

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
NEWARK DIVISION**

IN RE: METFORMIN MARKETING
AND SALES PRACTICES
LITIGATION

Case No. 2:20-cv-2324-MCA-MAH

Honorable Madeline C. Arleo

Honorable Michael A. Hammer

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES,
COSTS, EXPENSES, AND SERVICE AWARDS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, Plaintiffs and their undersigned counsel ("Class Counsel"), will move before the Honorable Michael A. Hammer pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h) to enter the [Proposed] Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, Expenses, and Service Awards.

In support of this motion, Plaintiffs rely upon the accompanying memorandum of law, the Joint Declaration of Class Counsel ("Joint Decl."), and the proposed form of order submitted herewith.

For the reasons set forth in these materials, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel respectfully request that the Court enter the Proposed Order awarding:

- (i) Class Counsel \$1,833,333.33 (one-third or 33⅓% of the Settlement Fund) in attorneys' fees;
- (ii) Class Counsel \$350,631.96 in unreimbursed costs and expenses; and

(iii) Plaintiffs a service award of \$3,500 each (\$28,000 total).

Dated: June 26, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

By: /s/ Andrew J. Obergfell
Andrew J. Obergfell

Andrew Obergfell
Max S. Roberts (*Pro Hac Vice*)
1330 Avenue of the Americas, 32nd Floor
New York, NY 10019
Telephone: (646) 837-7150
Facsimile: (212) 989-9163
aobergfell@bursor.com
mroberts@bursor.com

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

Scott A. Bursor (*Pro Hac Vice*)
701 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1420
Miami, FL 33131
Telephone: (305) 330-5512
Facsimile: (305) 679-9006
scott@bursor.com

**CARELLA, BYRNE, CECCHI,
OLSTEIN, BRODY & AGNELLO, P.C.**

James E. Cecchi
Donald Ecklund
Kevin G. Cooper
5 Becker Farm Road
Roseland, New Jersey 07068
Telephone: (973) 994-1700
Facsimile: (973) 994-1744
jcecchi@carellabyrne.com
decklund@carellabyrne.com
kcooper@carellabyrne.com

KANNER & WHITELEY, LLC

Conlee Whiteley

Allan Kanner

David J. Stanoch

Annemieke Tennis

701 Camp Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

Phone: (504)-524-5777

a.kanner@kanner-law.comc.whiteley@kanner-law.comd.stanoch@kanner-law.coma.tennis@kanner-law.com**HONIK LLC**

Ruben Honik

1515 Market Street, Ste. 1100

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Phone (267) 435-1300

rhonik@honiklaw.com**NIGH, GOLDBERG,
RASO & VAUGHN, PLLC**Daniel Nigh (*Pro Hac Vice*)Marlene J. Goldenberg (*Pro Hac Vice*)14 Ridge Square NW, 3rd Floor

Washington, DC 20016

Telephone: (202) 792-7927

Facsimile: (202) 792-7927

dnigh@nighgoldenberg.commgoldenberg@nighgoldenberg.com**MSP RECOVERY LAW FIRM**Janpaul Portal (*Pro Hac Vice*)

3525 Northwest 7th Street

Miami, FL 33125

Tel: 305-614-2222

jportal@msprecoverylawfirm.com

**SCOTT+SCOTT ATTORNEYS
AT LAW LLP**Joseph P. Guglielmo (*Pro Hac Vice*)Donald A. Broggi (*Pro Hac Vice*)Erin Green Comite (*Pro Hac Vice*)Michelle Conston (*Pro Hac Vice*)

230 Park Avenue, 24th Floor

New York, New York 10169

Tel: (212) 223-6444

jguglielmo@scott-scott.comdbroggi@scott-scott.comecomite@scott-scott.commconston@scott-scott.com**ASHERKELLY ATTORNEYS AT LAW**Lyndsey K. Bates (*Pro Hac Vice*)

25800 Northwestern Highway, Suite 1100

Southfield, MI 48075

Tel: (248) 746-2753

lbates@asherkellylaw.com**LEVIN SEDRAN & BERMAN, LLP**Charles E. Schaffer (*Pro Hac Vice*)

Frederick S. Longer

Nicolas J. Elia (*Pro Hac Vice forthcoming*)

510 Walnut Street – Suite 500

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tel: (215) 592-1500

cschaffer@lfsblaw.comflonger@lfsblaw.comnelia@lfsblaw.com*Class Counsel*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 26, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing
was served on all counsel of record via the Court's CM/ECF system.

By: /s/ Andrew J. Obergfell
Andrew J. Obergfell

In re Metformin B&F Lodestar - Inception Through 2/11/2026

NAME	ROLE	HOURS	RATE	TOTAL
L. Timothy Fisher	Partner (1997)	27.90	\$1,500	\$41,850.00
Scott A. Bursor	Partner (1997)	4.10	\$1,500	\$6,150.00
Neal J. Deckant	Partner (2011)	128.50	\$1,100	\$141,350.00
Jennifer S. Rosenberg*	Senior Staff Attorney (1985)	57.10	\$900	\$51,390.00
Victoria A. Sheehy*	Senior Staff Attorney (2003)	77.30	\$900	\$69,570.00
Andrew J. Obergfell	Counsel (2016)	139.20	\$875	\$121,800.00
Stephen N. Beck	Partner (2018)	21.30	\$850	\$18,105.00
Max S. Roberts	Partner (2019)	296.80	\$800	\$237,440.00
Sydney M. Cross*	Summer Associate (2024)	22.10	\$450	\$9,945.00
Rebecca S. Richter	Senior Litigation Support Specialist	7.90	\$425	\$3,357.50
J. Georgina McCulloch	Senior Litigation Support Specialist	5.70	\$425	\$2,422.50
Steven E. Riley	Senior Litigation Support Specialist	20.80	\$425	\$8,840.00
Molly C. Sasseen	Senior Litigation Support Specialist	25.00	\$425	\$10,625.00
Alicia M. Winfield*	Senior Litigation Support Specialist	24.10	\$425	\$10,242.50
Aaliyah T. Alfred*	Junior Litigation Support Specialist	16.20	\$350	\$5,670.00
* = No Longer With B&F		874.00		\$738,757.50

Expenses: \$74,092.64

Total: \$812,850.14

Bursor & Fisher, P.A. - Metformin Expenses						
		\$1,350.00	Filing Fees			
		\$7,533.77	Service of Complaint Fees			
		\$2,783.17	eDiscovery Expenses			
		\$1,996.20	Transcript Fees			
		\$60,000.00	Litigation Fund Contribution			
		\$296.75	Research Expenses			
		\$132.75	Mobile Notary Expenses			
		\$74,092.64	Total Expenses			
Filing Fees						
DATE	MATTER	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CODE		
3/9/2020	Metformin	\$400.00	Courts USDC NJ	Court Fees		
3/30/2020	Metformin	\$400.00	Courts USDC NJ	Court Fees		
3/30/2020	Metformin	\$400.00	Courts USDC NJ	Court Fees		
7/8/2020	Metformin	\$150.00	Clerk, U.S. District Court - SAB PHV fee	Court Fees		
		\$1,350.00	Total Filing Fees			
Service of Complaint Fees						
DATE	MATTER	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CODE		
3/30/2020	Metformin	\$454.00	First Legal - Complaint Service	Court Fees		
9/17/2020	Metformin	\$306.50	First Legal Network Insurance Services L	Court Fees		
11/9/2020	Metformin	\$306.50	First Legal Network Insurance Services L	Court Fees		
12/9/2020	Metformin	\$787.50	First Legal - Complaint Service	Court Fees		
12/18/2020	Metformin	\$1,595.00	First Legal - international service	Court Fees		
12/18/2020	Metformin	\$1,699.27	First Legal - international service	Court Fees		
5/10/2022	Metformin	\$1,590.00	Crowe Foreign Services	Litigation Expense		
5/28/2022	Metformin	\$795.00	Crowe Foreign	Service of Documents		
		\$7,533.77	Total Service of Complaint Fees			
eDiscovery & Document Request Fees						
DATE	MATTER	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CODE		
9/12/2023	Metformin	\$119.22	CS Disco, Inc	Software		
11/2/2023	Metformin	\$119.09	CS Disco, Inc	eDiscovery & Doc Review		

12/5/2023	Metformin	\$102.07	CS Disco, Inc	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
12/8/2023	Metformin	\$68.04	CS Disco, Inc	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
1/11/2024	Metformin	\$68.04	CS Disco, Inc	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
2/12/2024	Metformin	\$68.04	CS Disco, Inc	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
3/20/2024	Metformin	\$78.29	CS Disco, Inc	Software	
5/30/2024	Metformin	\$93.59	CS Disco, Inc.	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
6/4/2024	Metformin	\$93.59	CS Disco, Inc	Software	
6/26/2024	Metformin	\$555.05	CS Disco, Inc.	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
7/12/2024	Metformin	\$555.05	CS Disco, Inc.	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
7/12/2024	Metformin	\$863.10	CS Disco, Inc.	eDiscovery & Doc Review	
		\$2,783.17	Total eDiscovery Expenses		
Transcript Fees					
DATE	MATTER	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CODE	
7/1/2025	Metformin	\$1,996.20	Magna Legal Services	Litigation Expense	
		\$1,996.20	Total Transcript Fees		
Litigation Fund Contributions					
DATE	MATTER	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CODE	
7/11/2022	Metformin	\$20,000.00	Metformin Litigation Fund	Litigation Fund	
1/10/2024	Metformin	\$25,000.00	Pendley, Baudin & Coffin, L.L.P.	Litigation Fund Contribution	
1/3/2025	Metformin	\$15,000.00	Carella Byrne	Litigation Fund Contribution	
		\$60,000.00	Total Litigation Fund Contributions		
Research Expenses					
DATE	MATTER	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CODE	
7/12/2022	Metformin	\$0.20	PACER	Research Expense	
12/5/2022	Metformin	\$90.00	Express Scripts	Document Requests	
2/6/2023	Metformin	\$3.70	PACER	Document Requests	
5/5/2023	Metformin	\$10.50	PACER	Research Expense	
8/7/2023	Metformin	\$3.00	PACER	Research Expense	
11/7/2023	Metformin	\$4.00	PACER	Research Expense	
1/15/2024	Metformin	\$16.80	PACER	Research Expense	
6/10/2024	Metformin	\$69.50	PACER	Research Expense	
7/12/2024	Metformin	\$11.90	PACER	Research Expense	
10/17/2024	Metformin	\$10.60	PACER	Research Expense	
1/10/2025	Metformin	\$11.40	PACER	Research Expense	

[illegible]

Honik LLC Lodestar and Costs, Metformin, Thru 2.11.2026

Timekeeper	Hours	Rate	Lodestar
Honik, Ruben	1018	\$1,350	\$1,374,300

Cost Desc	Amount
Assessments	\$20,000.00
Mediator	\$8,600.00
Filing Fees, Service, PHVs, Records Collection	\$3,073.96
Total	\$31,673.96

K&W Metformin Litigation			
Inception through February 11, 2026			
Lodestar Analysis			
Timekeeper	Hours	Hourly Rate	Lodestar
Allan Kanner	9.00	\$1,000	\$9,000.00
Allan Kanner	3.20	\$750	\$2,400.00
Conlee Whiteley	170.10	\$750	\$127,575.00
Conlee Whiteley	62.60	\$625	\$39,125.00
Conlee Whiteley	44.40	\$550	\$24,420.00
Cindy St. Amant	4.10	\$700	\$2,870.00
David Stanoch	594.60	\$650	\$386,490.00
David Stanoch	414.30	\$525	\$217,507.50
David Stanoch	101.50	\$400	\$40,600.00
Annemieke Tennis	0.30	\$450	\$135.00
Annemieke Tennis	37.80	\$300	\$11,340.00
Annemieke Tennis	15.40	\$225	\$3,465.00
Taylor Bacques	160.20	\$375	\$60,075.00
Taylor Bacques	8.60	\$200	\$1,720.00
Layne Hilton	65.50	\$275	\$18,012.50
Skye Johnson	31.00	\$200	\$6,200.00
Skye Johnson	20.00	\$125	\$2,500.00
Melissa Colfer	59.20	\$200	\$11,840.00
Melissa Colfer	48.50	\$150	\$7,275.00
Yashila Skandanatha	8.80	\$200	\$1,760.00
Yashila Skandanatha	19.80	\$125	\$2,475.00
Chase Molnar	22.10	\$175	\$3,867.50
TOTAL	1901.00		\$980,652.50
Expense Analysis			
Category	Amount		
Assessment	\$15,941.85		
Copy In-House	\$225.50		
Court Fees	\$950.00		
Imaging/DB	\$4,058.15		
Meals & Hotels	\$23.04		
Misc. Expense	\$179.50		
Post/Express	\$586.27		
Research	\$16,797.92		
Service	\$840.00		
Telephone	\$38.89		
Travel	\$1,192.76		
TOTAL	\$40,833.88		

Nigh Goldenberg Raso & Vaughn PLLC				
<i>Metformin Litigation</i>				
Inception through February 11, 2026				
Lodestar Analysis				
Timekeeper	Professional Status	Hours	Hourly Rate	Lodestar
Marlene Goldenberg	Partner	280.30	\$900	\$252,270.00
Samantha Hoefs	Senior Associate	313.70	\$550	\$172,535.00
Jennifer Malanday	Paralegal	3.8	\$250	\$950.00
Zoe Anderson-Miller	Paralegal	1.40	\$250	\$350.00
TOTAL		599.20		\$426,105.00
Expense Analysis				
Category	Amount			
Assessment	\$10,000.00			
Discovery and Document Review	\$12,411.92			
Travel	\$674.00			
TOTAL	• \$23,085.92			

