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State Bar Associations and Dues

Dicta Editorial Board

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STATE BAR ASSOCIATIONS AND DUES

THE ABILITY of any organization to become useful to its members depends upon the spirit of the members of the group and the financial ability of the organization to undertake tasks which are essential to maintaining the purposes and the program of the organization. All too frequently the spirit of the members is dependent upon the state of the treasury.

It is therefore apparently desirable to keep a nice balance between organization spirit and organization financial ability. What that balance is depends upon many factors, some of which are incapable of being analyzed. Two fundamental premises are at once apparent: first, dues cannot be too high or they will drive members away from the organization; and second, dues cannot be too low or the organization cannot carry on many desired and desirable objects with the result that members become dissatisfied with the accomplishments of an organization.

Bar associations have been faced with the problem of dues for many years. No answer has been obtained which will be satisfactory to every one; yet the combined experience of the dues problem does answer certain questions. It tells the minimum figure below which it is disastrous for a worthwhile organization to proceed. It tells the maximum figure beyond which it is dangerous to assess and expect to retain membership. It indicates the level of experience.

The highest fee charged by any state association is that of the Louisiana State Bar Association whose members within New Orleans are assessed \$20.00 a year, according to the American Bar Association. The Bar Association of the District of Columbia is second with a \$12.00 yearly assessment, while five other associations have \$10.00 yearly dues. Twelve associations have dues over five but less than twelve dollars. A yearly dues of \$5.00 seems to be the most popular as twenty-six associations have adopted that figure. The lowest charge is that of the North Carolina Bar Association which is \$2.00.

The average yearly dues of the fifty-three associations listed on the following table is \$5.66. Integrated bar associations have an average fee of \$6.02, while the other associations charge yearly dues which average \$5.44.

In contrast to these dues of the bar association, the various state medical associations charge dues which vary from \$4.00 to \$20.00 per year, according to Dr. Olin West, secretary of the American Medical Association. On the whole the dues of the medical associations, both local and state, are higher than those of the bar associations.

It will thus be seen that The Colorado Bar Association is at present \$2.44 per year lower in dues than other associations of a same classification. Its present revenue is approximately \$3,000.00 per year. The following table indicates the present status of the dues situation within the state association.

STATE BAR ASSOCIATIONS

*Integrated State Bars.

†Also Integrated—at bottom of page.

	Annual Dues
*Alabama State Bar Association	\$10.00
*The State Bar of Arizona	5.00
*Bar Association of Arkansas	5.00
*The State Bar of California	7.50
The Colorado Bar Association	\$3.00 and 6.00
State Bar Association of Connecticut	5.00
Delaware State Bar Association	5.00
Bar Association of the District of Columbia	12.00
Florida State Bar Association	5.00
Georgia Bar Association	5.00
Bar Association of Hawaii	5.00
*Idaho State Bar	7.50
Illinois State Bar Association	5.00
Indiana State Bar Association	7.00
Iowa State Bar Association	4.00
The Bar Association of the State of Kansas	5.00
Kentucky State Bar Association	5.00
†Louisiana State Bar Association	\$20.00 and 5.00
Maine State Bar Association	2.00
Maryland State Bar Association	7.00
Massachusetts Bar Association	5.00
*State Bar of Michigan	5.00
Minnesota State Bar Association	3.00
*Mississippi State Bar	5.00
*Missouri Bar Association	10.00
Montana Bar Association	3.00
*Nebraska State Bar Association	5.00
*State Bar of Nevada	7.00
Bar Association of State of New Hampshire	3.00
New Jersey State Bar Association	7.50
*State Bar of New Mexico	5.00
New York State Bar Association	10.00
†North Carolina Bar Association	2.00
*State Bar Association of North Dakota	10.00
Ohio State Bar Association	8.00
Oklahoma State Bar	3.00
*Oregon State Bar	6.00
Pennsylvania Bar Association	8.00
Rhode Island Bar Association	10.00
South Carolina Bar Association	5.00
*State Bar of South Dakota	5.00
Bar Association of Tennessee	5.00
*State Bar of Texas	6.00
*Utah State Bar Association	5.00
Vermont Bar Association	5.00
†Virginia State Bar Association	7.00
*Washington State Bar Association	5.00
West Virginia Bar Association	5.00
State Bar Association of Wisconsin	5.00
*Wyoming Bar Association	\$5.00 and 10.00
†*The State Bar of Louisiana (not recognized by the ABA)	3.00
†*The North Carolina State Bar	5.00
†*Virginia State Bar	3.50