5. More than 2 years             | 29% |

6. What kind of legal practice do you have?

1. Private practice	67%
2. In-house counsel	10%
3. Public Defender	2%
4. District Attorney	2%
5. Government Agency/Judiciary	11%
6. Other	7%
7. Retired	1%

7. Are you an associate, partner or solo practitioner? [*Ask only of those in private practice*]

1. Associate	23%
2. Partner	30%
3. Solo proprietor	47%

8. What is your primary area or field of legal practice?

1. Business/Contracts	13%
2. Insurance	2%
3. Domestic/Family	6%
4. Civil rights/Discrimination	1%
5. Real Estate	5%
6. Criminal Defense	6%
7. Labor and Employment	7%
8. Intellectual Property/Copyright/Patent	4%
9. Civil Litigation	19%
10. Estate/Trust Planning	6%
11. Personal Injury	4%
12. Other	27%

9. Roughly how many attorneys practice in your firm or organization?

1. Solo	33%
2. 2 - 5	20%
3. 6 - 20	15%
4. 21 - 75	11%
5. More than 75	22%

10. Do you ever work as a mediator or arbitrator?

1. Yes	20%
2. No	80%

11. Do you do any pro bono work for people of limited means?

- 1. Yes 58%
- 2. No [*Skip to Q. 13*] 42%

12. Including all types of volunteer legal services you provide, approximately how many hours of pro bono work do you usually perform annually?

- 1. 1 - 25 hours 39%
- 2. 26 - 50 hours 24%
- 3. 51 - 99 hours 11%
- 4. 100 - 149 hours 8%
- 5. 150 - 199 hours 3%
- 6. 200 - 249 hours 2%
- 7. 250 hours or more 6%
- 8. Not sure 7%

13. On average, how many hours per week do you work in your law practice?

- 1. Less than 25 hours 14%
- 2. 25 - 34 hours 7%
- 3. 35 - 40 hours 19%
- 4. 41 - 49 hours 29%
- 5. 50 - 59 hours 22%
- 6. 60 or more hours 9%

14. Do you use social media such as Facebook or Twitter in your legal practice?

- 1. Yes 14%
- 2. No [*Skip to Q.16*] 86%

15. Which social media do you use in your legal practice? [*Check all that you use*]

- Facebook 9%
- Twitter 4%
- LinkedIn 8%
- Google+ 3%
- MySpace <1%
- Digg <1%

16. How often do you visit the State Bar website?

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Every day/Almost every day             | 2%  |
| 2. Once or twice a week                   | 11% |
| 3. Once or twice a month                  | 32% |
| 4. Rarely                                 | 52% |
| 5. Never visited [ <i>Skip to Q. 21</i> ] | 3%  |

17. Overall, how would you rate the usefulness of the State Bar website?

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Very useful       | 10% |
| 2. Useful            | 55% |
| 3. Not very useful   | 11% |
| 4. Not at all useful | 2%  |
| 5. Not certain       | 22% |

18. What features of the State Bar website do you find most useful? [*Check all that you use*]

- |                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Attorney search                   | 76% |
| 2. MCLE information                  | 40% |
| 3. Paying dues online                | 36% |
| 4. Ethics/Rules of Conduct           | 23% |
| 5. Legal news                        | 19% |
| 6. Attorney disciplinary summaries   | 16% |
| 7. Online CLE                        | 15% |
| 8. Articles                          | 13% |
| 9. Member Benefits/Products/Services | 11% |
| 10. Bar exam results                 | 10% |
| 11. Sections                         | 9%  |
| 12. Announcements/Events             | 9%  |
| 13. Other                            | 4%  |

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?

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes                         | 16% |
| 2. No [ <i>Skip to Q. 21</i> ] | 84% |

20. What features of the State Bar website do you feel could be improved or added in the future?

Will be detailed in future report

21. Have you ever taken a course for MCLE credit on the Internet?

- 1. Yes [*Skip to Q. 23*] 60%
- 2. No 40%

22. Do you think you will take a course for MCLE credit on the Internet in the next two years?

- 1. Yes 32%
- 2. No 31%
- 3. Not certain 37%

23. Do you personally pay the costs of your MCLE courses, or does the firm or organization where you work pay these costs?

- 1. You pay 48%
- 2. Your firm or organization pays 39%
- 3. Some you pay/Sometimes your firm pays 13%

24. Do you feel MCLE courses are helpful or informative?

- 1. Yes 68%
- 2. No 17%
- 3. Not certain 16%

25. Would you please tell us why you feel that way?

Will be detailed in future report

26. Do you feel substance abuse is a significant problem in the legal profession?

- 1. Yes – It is a significant problem 21%
- 2. No – It is not a significant problem 27%
- 3. Not certain 52%

27. Has the State Bar's requirement that every attorney take one hour of substance abuse training been helpful or informative?