<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Cecchi, James	110.70	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 143,910.00
Ecklund, Donald	487.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 487,500.00
Cooper, Kevin	258.10	\$ 725.00	\$ 187,122.50
O'Brien, James	115.50	\$ 975.00	\$ 112,612.50
Patel, Chirali	35.40	\$ 400.00	\$ 14,160.00
Steele, Jordan	88.40	\$ 600.00	\$ 53,040.00
O'Toole, Brian	16.60	\$ 600.00	\$ 9,960.00
Lee, Grant	41.70	\$ 750.00	\$ 31,275.00
Manory, William	1.70	\$ 550.00	\$ 935.00
Teixeira, Dylan	0.60	\$ 225.00	\$ 135.00
Adimando, Matthew	1.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Febus, Priscilla	1.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Houser, Nancy	10.80	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,430.00
Tempesta, Laura	5.20	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,170.00
Martinez, Kelly	0.40	\$ 225.00	\$ 90.00
Falduto, Jeff	12.80	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,880.00
Rago, Mary Ellen	4.20	\$ 225.00	\$ 945.00
Total:	1,191.60		\$ 1,048,615.00

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Court Reporter	\$ 883.75
FedEx/Postage	\$ 2,100.11
Filing Fee	\$ 2,205.00
Litigation Fund	\$ 65,000.00
PACER	\$ 504.00
Parking	\$ 21.00
	\$ 70,713.86

LSB Metformin Litigation			
Inception through February 11, 2026			
Lodestar Analysis			
Timekeeper	Hours	Hourly Rate	Lodestar
Fred S. Longer	277.10	\$1,350	\$374,085.00
Charles Schaffer	550.65	\$1,025	\$564,416.25
Zanetta Moore-Driggers	926.30	\$850	\$787,355.00
Nicholas Elia	359.00	\$650	\$233,350.00
Caroline Bojarski	5.60	\$600	\$3,360.00
William Schwab	180.90	\$500	\$90,450.00
Amanda Pedicelli	1661.50	\$850	\$1,412,275.00
Ruby Summers	1.00	\$475	\$475.00
Tom Shrack	1.30	\$500	\$650.00
TOTAL	3963.35		\$3,466,416.25
Expense Analysis			
Category	Amount		
Assessment	\$41,000.00		
Experts	\$839.00		
Overnight Delivery	\$105.63		
Computer Research	\$2,617.48		
Process Server	\$1,608.00		
Travel	\$247.66		
In-house photocopy	\$665.70		
Postage	\$19.10		
Fax/Phone	\$1.00		
TOTAL	\$47,103.57		

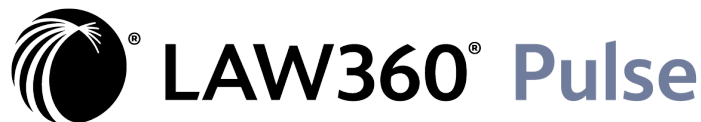
Professional Name	Professional Status	Hourly Rate	Hours	Lodestar
Carey Alexander	Partner	900	57.70	\$ 51,930.00
Daryl Scott	Partner	1960	6.80	\$ 13,328.00
Don Broggi	Partner	1960	13.20	\$ 25,872.00
Erin Green Comite	Partner	1210	76.70	\$ 92,807.00
Hal Cunningham	Partner	1195	47.50	\$ 56,762.50
Joe Guglielmo	Partner	1465	523.30	\$ 766,634.50
Peter Barile	Partner	995	7.00	\$ 6,965.00
Andrew Stanko	Associate	575	659.50	\$ 379,212.50
Anjori Mitra	Senior Associate	910	10.70	\$ 9,737.00
Joseph Cleemann	Associate	820	216.30	\$ 177,366.00
Michelle Conston	Senior Associate	990	342.40	\$ 338,976.00
Alyssa Schneider	Staff Attorney	720	195.20	\$ 140,544.00
Victoria Burke	Staff Attorney	720	472.10	\$ 339,912.00
Melanie Porter	Staff Attorney	720	674.80	\$ 485,856.00
Diana Vegas	Paralegal	450	70.70	\$ 31,815.00
Katie Oliver	Paralegal	415	15.10	\$ 6,266.50
Charlie Torres	Lit Support	450	43.60	\$ 19,620.00
Ekene Avery	Lit Support	450	5.00	\$ 2,250.00
Jessica Carter	Doc Review Mgr	500	5.20	\$ 2,600.00
Total			3442.80	\$ 2,948,454.00

Expense Category	Amount
Assessments	\$ 35,000.00
Court Costs / Filing Fees / Fees	\$ 750.01
Relativity Data Storage - Hosting	\$ 4,103.37
Online Research - Lexis / Westlaw	\$ 1,101.65
Federal Express / UPS / U.S. Mail	\$ 1.48
Service of Process	\$ 604.30
Travel	\$ 3,030.81
Photocopies	\$ 157.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 44,749.12

MSP Recovery Law Firm Lodestar and Costs, Metformin, Thru 2.11.2026

Timekeeper	Rate	Hours	Lodestar
Portal, Janpaul (Partner)	\$750	250	\$187,500
Landa, Aida (Associate)	\$450	178.8	\$80,460
Montoya, Gianni (Paralegal)	\$250	113.68	\$28,420
TOTALS			\$296,380

Cost Desc	Amount
Filing Fees, Service, PHVs, Records Collection, Subpoena Responses to Assignors	\$18,379
TOTAL	\$18,379



Portfolio Media, Inc. | 230 Park Avenue, 7th Floor | New York, NY 10169 | www.law360.com
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Elite Law Firm Billing Rates Continue To Outpace Economy

By Tracey Read

Law360 (October 9, 2025, 4:41 PM EDT) -- Top law firms commanded sizable increases in billing rates this year, continuing a multiyear trend that legal technology leaders warn may be out of step with today's market and competitive landscape.

The blended hourly rate for the top 100 law firms in the United States rose by 8.3% in the first six months of 2025, reaching \$1,145 per hour, according to e-billing and matter management platform Brightflag's report released Thursday.

That increase is lower than the same period of 2024's **record-setting 10% jump**, but remains nearly double the 4.3% growth from the first half of 2023. The report was compiled with Brightflag's database of legal spending and analyzed billed rates from Jan. 1 through June 30.

Even as inflation moderates, firms continue to push through rate increases at levels that outpace broader economic conditions, report authors Michael Dineen, Brightflag's vice president of data science and Sarah Scales, head of the company's product marketing, said. But they and other industry leaders say artificial intelligence, alternative legal service providers and broader economic factors could put the brakes on that upward trend in the near future.

Top 25 Firms Now Charging \$1,635 per Hour

In 2025, partners at the top 25 firms charged an average of \$1,635 per hour, nearly double the \$845 average at firms ranked 76 to 100. Meanwhile, associates at top 25 firms billed \$1,065 an hour — more than partners at the smallest firms.



Note: Ranking based on revenue.

Source: Brightflag • Created with [Datavrapper](#)

Firm ranking remains one of the strongest predictors of hourly rates, according to Brightflag. For instance, in 2025, partners at the top 25 firms charged an average of \$1,635 per hour, nearly double the \$845 average at firms ranked 76 to 100. And associates at top 25 firms billed \$1,065 per hour, earning more than some partners at the bottom half of the top 100.

Howard Rosenberg, partner and head of talent intelligence and acquisitions at legal growth advisory firm Baretz & Brunelle LLC, said he wasn't surprised by the data, which highlighted the premium commanded by top-ranked firms.

"The global elite practices - the top 15 law firms - are pulling away faster from the pack of the other law firms," Rosenberg told Law360 Pulse in an interview. "The gap between that elite firm tier and the next tier is substantial."

Brightflag noted that in-house teams can help reduce their costs by using alternative legal service providers and artificial intelligence tools for repeatable work like document review.

Legal tech company Priori is already seeing legal departments get more sophisticated about law firm pricing and outside counsel management, through request for proposals, rate benchmarking, usage of ALSPs, value-based pricing and more, Basha Rubin, CEO and co-founder of Priori told Law360.

"At some point, the current model won't be sustainable, but the Brightflag data makes clear that the breaking point wasn't in 2025," Rubin said.

Rubin noted that the 8.3% increase in law firm rates continues a yearslong trend where "law firms continue to raise prices at a pace that doesn't reflect what's happening inside corporations."

Another key rate driver was based on practice area. The highest rates in 2025 went to merger and acquisition attorneys, followed by corporate and litigation lawyers.

M&A partners at top-25 firms billed \$1,843 per hour, a 9.7% increase from 2024, followed by corporate partners at \$1,692 per hour, up 8.1% year-over-year. Litigation rates averaged \$1,594 at top-25 firms and \$1,360 at firms ranked 26 to 50, while partners in lower tiers billed under \$1,000, according to Brightflag.

Geography also affected rates, even within the same firm. New York remains the most expensive market, with partners billing \$1,795 per hour, followed by Chicago (\$1,697) and Los Angeles (\$1,601), the report noted. Washington, D.C. partners at the top 100 firms billed an average of \$1,354. In Boston, that number fell to \$1,347 an hour, with San Francisco at \$1,328, and Baltimore at \$1,242.

Meanwhile, partners in Kansas City, Missouri, billed at less than half the New York rate, at \$790. In Seattle, the average for partners in the top 100 was \$1,175 and Atlanta at \$953 an hour, according to the report.

For the first time, the report also examined AI's impact on law firm rates.

AI tools that support research, drafting and revision—tasks traditionally done by junior associates—are already reducing the number of human hours required to complete legal tasks. On the surface, these trends may suggest cost savings for the legal department. But in reality, rates could climb even higher despite — or because of — technology.

"To maintain revenue, firms will likely adjust their pricing to offset reduced billable hours," Dineen and Scales noted. "After all, the value of resolving a matter remains unchanged—or may even increase—when AI enables faster, higher-quality, and more consistent outcomes. To capture that value, firms are expected to raise hourly rates and other commercial models to maintain or improve on their current margins."

Rubin of Priori expects that as AI transforms the practice of law, pressure from corporate buyers will mount to not only right-size rates but to move from billing for time to billing for value.

Rosenberg agreed.

"Between the technology costs and the talent costs, people have to raise the rates. It's a business," he said. "These are pretty sophisticated businesses, and they have to charge for delivering the advice. I think clients expect a lower rate, and outside the [top] 100, that's probably going to happen."

But for the most elite firms, Rosenberg said he expects even higher rate increases next year and beyond.

"These are definitely robust businesses that are going to have to navigate that to their clients," he said. "Not everyone's going to win at this game, but it's all interrelated with talent. You're seeing the talent wars play out as people increase their rates. This is almost like an arms race, between increasing rates and trying to pay for the best talent that firms can capture in the marketplace."

--Additional reporting by Steven Lerner. Editing by Alex Hubbard.

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Business & Practice

Big Law Rates Topping \$2,000 Leave Value ‘In Eye of Beholder’

By Roy Strom

Column

June 9, 2022, 2:30 AM

Welcome back to the Big Law Business column on the changing legal marketplace written by me, Roy Strom. Today, we look at a new threshold for lawyers' billing rates and why it's so difficult to put a price on high-powered attorneys. Sign up to receive this column in your inbox on Thursday mornings. Programming note: Big Law Business will be off next week.

Some of the nation's top law firms are charging more than \$2,000 an hour, setting a new pinnacle after a two-year burst in demand.

Partners at Hogan Lovells and Latham & Watkins have crossed the threshold, according to court documents in bankruptcy cases filed within the past year.

Other firms came close to the mark, billing more than \$1,900, according to the documents. They include Kirkland & Ellis, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, Boies Schiller Flexner, and Sidley Austin.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett litigator Bryce Friedman, who helps big-name clients out of jams, especially when they're accused of fraud, charges \$1,965 every 60 minutes, according to a court document.

In need of a former acting US Solicitor General? Hogan Lovells partner Neal Katyal bills time at \$2,465 an hour. Want to hire famous litigator David Boies? That'll cost \$1,950 an hour (at least). Reuters was first to report their fees.

Eye-watering rates are nothing new for Big Law firms, which typically ask clients to pay higher prices at least once a year, regardless of broader market conditions.

"Value is in the eye of the beholder," said John O'Connor, a San Francisco-based expert on legal fees. "The perceived value of a good lawyer can reach into the multi-billions of dollars."

Kirkland & Ellis declined to comment on its billing rates. None of the other firms responded to requests to comment.

Charge It Up

Big Law firms are crossing the \$2,000-an-hour threshold after two years of surging rates driven by an increase in demand for lawyers.

Firm	Highest Billing Rate
Hogan Lovells	\$2,465
Latham & Watkins	\$2,075
Kirkland & Ellis	\$1,995
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett	\$1,965
Boies Schiller Flexner	\$1,950
Sidley Austin	\$1,900

Source: Court documents

Bloomberg Law

Law firms have been more successful raising rates than most other businesses over the past 15 years.

Law firm rates rose by roughly 40 percent from 2007 to 2020, or just short of 3 percent per year, Thomson Reuters Peer Monitor data show. US inflation rose by about 28% during that time.

The 100 largest law firms in the past two years achieved their largest rate increases in more than a decade, Peer Monitor says. The rates surged more than 6% in 2020 and grew another 5.6% through November of last year. Neither level had been breached since 2008.

The price hikes occurred during a once-in-a-decade surge in demand for law services, which propelled profits at firms to new levels. Fourteen law firms reported average profits per equity partner in 2021 over \$5 million, according to data from The American Lawyer. That was up from six the previous year.

