

From: hod5-request@scbar.org <hod5-request@scbar.org>
To:
Date: 5/16/2016 2:33:59 PM
Subject: SC Bar - Proposals for \$30 Bar Dues Increase and Insurance Disclosure

Hello Fellow Fifth Judicial Circuit Lawyers,

My name is Amie Clifford, and I am one of your delegates to the South Carolina Bar House of Delegates. The House is meeting this week (on May 19) and we have several proposals that we will be asked to vote on, including a couple that I would request your input on. (Others proposals concern changes to statutory law, and changes to court rules -- which, if the House of Delegates approves, will be forwarded to the Legislature and Court and for which there should be opportunity for public commenting.)

There is a proposal from the Board of Governors to increase mandatory license fees by \$30 (for all paying Bar members) for the purpose of funding the Bar's Pro Bono Program. A copy of the proposal -- including the explanatory memo and a budget for the Pro Bono Program based on the proposed dues increase -- was emailed to all Bar members on May 2 (by email from Charmy Medlin). Elizabeth R. Hamilton, Director of the Pro Bono Program, has also been very willing and available to answer questions about the proposal and the budget.

Another proposal from the Bar's Professional Liability Committee concerns professional liability insurance. The proposal is to give Bar members the option of disclosing malpractice insurance on their South Carolina Bar member page by, on their license fee statement, adding their signature to the statement: "I affirm that I am in private practice and that I have a current professional liability insurance policy." If a member elects to disclose that he/she has insurance by signing that statement, then that members page on the Bar's website would indicate such adjacent to where, if applicable, the member's disciplinary history appears, by the statement, "This Bar members has affirmed that he/she is in private practice and has a current professional liability insurance policy." If a Bar member elects not to disclose whether he/she has insurance by signing the applicable statement on his/her license fee statement, no statement or language about insurance would be included on the member's page on the Bar's website.

Because a number of lawyers in the Fifth Judicial Circuit have communicated with me about the dues increase, I thought it would be helpful to survey lawyers in the Fifth Judicial Circuit for their input on that issue and the insurance issue. I have created a short (3 question) survey using SurveyMonkey.com. Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6DDLNNB>.

I would appreciate it if you would take the survey **by midnight this Wednesday, May 18**, so that I and your other Delegates will know your feelings on these two issues. The results of this survey will be shared with the other delegates from the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions or would like to talk with me about these or other proposals, please email me at cliff4law@yahoo.com or call me at (803) 760-3072.

Amie

*Amie L. Clifford
Delegate, Fifth Judicial Circuit
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