- 1. Yes 21%
- 2. No 52%
- 3. Not certain 27%

28. Have you ever called the State Bar's Ethics Hotline?

- 1. Yes 35%
- 2. No [*Skip to Q. 30*] 65%

29. Was the State Bar's Ethics Hotline helpful in resolving your question?

- 1. Yes 72%
- 2. No 22%
- 3. Not certain 6%

30. Have you ever used any State Bar member discount or insurance programs?

- 1. Yes 24%
- 2. No 76%

31. Are there any other member benefit programs you would like the State Bar to offer?

- 1. Yes 20%
- 2. No [*Skip to Q. 33*] 80%

32. What other member programs or services would you like the State Bar to offer?

Will be detailed in future report

33. Do you feel the annual \$410 California attorney licensing fee is too low, too high or about right?

- 1. Too low 2%
- 2. Too high 60%
- 3. About right 38%

34. Do you receive a monthly email of the online California Bar Journal?

- 1. Yes 74%
- 2. No [*Skip to Q. 38*] 14%
- 3. Not Certain 12%

35. Do you read any part of the Bar Journal?

[*Among those who answered Yes or Not Certain to previous question*]

- 1. Yes 70%
- 2. No [*Skip to Q. 38*] 30%

36. Which parts or features of the California Bar Journal do you usually use?  
[Check all that you read or use]

Legal profession news	47%
Discipline summaries	34%
State Bar news	29%
Ethics news	25%
Commentary	21%
MCLE tests for credit	15%
Job announcements	8%
Other	5%

37. If there are any additional features you would like to see in the California Bar Journal, please list them below.

Will be detailed in future report

38. Are you currently an active or inactive member of the bar?

1. Active	84%
2. Inactive [Skip to Q. 40]	16%

39. Do you, your firm or organization carry malpractice insurance?

1. Yes	60%
2. No	30%
3. Not certain	10%

40. Do you belong to a local or another type of Bar Association?  
[Check all that you belong to]

1. Local Bar Association	43%
2. Minority Bar Association	6%
3. Specialty Bar Association	14%
4. Women's Bar Association	4%
5. Other Bar Association	17%
6. Don't belong to other Bar Assoc.	41%

41. Where is your office located?

1. Los Angeles area	22%
2. Orange/San Diego	16%
3. Riverside/San Bernardino	2%
4. Ventura/Santa Barbara	2%
5. Central Coast	2%
6. San Francisco Bay Area	23%
7. Other Northern California	4%
8. North Central Valley (Sac. Area North)	5%
9. South Central Valley	3%
10. Other California	1%
11. Out of State	12%
12. Don't have office	8%

42. What is your age group?

1. 35 years or less	15%
2. 36 - 39 years	7%
3. 40 - 44 years	10%
4. 45 - 54 years	20%
5. 55 years or more	48%

43. What is your gender

1. Male	60.6%
2. Female	39.4%

44. What is your ethnic or racial background?

1. White	79.3%
2. African-American	2.7%
3. Latino/Hispanic	4.2%
4. Asian/Pacific Islander	7.7%
5. Native American	.6%
6. Other	2.6%
7. Mixed Race/Ethnicity	2.9%

45. What is your domestic status?

1. Single	16.5%
2. Separated/Divorced	9%
3. Married	69.2%
4. Living with Someone/Domestic partners	5.3%



46. What is your sexual orientation?

- |                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Heterosexual | 95.4% |
| 2. Gay          | 2.4%  |
| 3. Lesbian      | 1.2%  |
| 4. Bisexual     | 1.0%  |

47. What is the approximate annual income you receive from your legal practice?

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Under \$50,000        | 26% |
| 2. \$50,000 - \$99,999   | 22% |
| 3. \$100,000 - \$149,999 | 20% |
| 4. \$150,000 - \$199,999 | 15% |
| 5. \$200,000 - \$300,000 | 9%  |
| 6. More than \$300,000   | 8%  |

48. How were you contacted about this survey?

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Received an email from the State Bar          | 99.5% |
| 2. Saw the survey on the State Bar website/Other | .5%   |

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

Will be detailed in future report

50. 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?

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Yes — Would like to participate                                     | 52% |
| 2. No — Would not like to participate [ <i>Skip to end of survey</i> ] | 48% |

## Background Facts

### Survey of Members of The State Bar of California

#### December, 2011

Our firm was retained by The State Bar of California in November 2011 to conduct a survey of its membership. The primary goal of the research was to determine the current demographic makeup of the State Bar and to assess any significant changes that may have occurred since past surveys were conducted.

The survey also measured member sentiment about a number of other topics including MCLE, State Bar benefit programs, the State Bar website and the California Bar Journal.

The survey was conducted by Hertz Research of Bodega Bay, which also conducted similar demographic surveys of the State Bar membership in 2001 and 2006. Hertz Research designed the survey questionnaire in consultation with State Bar staff.

A random sampling of 10,000 active and inactive members was selected to participate in the survey. On November 30, 2011, selected members were sent an email invitation from the President of the State Bar asking them to participate in the survey, which was conducted entirely online. A reminder email invitation was also sent several days later.

As of the December 9, 2011, deadline, 1,820 surveys were completed and were tabulated for this report. In addition, a link to the survey was posted on the State Bar website. The results of the survey in this report reflect only the random sample.

Regardless of methodology, all polls are potentially affected by a number of factors that may influence their accuracy. A common source for survey inaccuracy is sampling error. The number of respondents largely determines sampling error. Statistical theory indicates that in the case of a survey with this sample size (1,820 total interviews), the margin of sampling error would be approximately plus or minus three percent, with a confidence level of 95 percent.

The margin of sampling error for subgroups of respondents is higher than it is for the overall results. While the survey results should be generally reflective of the demographic makeup of the State Bar membership, analysis of small subgroups should be viewed with that in mind.

Other sources of error can also impact the accuracy of poll results. These include but are not limited to, the percentage of the sampling universe who choose to take part in the survey, the likelihood that respondents are available or connected to the Internet, the wording and ordering of questions, and the techniques used to determine possible survey participants. The cumulative impact of these potential sources of error is impossible to assess precisely.