The highest-performing firms, where lawyers charge the highest prices, have outperformed their smaller peers. Firms with leading practices in markets such as mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and real estate were forced to turn away work at some points during the pandemic-fueled surge.

Firms receive relatively tepid pushback from their giant corporate clients, especially when advising on bet-the-company litigation or billion-dollar deals.

The portion of bills law firms collected—a sign of how willingly clients pay full-freight—rose during the previous two years after drifting lower following the Great Financial Crisis. Collection rates last year breached 90% for the first time since 2009, Peer Monitor data show.

Professional rules prohibit lawyers from charging “unconscionable” or “unreasonable” rates. But that doesn’t preclude clients from paying any price they perceive as valuable, said Jacqueline Vinaccia, a San Diego-based lawyer who testifies on lawyer fee disputes.

Lawyers’ fees are usually only contested when they will be paid by a third party.

That happened recently with Hogan Lovells’ Katyal, whose nearly \$2,500 an hour fee was contested in May by a US trustee overseeing a bankruptcy case involving a Johnson & Johnson unit facing claims its talc-based powders caused cancer.

The trustee, who protects the financial interests of bankruptcy estates, argued Katyal’s fee was more than \$1,000 an hour higher than rates charged by lawyers in the same case at Jones Day and Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom.

A hearing on the trustee’s objection is scheduled for next week. Hogan Lovells did not respond to a request for comment on the objection.

Vinaccia said the firm’s options will be to reduce its fee, withdraw from the case, or argue the levy is reasonable, most likely based on Katyal’s extensive experience arguing appeals.

Still, the hourly rate shows just how valuable the most prestigious lawyers’ time can be—even compared to their highly compensated competitors.

“If the argument is that Jones Day and Skadden Arps are less expensive, then you’re already talking about the cream of the crop, the top-of-the-barrel law firms,” Vinaccia said. “I can’t imagine a case in which I might argue those two firms are more reasonable than the rates I’m dealing with.”

Worth Your Time

On Cravath: Cravath Swaine & Moore is heading to Washington, opening its first new office since 1973 by hiring former heads of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Meghan Tribe reports the move comes as Big Law firms are looking to add federal government expertise as clients face more regulatory scrutiny.

On Big Law Promotions: It’s rare that associates get promotions to partner in June, but Camille Vasquez is now a Brown Rudnick partner after she shot to fame representing Johnny Depp in his defamation trial against ex-wife Amber Heard.

On Working From Home: I spoke this week with Quinn Emanuel’s John Quinn about why he thinks law firm life is never going back to the office-first culture that was upset by the pandemic. Listen to the podcast [here](#).



That's it for this week! Thanks for reading and please send me your thoughts, critiques, and tips.

To contact the reporter on this story: Roy Strom in Chicago at rstrom@bloomberglaw.com

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Chris Opfer at copfer@bloomberglaw.com;
John Hughes at jhughes@bloombergindustry.com

Documents

[Trustee's Objection](#)

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Dec. 9, 2021, 3:00 AM

[Never Underestimate Big Law's Ability to Raise Billing Rates](#)

Aug. 12, 2021, 3:00 AM

Law Firms

Simpson Thacher
Hogan Lovells
Jones Day
Skadden
Sidley Austin
Quinn Emanuel
Cravath Swaine & Moore
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Topics

expert fees
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CounselLink®

Enterprise Legal Management Trends Report

INSIGHT INTO **7** KEY METRICS

JUNE 2022



LexisNexis®



Enterprise Legal Management Trends Report

INSIGHTS ARE BASED ON DATA DERIVED FROM

OVER
\$49 Billion
IN LEGAL SPENDING

MORE THAN
350,000
TIMEKEEPERS

MORE THAN
1.2 Million
MATTERS

Executive Highlights

Insights are based on data derived from over \$49 billion in legal spending, more than 350,000 timekeepers, and more than 1.2 million matters. The key metrics are based on 2021 charges billed by outside counsel.

2021 RECORD SETTING YEAR FOR MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

LexisNexis® CounselLink® data aligns with reports of 2021 being a record setting year for global mergers and acquisitions. Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) related legal fees processed through CounselLink in 2021 represented 7.4% of total legal billing, a significant increase from 4.3% in 2020. The data also reflects that greater demand for M&A legal expertise resulted in material price increases. The median partner rate billed for M&A work in 2021 was \$878, a 6.1% increase over the prior year median.

HOURLY RATE INCREASES SHOW NO SIGNS OF SLOWING

Consistent with what we observed in 2020, despite pandemic-related and other pressures for legal departments to reduce outside counsel spending, hourly rate increases paid to US firms showed no signs of slowing. On average, 2021 partner hourly rates increased by 3.4% relative to 2020. This compares to 3.5% growth in 2020 versus 2019.

USE OF ALTERNATIVE FEE ARRANGEMENT CONTINUES TO INCREASE

In 2021, 14.8% of matters had at least a portion of their billing under an arrangement other than hourly billing. Non-hourly fees billed accounted 9.6% of all billings. Use of alternative fee arrangements (AFAs) has been slowly rising over the years, showing an increased appetite by corporate counsel for AFAs, and a willingness by law firms to provide them.

THE "LARGEST 50" FIRMS ACCOUNT FOR LARGEST SHARE OF SPENDING

The "Largest 50" firms (those with more than 750 lawyers) continue to account for the largest share of U.S. legal spending. In 2021, 46% of outside counsel fees were paid to these firms, consistent with recent year results. Further, the largest firms are continuing to gain share of wallet for the highest rate work. The three practices commanding the highest partner rates are Mergers & Acquisitions; Finance, Loans & Investments; and Regulatory & Compliance. Combining these types of matters, the "Largest 50" firms had a 61% share of legal billings in 2021. Several sub-categories of other matter categories with high partner rates follow the same pattern. For example, those firms had a 77% share of IP Litigation and a 78% share of Corporate Antitrust work.

Introduction

The first edition of the annual CounselLink Enterprise Legal Management Trends Report was published in October 2013. That report established a set of six key metrics based on data available via the CounselLink Enterprise Legal Management platform and provided insights that corporate law departments and law firms could use to guide their decisions and subsequent actions. Beginning with the 2021 edition, a seventh key metric has been added to highlight hourly rates billed by law firm partners located in countries outside of the United States.

With the volume of data available for analysis growing with each passing year, the 2022 edition of the Trends Report represents the most up-to-date and detailed picture of how legal market dynamics are evolving over time.

As always, information about the methodologies used, definitions, and expert contributors conducting the analysis are presented at the end of the report.

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Update on seven key metrics

Each annual update of the CounselLink Enterprise Legal Management Trends Report covers a standard set of key metrics related to hourly legal rates and the corporate procurement of legal services.

1A

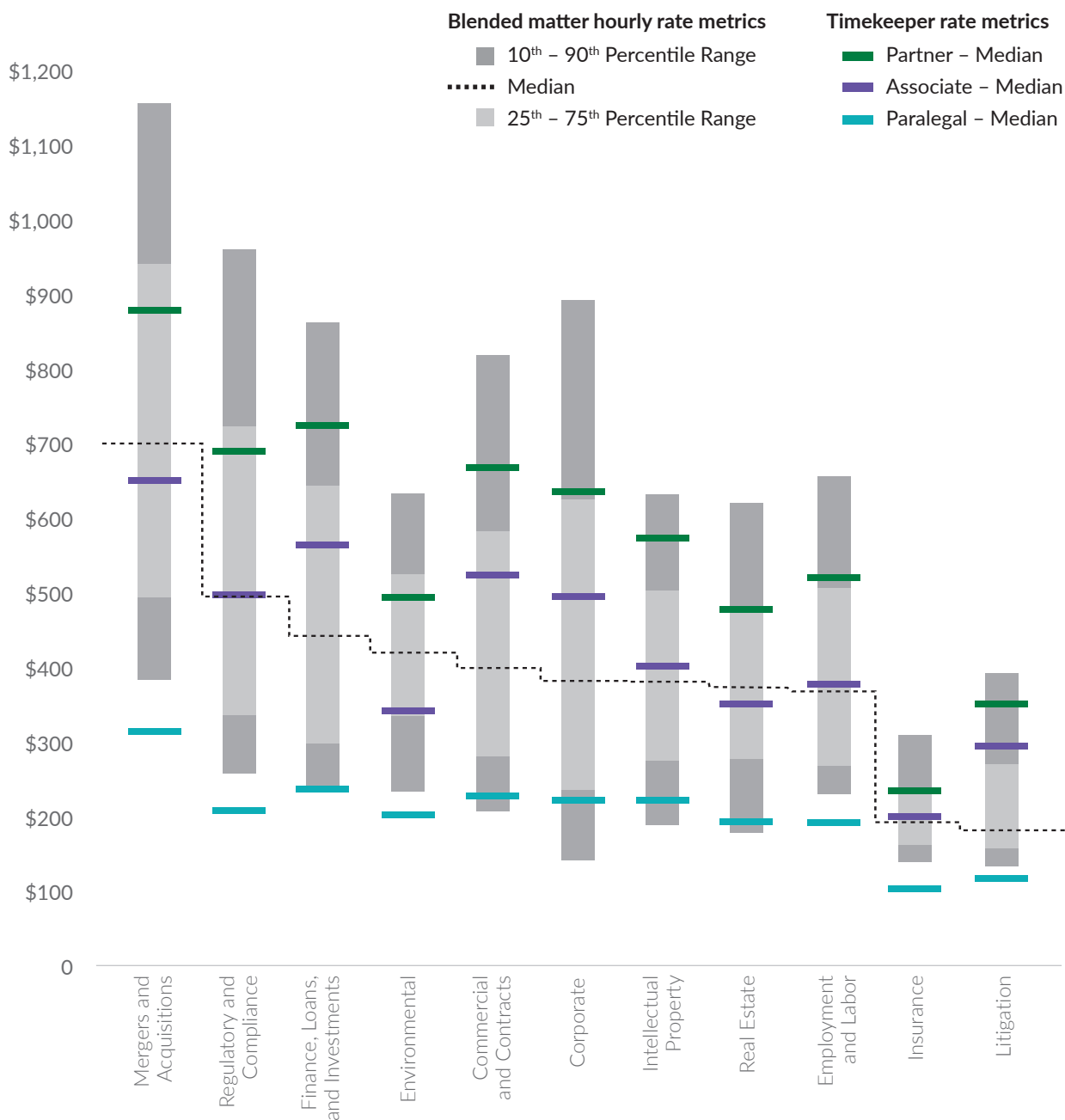
KEY
METRIC

Blended Hourly Rate for Matters by Practice Area

BLENDED HOURLY RATES AND RATE VOLATILITY DIFFER BY TYPE OF WORK

All analysis is based on data through December 31, 2021

Practice areas ordered by median blended matter rates

Volatility
Rate

5

7

7

3

6

10

5

4

5

3

5

Volatility is a calculated indicator of blended rate variability. Higher numbers suggest better possibilities for negotiating rates and/or changing the assigned timekeeper mix.

See page 9 for guidance on interpreting all blended hourly rates charts.

