The Sonoma County Bar Association is Looking for Attorneys Interested in Helping Resolve Attorney/Client Fee Disputes

Fee Arbitration

Fee Arbitration is the process by which attorneys and their clients resolve a fee dispute. The SCBA, through the mandatory fee arbitration process, offers the clients a chance to arbitrate fees for which they feel the attorney inappropriately billed them.

Arbitrators

Arbitrators serve as the "judges" for the fee arbitration process. They hear the case and make a verdict about what fees were earned, based on the evidence provided by the attorney and the client. All arbitrators volunteer their time as a public service.

The arbitration process

When a Fee-dispute is over \$10,000 three arbitrators are required, two attorney arbitrators, and a lay arbitrator (non-attorney). One of the attorney arbitrators acts as the lead arbitrator and is responsible for taking care of the paperwork and scheduling the fee arbitration. Arbitrations typically last from one to three hours.

How You Can Help

The SCBA is currently looking for new attorney arbitrators. In order to serve as an attorney arbitrator, you must be an attorney for at least 5 years, and you must have taken the Basic Fee Arbitration Training through the State Bar of California.

If you are interested in becoming an attorney arbitrator, please fill out this form, and send to:

The Sonoma County Bar Association Attn: Fee Arbitration Program 3035 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 205 Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at:
Telephone: (707)542-1190 ext. 190 or e-mail: win@sonomacountybar.org
Scan and email this form to Win Rogers

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