1B

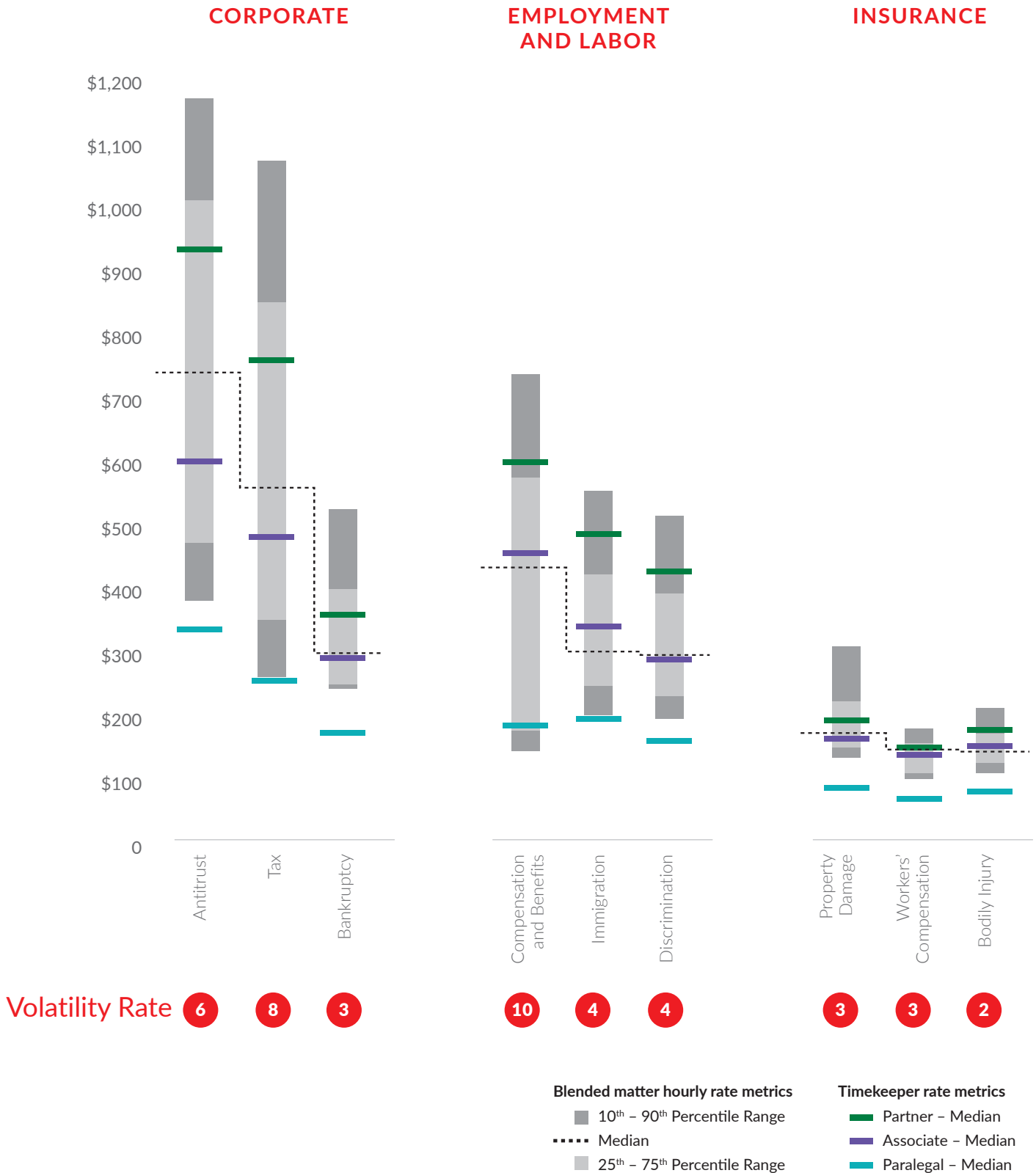
KEY
METRIC

Blended Hourly Rate for Matters – by Subcategory

BLENDED HOURLY RATES AND RATE VOLATILITY DIFFER BY SUBCATEGORY OF WORK

All analysis is based on data through December 31, 2021

Practice areas ordered by median blended matter rates



1B

KEY
METRIC

Blended Hourly Rate for Matters – by Subcategory

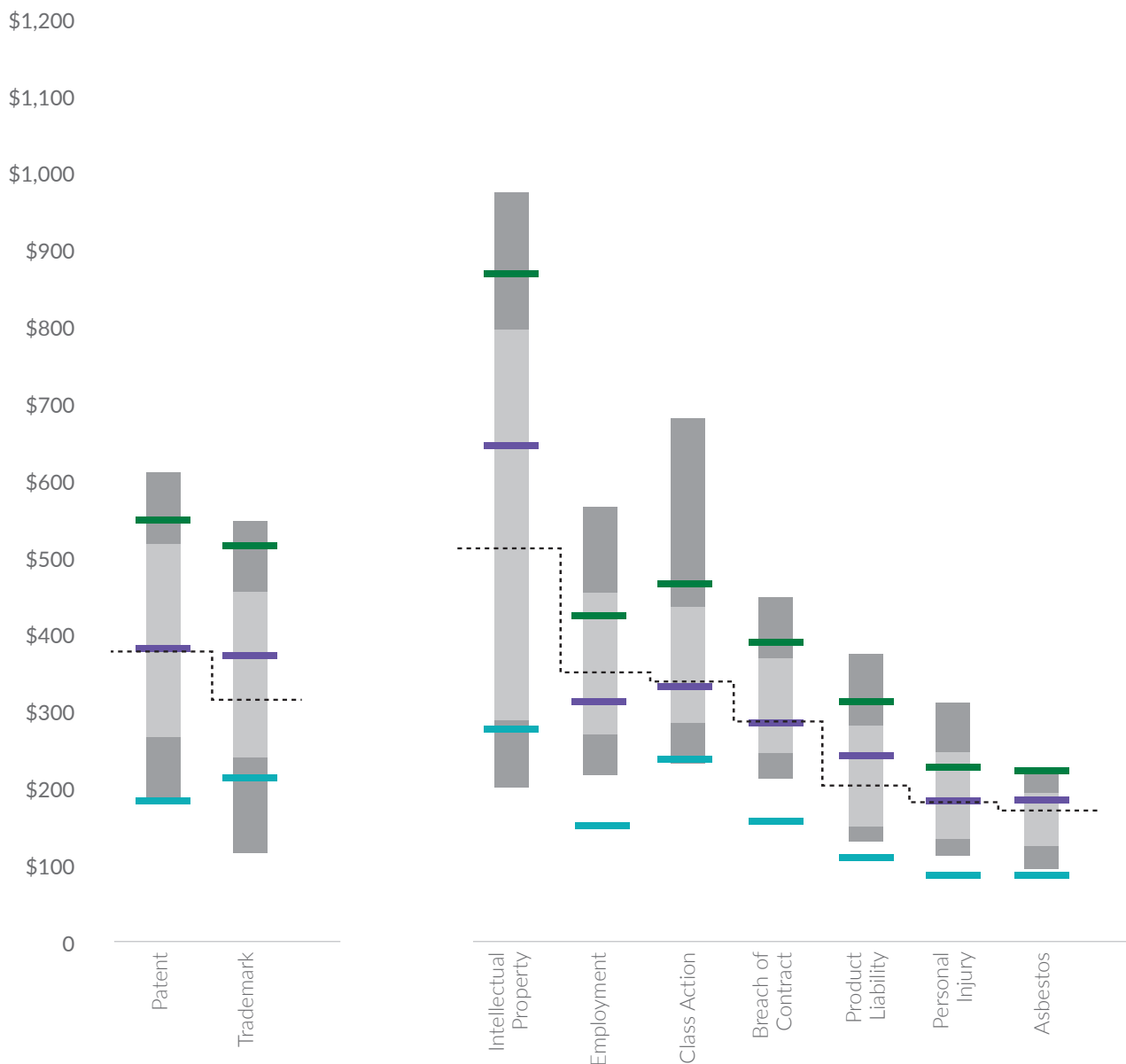
BLENDED HOURLY RATES AND RATE VOLATILITY DIFFER BY SUBCATEGORY OF WORK

All analysis is based on data through December 31, 2021

Practice areas ordered by median blended matter rates

INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY

LITIGATION



Volatility Rate

5

5

10

4

3

3

5

5

3

Blended matter hourly rate metrics

■ 10th – 90th Percentile Range

..... Median

■ 25th – 75th Percentile Range

Timekeeper rate metrics

■ Partner – Median

■ Associate – Median

■ Paralegal – Median

Interpreting the Charts:

The charts on the previous pages capture matter level benchmarks. It's important to distinguish that Metric 1 is not benchmarking individual timekeeper rates, but rather the blended rates that result from the multiple timekeepers that work on a given matter. As a guide to interpreting the output, compare the two categories Corporate and Employment & Labor. These two categories have very similar median blended average matter rate (\$376 and \$366, respectively). But note that Corporate matters have a median partner rate of \$636, considerably higher than that of Employment & Labor (\$520). This indicates that relative to Corporate work, Employment & Labor matters are staffed more significantly with non-partners, whose hourly rates bring down the overall blended average matter rates.

The Volatility Index provided in this section is a calculated marker that shows the variability in blended matter rates. Using a 10-point scale, the Index highlights the broad spread between the 25th and 75th percentiles of hourly rates. High volatility scores indicate greater variance in prices paid based on the mix of timekeepers and individual hourly rates.

Although individual lawyer rates are the focus of considerable industry attention, it is equally, or arguably more important, to look at the bigger picture: the blended average rate of the different timekeepers that work on a matter. The chart shows that the median blended hourly rate is highest for Mergers and Acquisitions, which often involve the most expensive firms and require significant partner engagement.

Comparing the Corporate category to Insurance as an example, the spread between the 25th and 75th percentiles of blended hourly rates for Corporate work is broader than the spread for Insurance. On a 10-point scale, Corporate has a Volatility Index of 10 while Insurance has an Index of three, which indicates that the mix of timekeepers and rates paid on Corporate matters vary significantly compared to the timekeeper mix and rates paid for Insurance matters. A high Volatility Index could also indicate that a category represents a wide range of matter types.

The 2020 data revealed that three matter categories have relatively low Volatility Indices (lower than 5), which means rates are consistent and less subject to negotiations between corporations and their firms:

- Insurance
- Real Estate
- Environmental

The two matter categories with the greatest change relative to the prior year are Mergers & Acquisitions and Commercial & Contracts. The median blended average matter rate for these categories increased 7% relative to 2020.

Legal departments can compare their own data against these rates and ranges for help managing costs. If departments are paying at or near the top of the range for more volatile matter types, there may be opportunities to negotiate lower rates or request a different mix of timekeepers to reduce costs. Note, however, that when looking at trends, it is important to evaluate the entire range of rates rather than focusing solely on the median rate.

Key Metric 1B: Blended Hourly Rates and Rate Volatility Differ by Legal Work Subcategories

Key Metric #1 measures average billing rates for high-level categories of legal work. Beginning in 2021, the Trends Report expanded upon this to include benchmarks for more granular categories of work to continue to provide more meaningful data points for decision-making in the legal industry.

Note that several of the sub-categories have Volatility Indices that are lower than that of their parent categories. For example, refer to the Corporate practice area in Key Metric #1 which had a Volatility Index of 10.

The three sub-categories of Corporate reflected in Key Metric #1B include Antitrust, Bankruptcy, and Tax. These areas have volatility scores of 6, 3, and 8 respectively. This can be interpreted to mean that as we narrow down to more granular/similar types of work, there is less variability between the 25th and 75th percentile blended average rates paid for these specific types of legal work relative to the broader category of Corporate. For example, there is greater consistency in the staffing and/or negotiated rates for these types of work, particularly for Antitrust and Bankruptcy.



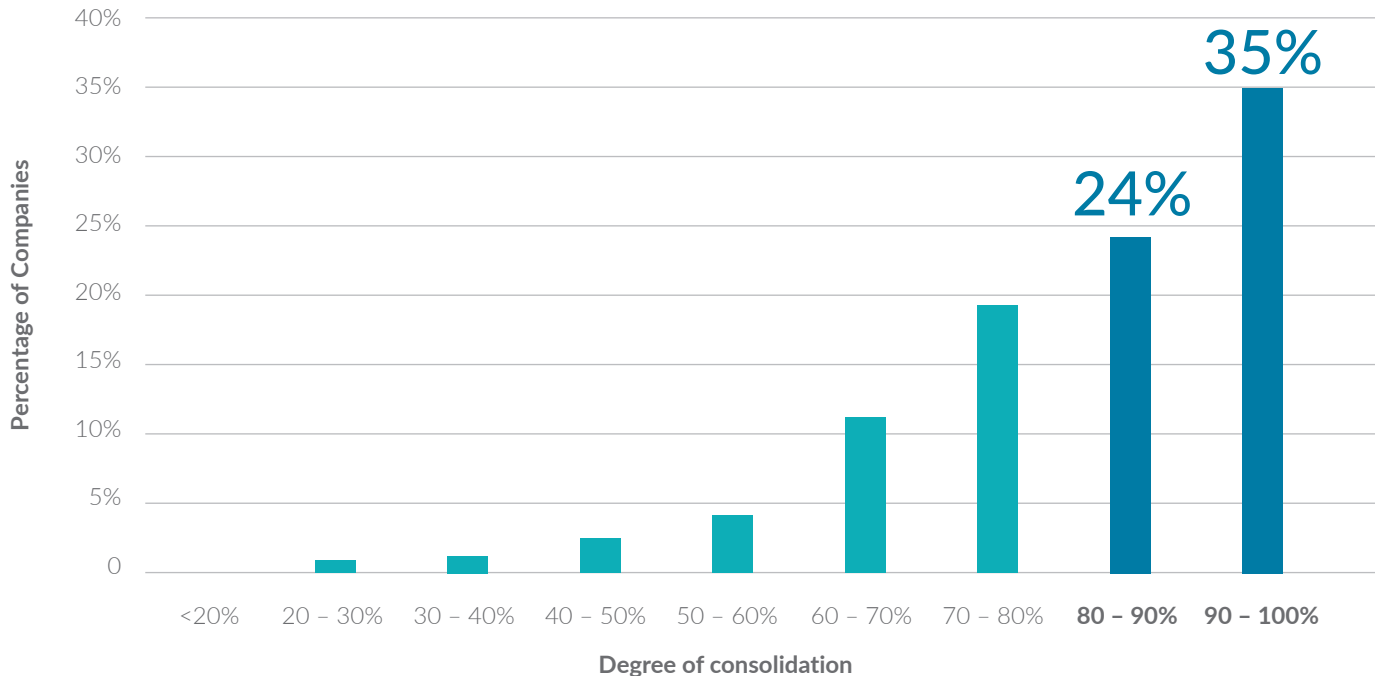
2

KEY
METRIC

Law Firm Consolidation: Number of Legal Vendors Used by Corporations

HALF OF COMPANIES IN THE COUNSELLINK DATA POOL HAVE 10 FIRMS OR FEWER THAT ACCOUNT FOR AT LEAST 80% OF THEIR OUTSIDE COUNSEL FEES

All analysis is based on data through December 31, 2021



Interpreting the Chart:

This chart shows the degree of law firm consolidation among companies whose outside counsel legal billings are processed through CounselLink. The horizontal axis separates participating companies into nine segments representing different degrees of consolidation. For example, the bar on the far right shows that 35% of participating companies have 90 - 100% of their legal billings with 10 or fewer vendors; these are the most consolidated legal departments. The far left bar shows that just 1% of companies have 20 - 30% of their legal billings with 10 or fewer firms. In 2020, we noted a subtle shift of law departments that had dropped from between 80-90% on the chart to the 70-80% bucket. That shift has reversed itself, and we see 59% of companies with high levels of law firm consolidation, consistent with consolidation levels noted in the last five years (excepting 2020).

Industry type plays a significant role in consolidation.

HIGH DEGREES OF CONSOLIDATION:

88% Transportation and Warehousing
83% Information Companies
78% Retail Trade
74% Manufacturing

LOW DEGREES OF CONSOLIDATION:

40% Finance
Insurance
36% Utilities

3A

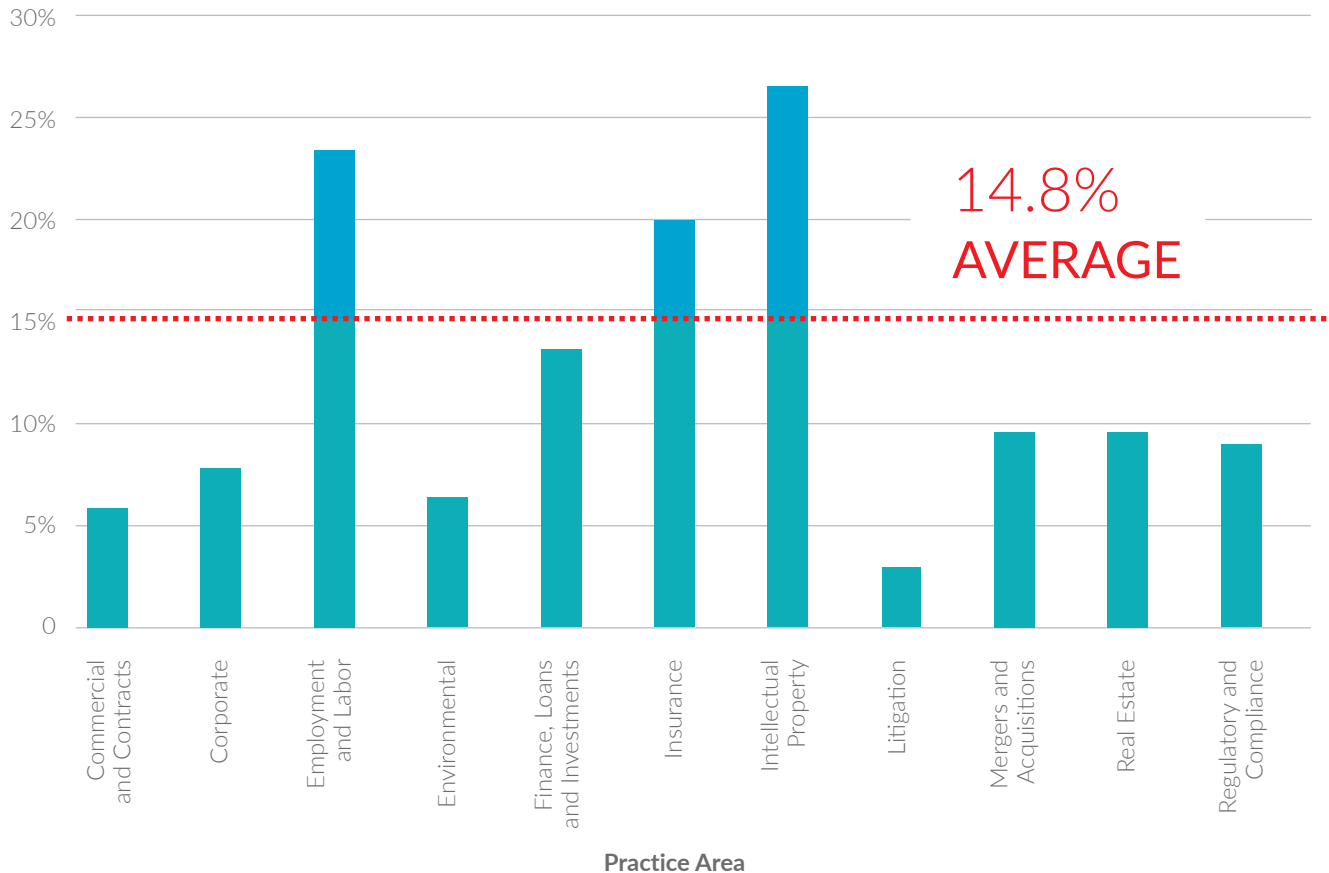
KEY
METRIC

Alternative Fee Arrangement (AFA) Usage by Matter

SOME FORM OF AFAs WERE USED IN 14.8% OF MATTERS

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021

PERCENTAGE OF MATTERS UTILIZING AFAs



The use of AFAs to govern legal service payments varies considerably by legal matter type. High volume, predictable work included in Intellectual Property, Insurance, and the Employment and Labor categories continue to have the highest volume of matters billed under AFAs.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY | INSURANCE | EMPLOYMENT & LABOR
utilized AFAs for at least **20%** of matters

Other matter categories are gaining in use of alternative billing. Mergers and Acquisitions, Real Estate, and Regulatory and Compliance have nearly 10% of matters with non-hourly billing.

3B

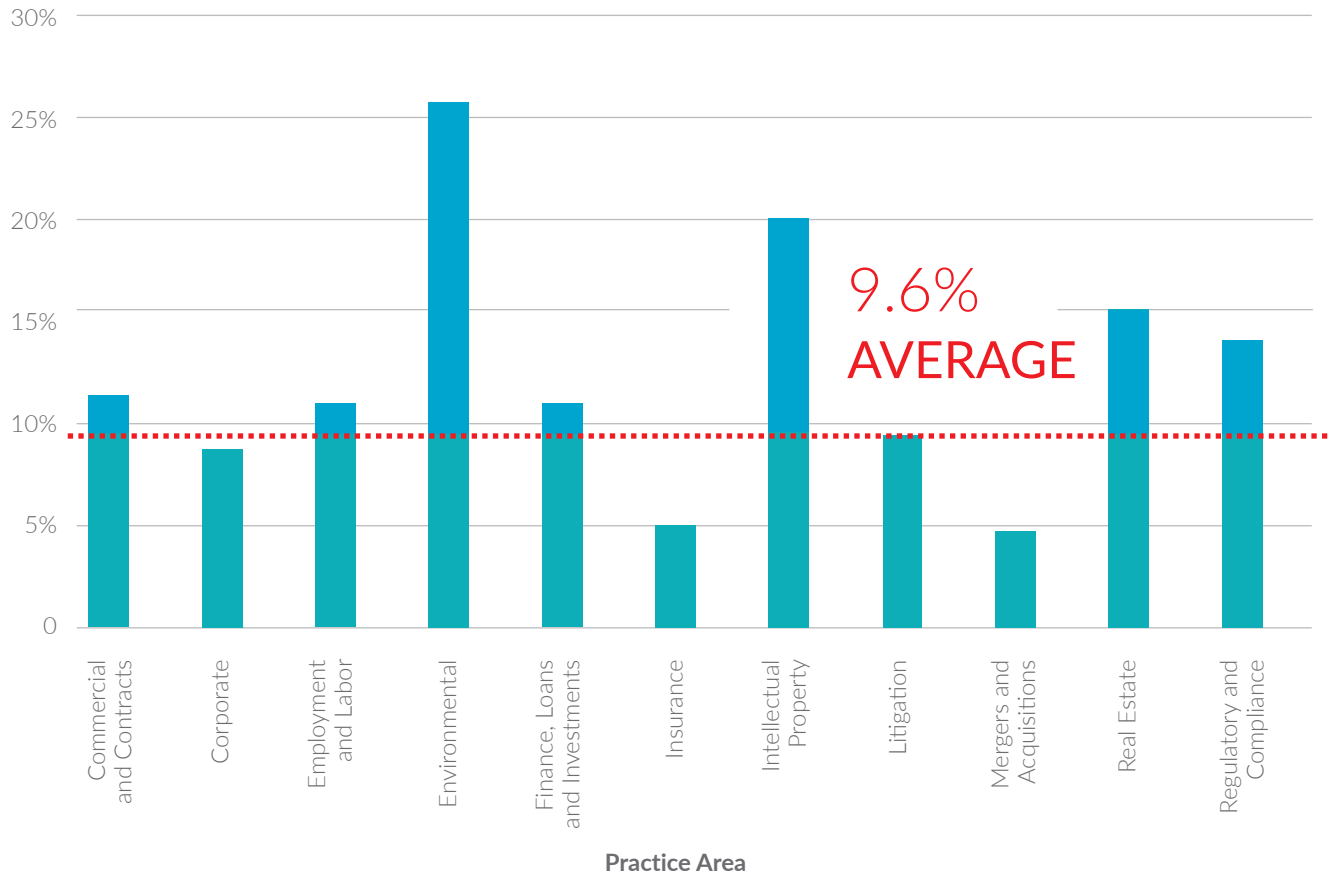
KEY
METRIC

Alternative Fee Arrangement (AFA) Usage by Billings

SOME FORM OF AFAs WERE USED IN 9.6% OF BILLINGS

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021

PERCENTAGE OF BILLINGS UTILIZING AFAs



The use of Alternative Fee Arrangements has been gradually increasing as the industry slowly moves in the direction of not relying solely on hourly billing as the mechanism for payment of legal services. When CounselLink first started reporting on these key metric ten years ago, AFAs were used in approximately 12% of matters and 7% of fees and billings.

4

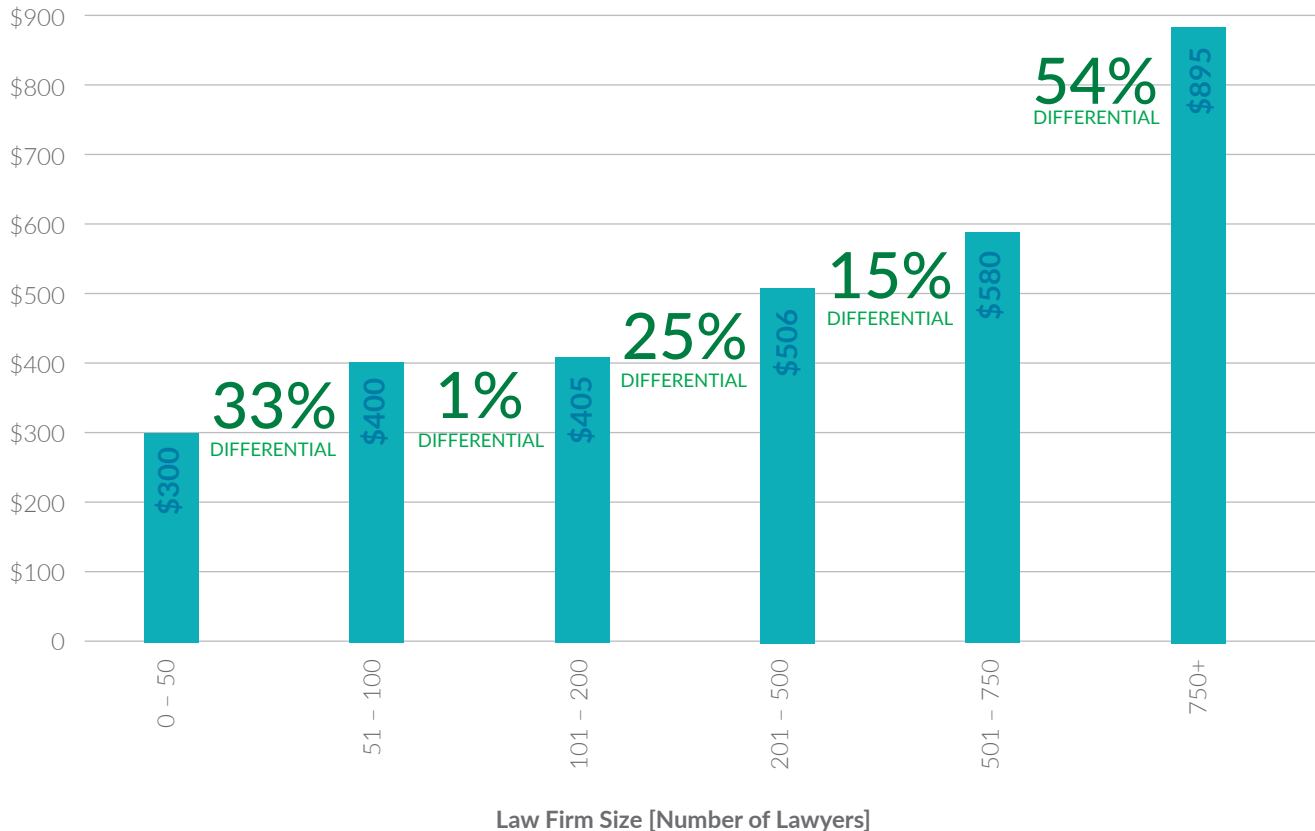
KEY
METRIC

Partner Hourly Rate Differences by Law Firm Size

MEDIAN RATES ACROSS PRACTICE AREAS, EXCLUDING INSURANCE

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021

MEDIAN PARTNER HOURLY RATES BY LAW FIRM SIZE



The size of a law firm is highly correlated to the rates billed by its lawyers. This progression is especially notable for the largest category of firms, those with 750 or more lawyers. The median hourly billing rate for partners in firms with more than 750 lawyers (\$895) is 54% higher than the median hourly billing rate billed by partners in the next smaller tier of firms (\$575).

Relative to prior years, the 54% differential for the largest firms compared to the next tier of firms is the largest in all the years we have tracked this metric. The differential was 47% for 2020.

Additionally, relative to prior years, the gap between mid-sized firm rates has narrowed. The median partner rate for firms with 51-100 lawyers (\$400) is nearly the same as that for firms with 101-200 lawyers (\$405).

The average partner growth rate for the largest firms was 4.6% in 2021 relative to 2020—the largest increase of the various law firm bands.

**AVERAGE PARTNER GROWTH RATE
FOR THE LARGEST FIRMS**

4.6% 2021 RELATIVE TO 2020

5A

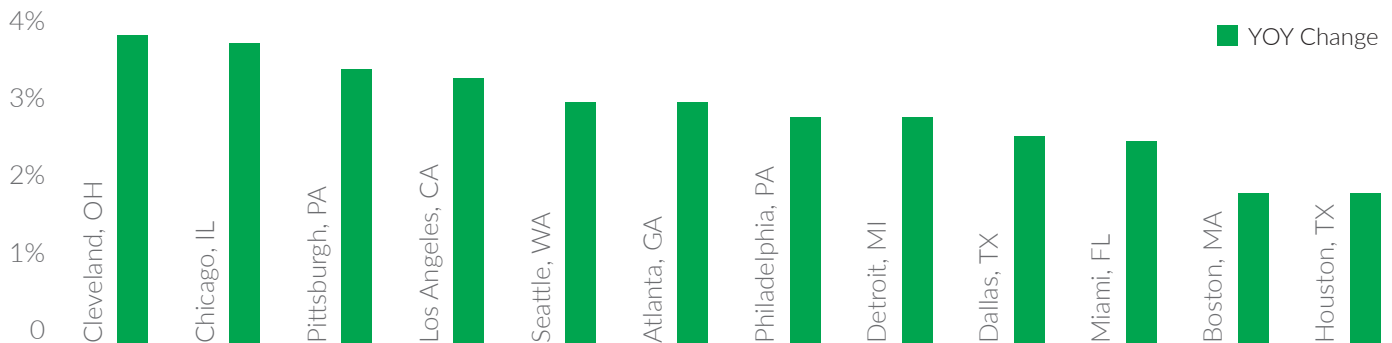
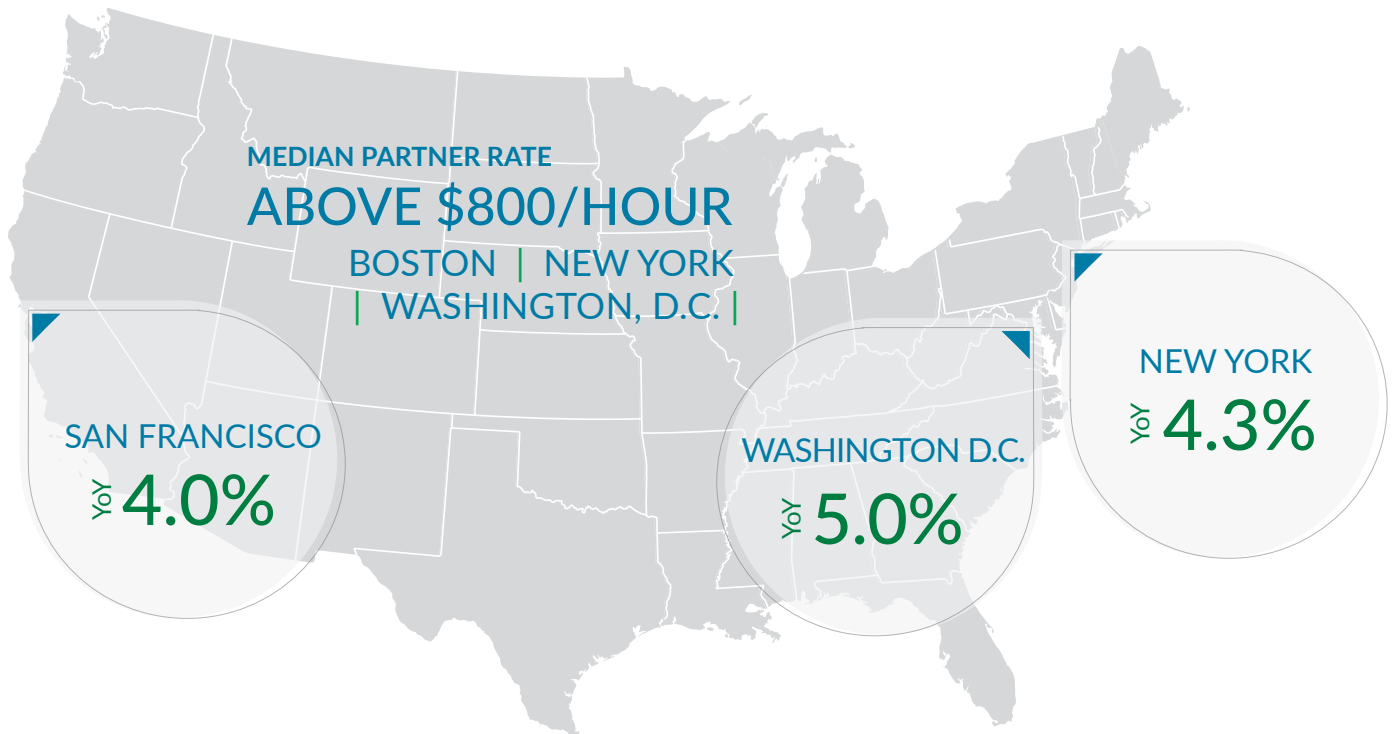
KEY
METRIC

Partner Hourly Rate Growth by City

FOUR MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS SHOW MEDIAN PARTNER RATE GROWTH OF MORE THAN 4.0%

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021

PARTNER RATE GROWTH IN THREE MAJOR CITIES



Interpreting the Chart:

Across the United States, partner hourly rates grew 3.4% on average in 2021.

The biggest growth spurts in attorney rates for the last year occurred in Washington D.C., New York, and San Francisco. Each of these four cities saw average attorney rates grow more than 4.0% relative to 2020.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, two cities saw hourly growth rate below 2%: Boston and Houston.

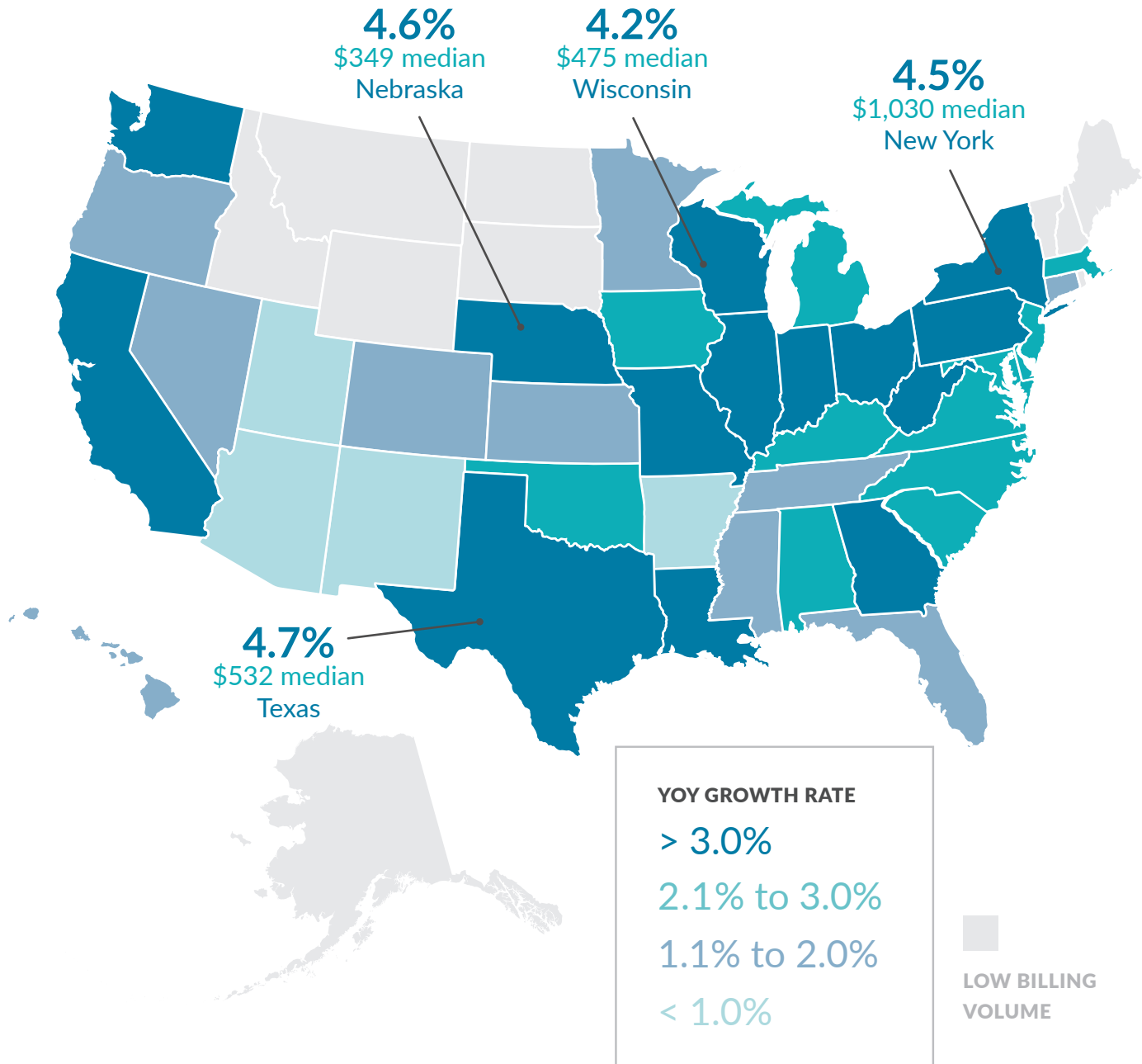
5B

KEY
METRIC

Partner Hourly Rate Growth by State

**GROWTH IN MEDIAN PARTNER RATES VARIES BY STATE,
 AVERAGING 3.4% YEAR-OVER-YEAR INCREASE**

Based on 12 months data ending December 31, 2021



3.4% AVERAGE GROWTH IN PARTNER RATES ACROSS STATES

The average growth in partner rates across states is 3.4%, in line with prior year increases.

6A

KEY
METRIC

Median Partner Hourly Rate by Practice Area

MEDIAN PARTNER RATES IN FIVE PRACTICE AREAS ABOVE \$600 AN HOUR

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021



Aggregate statistics based on legal work performed in 2021 identify Mergers and Acquisition as the practice area with the highest median partner rate of \$878. Additionally, the other practices with median partner rates over \$600 per hour have such high medians in large part because companies often use larger firms for these kinds of matters. In 2021, the “Largest 50” firms handled 66% of Merger and Acquisition work, and 62% of Finance, Loans & Investment work. With regard to the other high rate practices of Regulatory and Compliance, Commercial and Contracts, and Corporate, the “Largest 50” firms had a 47%, 52%, and 53% share of the wallet.

Conversely, at the lower end of the hourly rate spectrum is insurance work. Insurance carriers demand and negotiate aggressively for low rates on their high-volume defense matters. Law firms with fewer than 100 lawyers handled 69% of insurance work in 2021.

6B

KEY
METRIC

Median Partner Rates by Subcategory of Work

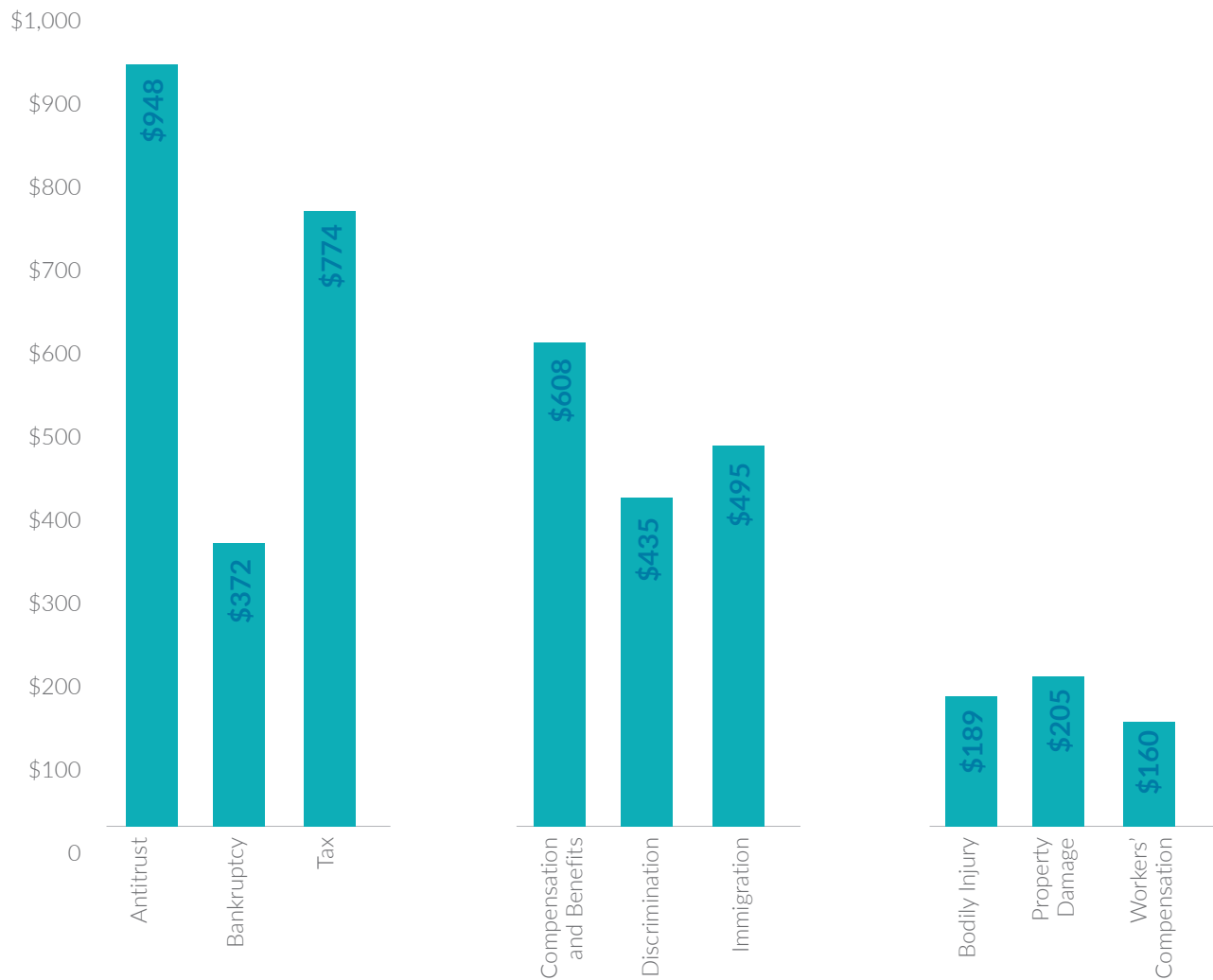
WITHIN PRACTICE AREAS, SUBCATEGORY RATES VARY CONSIDERABLY

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021

CORPORATE

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR

INSURANCE



6B

KEY
METRIC

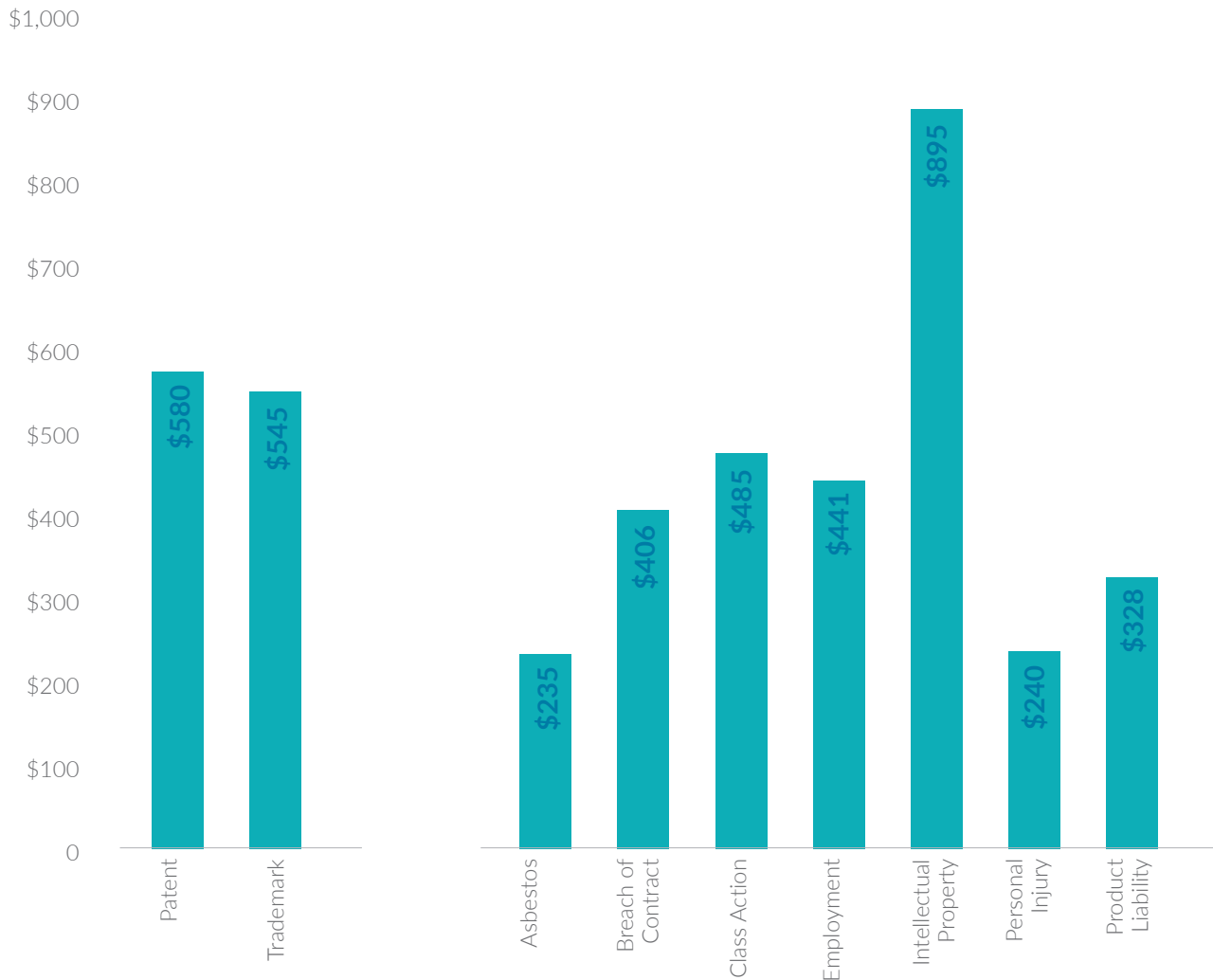
Median Partner Rates by Subcategory of Work

WITHIN PRACTICE AREAS, SUBCATEGORY RATES VARY CONSIDERABLY

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

LITIGATION



New since the 2021 Trends Report, benchmarks are available for more granular categories of legal work. Litigation work, for example, encompasses a wide variety of practices that command very different rates. At the high end, Intellectual Property Litigation had a median partner hourly rate of \$895 in 2020, whereas Asbestos Litigation work was billed at a median partner hourly rate of \$235.

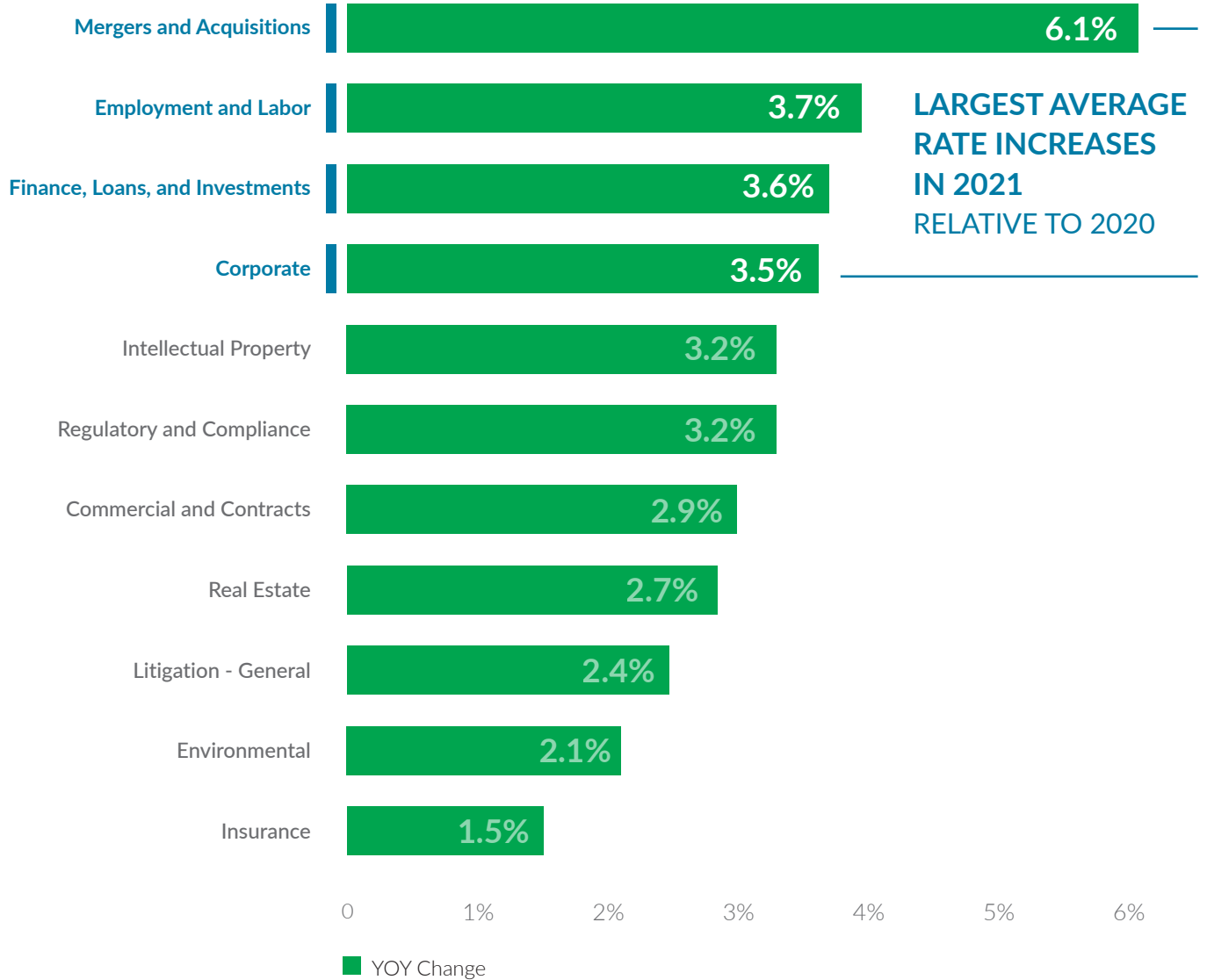
6C

KEY
METRIC

Partner Hourly Rate Growth by Practice Area

FOUR PRACTICE AREAS LEAD PARTNER RATE GROWTH IN 2021

Based on 12 months of data ending December 31, 2021



**LARGEST AVERAGE
RATE INCREASES
IN 2021
RELATIVE TO 2020**

Turning to partner rate growth by practice area, Mergers and Acquisitions was the area that far and away saw the largest increases in rates in 2021. The average rate change for Mergers and Acquisitions partners was 6.1%. Note that three of the types of work that command median hourly rates above \$600 (see Metric 6A) are at or near the top of this list. They are: Mergers and Acquisitions, Finance, Loans, and Investments, and Corporate.

Partner rates for Insurance work increased notably less than rates in other practice areas.

7A

KEY
METRIC

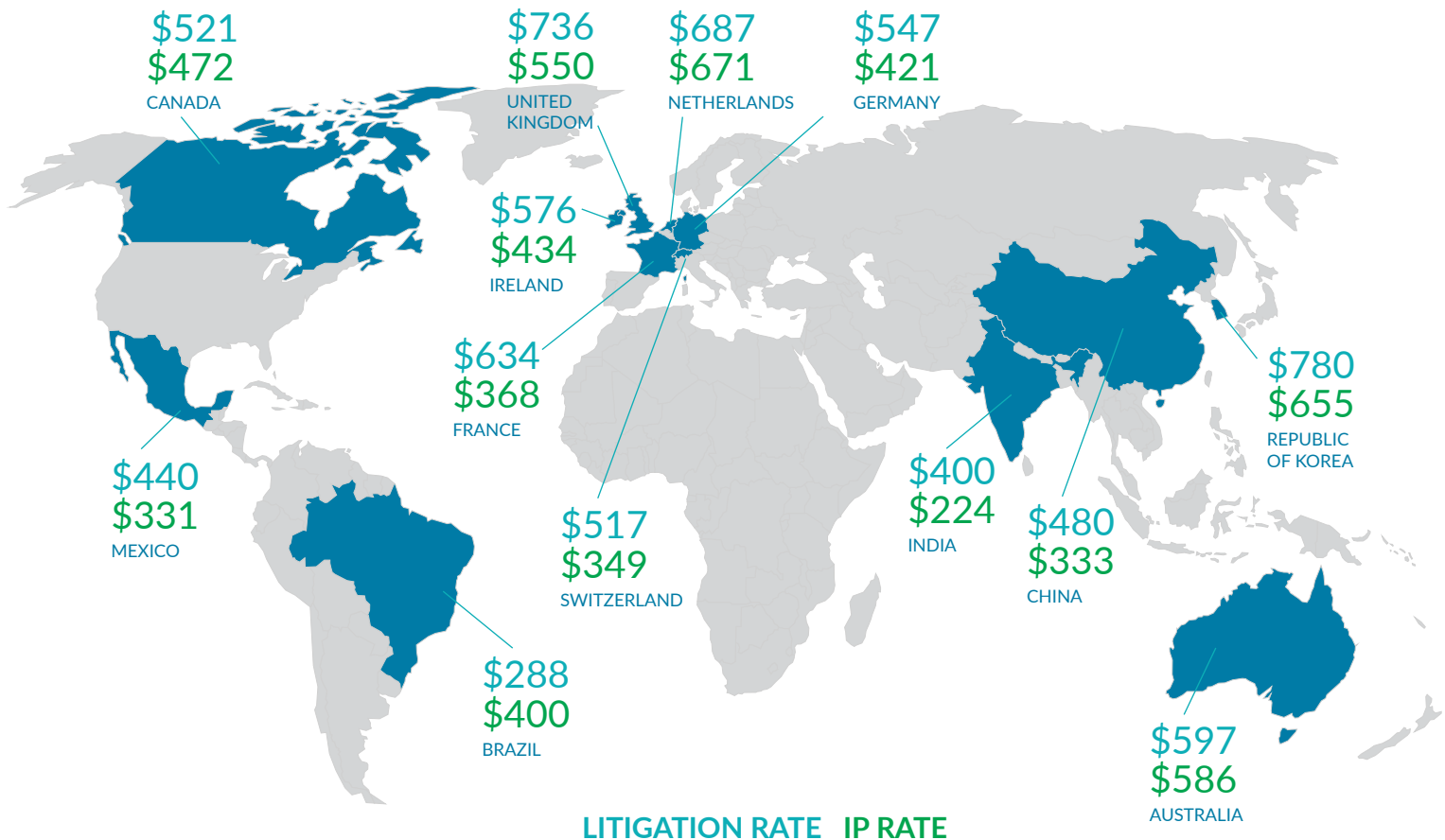
International Partner Rates for Litigation and Intellectual Property (non-Litigation)

CORPORATIONS HIRED INTERNATIONAL OUTSIDE COUNSEL FOR BOTH LITIGATION AND IP WORK

Based on 12 months data ending December 31, 2021

EXPANDED FOR 2021

MEDIAN PARTNER HOURLY RATES IN 13 INTERNATIONAL MARKETS RATES IN \$USD



Corporations headquartered outside of the United States as well as U.S. corporations with international interests look to firms in many countries to handle their legal needs. Key Metric 7 provides benchmarks of partner hourly rates for countries where outside counsel is most often engaged for Litigation, Intellectual Property, Employment and Labor, and Corporate work.

In 2021, median hourly partner rates were among the highest in the Republic of Korea across all four practice areas. (See page 22 for Employment and Labor, and Corporate work.)

UK partner rates are relatively high particularly in Litigation and Corporate work.

In all matter categories, India and Brazil had partners billing at considerably lower rates.

7B

KEY
METRIC

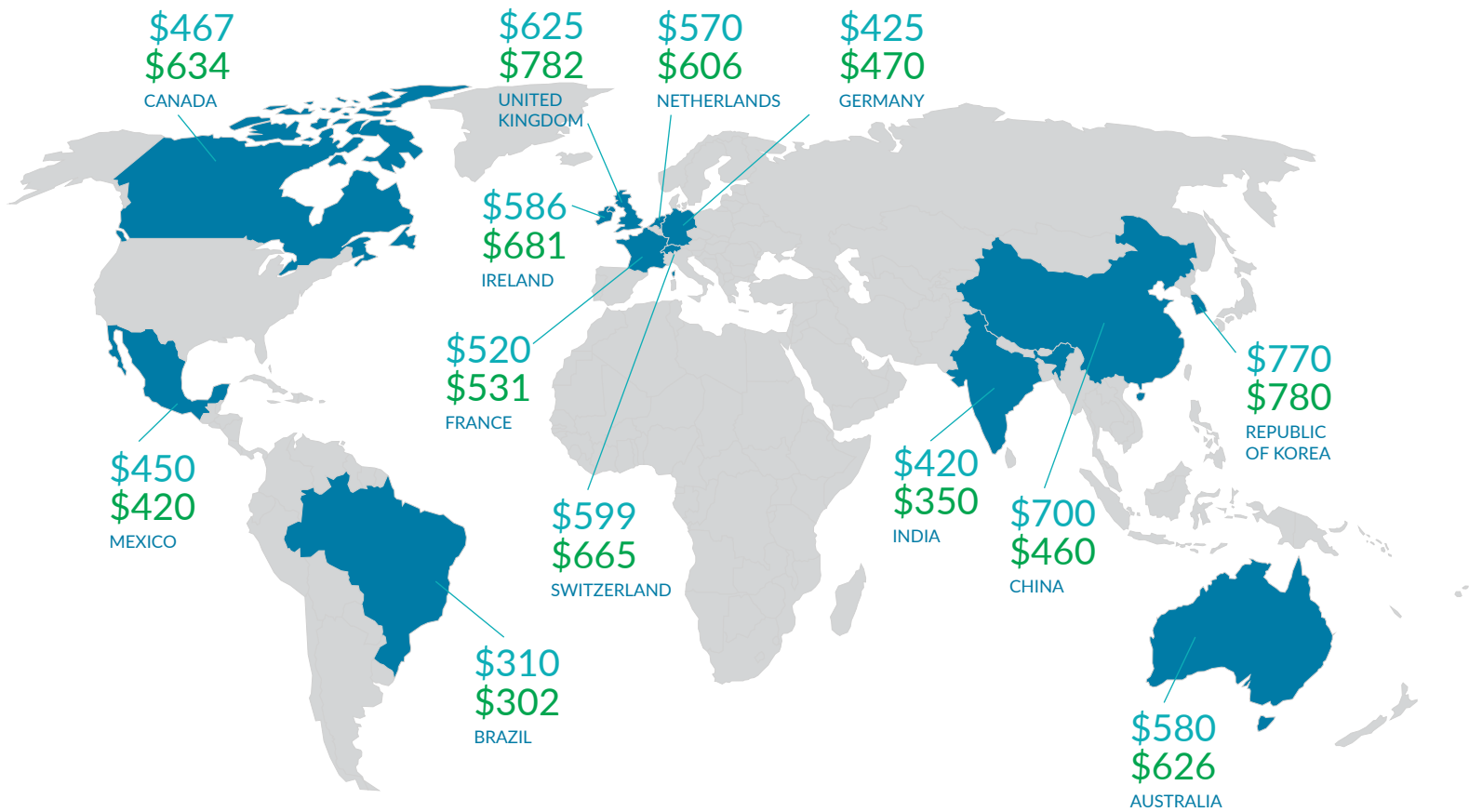
International Partner Rates for Employment and Labor and Corporate

**CORPORATIONS HIRED INTERNATIONAL OUTSIDE
COUNSEL FOR BOTH EMPLOYMENT & LABOR AND
CORPORATE WORK**

Based on 12 months data ending December 31, 2021

EXPANDED FOR 2021

MEDIAN PARTNER HOURLY RATES IN 13 INTERNATIONAL MARKETS RATES IN \$USD



EMPLOYMENT & LABOR CORPORATE

About the Enterprise Legal Management Trends Report

TERMINOLOGY:

Matter Categorization: Counsellink solution users define the types of work associated with various matters that were analyzed and categorized into legal practice areas. For this analysis, all types of litigation matters are classified as Litigation regardless of the nature of the dispute.

Company Size: Based on revenue cited in public sources, companies were grouped into these three size categories:

- > \$10 Billion Plus
- > \$1 – 10 Billion
- > < \$1 Billion

Expert Contributor

Since the inception of the CounselLink Enterprise Legal Management Trends Report, Kris Satkunas has been the principal author. She has made notable contributions to this latest Enterprise Legal Management Trends Report in the analysis of CounselLink data and in preparing the surrounding narrative.

Author

KRIS SATKUNAS – DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC CONSULTING

As Director of Strategic Consulting at LexisNexis CounselLink, Kris brings over 20 years of experience consulting in the legal industry to advise corporate legal department managers on improving operations with data-driven decisions. Kris is an expert in managing the business of law and in data mining, with specific expertise in matter pricing and staffing, practice area metrics, and scorecards.

Prior to joining CounselLink, Kris served as Director of the LexisNexis® Redwood Think Tank, which she also established. For five years, Kris worked closely with thought leaders in large law firms conducting unbiased data-based research studies focused on finding solutions to legal industry management issues. Before that, she led the business of law consulting practice for large law firms. During that time she worked with key management at over a hundred law firms to improve the financial models and analyses developed for large law firms.

Kris has authored numerous articles and spoken at many legal industry conferences and events. She came to LexisNexis in 2000 after honing her finance skills as a Senior Vice President in Strategic Finance at SunTrust Bank. She holds a B.B.A. in Finance from The College of William and Mary.

Kris may be reached at kristina.satkunas@lexisnexis.com.

LinkedIn



LexisNexis CounselLink is the leading cloud-based legal management solution designed to help corporate legal departments gain 100% visibility into all matters and invoices so they can control costs, maximize productivity, and make better decisions. For nearly 30 years, LexisNexis has been providing innovative solutions to corporate law departments based on insight from thought leaders, industry expertise, and customer feedback.

Here's how CounselLink supports your legal department:

- Financial Management improves the predictability of legal spend with complete visibility and oversight of every penny spent by the department.
- Work Management helps you collect, organize, track, audit, and report on all the work done within the legal department to increase productivity and drive better outcomes for your business.
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- Analytics provides you with full visibility over workloads and legal data analytics to make informed, data-driven decisions.

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

IN RE: METFORMIN MARKETING AND SALES PRACTICES LITIGATION
Case No. 2:20-cv-02324-MCA-MAH

**BETTY J. MCCORVEY'S OBJECTION TO PROPOSED TEVA SETTLEMENT AND REQUEST
TO DENY FINAL APPROVAL**

I. INTRODUCTION

COMES NOW Objector, Betty J. McCorvey, a member of the proposed Settlement Class, and respectfully submits this Objection pursuant to Rule 23(e)(5) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Objector respectfully requests that the Court deny final approval of the proposed settlement between Plaintiffs and Defendants Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc., Actavis Pharma, Inc., and Actavis LLC unless the settlement is modified to provide substantially greater relief to Settlement Class Members.

This Objection is not submitted to delay resolution of this litigation. Rather, it is submitted to assist the Court in fulfilling its fiduciary obligation to absent class members under Rule 23(e).

The Court serves as the ultimate guardian of absent class members' rights and must independently determine whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate before approval may be granted.

II. OBJECTOR'S STANDING

Objector Betty J. McCorvey resides at:

[REDACTED]
Pensacola, Florida 32514

Objector purchased and paid for Metformin ER 500 mg during the class period.

Objector possesses pharmacy records reflecting repeated purchases of metformin beginning in 2015 and continuing thereafter.

Accordingly, Objector falls within the Settlement Class definition and has standing to object to the proposed settlement.

III. RULE 23(e) REQUIRES HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY

Rule 23(e)(2) requires the Court to determine whether the proposed settlement is:

- Fair;
- Reasonable; and
- Adequate.

The Court's review is not intended to be perfunctory.

Because absent class members surrender valuable legal rights without personally participating in settlement negotiations, federal courts must carefully evaluate whether the relief provided is proportional to the rights being extinguished.

The Court's duty is particularly important where class members will release claims permanently upon final approval.

IV. THE PROPOSED RELIEF APPEARS INADEQUATE

The proposed Teva settlement establishes a settlement fund totaling only \$3,000,000.00.

The Settlement Class encompasses consumers throughout the United States and its territories who purchased qualifying metformin products over a period extending nearly five years.

Objector respectfully submits that the current record does not establish:

1. The estimated size of the Settlement Class;
2. The expected claims rate;
3. The estimated average payment to class members;
4. The amount expected to remain after deductions for fees, costs, and administration;
5. Whether individual recoveries will be meaningful rather than nominal.

Without such information, neither class members nor the Court can properly evaluate the true value of the settlement.

A settlement cannot be deemed adequate merely because it provides some benefit.

The question is whether the relief provided is adequate relative to the scope of claims being released.

V. THE RELEASE IS EXCEPTIONALLY BROAD

The Settlement Agreement requires class members to release a broad category of claims relating to Teva metformin products.

The release extends beyond Teva itself and includes numerous affiliated entities and related parties.

Once approved, class members lose those claims permanently.

The Court should carefully evaluate whether a nationwide release of this magnitude is supported by adequate consideration.

Objector respectfully submits that a broad release paired with uncertain compensation raises substantial concerns under Rule 23(e).

VI. ATTORNEYS' FEES REQUIRE CLOSE REVIEW

The Settlement Agreement authorizes Plaintiffs' Counsel to seek attorneys' fees and expenses of up to 34% of the Settlement Fund.

Objector does not dispute that counsel should be fairly compensated.

However, the Court must ensure that class members receive the primary benefit of the settlement.

Every dollar awarded in fees reduces the amount available to class members.

Accordingly, Objector respectfully requests that the Court require detailed evidence concerning:

- Lodestar calculations;
- Multipliers;
- Expenses incurred;
- Actual benefit obtained for the class;
- Expected recovery available to class members after deductions.

VII. INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION REGARDING ACTUAL CLASS RECOVERY

Objector respectfully submits that meaningful review is impossible without disclosure of anticipated consumer recoveries.

Before final approval is granted, the Court should require disclosure concerning:

- Estimated minimum recovery;
- Estimated average recovery;
- Estimated maximum recovery;
- Expected percentage of claimants receiving payment.

These figures are essential to determining whether the settlement provides meaningful relief.

VIII. BETTY MCCORVEY'S INTEREST IN THE SETTLEMENT

Objector is not a professional objector.

Objector has no financial arrangement with counsel.

Objector purchased metformin over many years and has retained records reflecting those purchases.

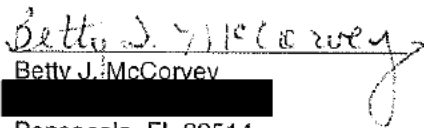
Objector's sole interest is ensuring that consumers who paid for qualifying metformin products receive fair compensation and that any settlement approved by the Court satisfies Rule 23(e).

IX. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Objector Betty J. McCorvey respectfully requests that the Court:

1. Deny Final Approval of the proposed settlement in its present form;
2. Require additional disclosures regarding expected class-member recoveries;
3. Require further justification demonstrating that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate;
4. Carefully scrutinize any request for attorneys' fees and expenses;
5. Require renegotiation of the settlement if the Court determines that the consideration provided is not proportional to the claims being released; and
6. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,


Betty J. McCorvey

Pensacola, FL 32514

Objector, Pro Se



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPEAR

Objector Betty J. McCorvey hereby provides notice that she may appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either personally or through counsel retained at a later date, and reserves all rights permitted under the Court's Preliminary Approval Order.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on 6-15-26, 2026, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Objection to Proposed Settlement and Notice of Intention to Appear by United States Mail and/or electronic mail upon counsel designated in the Court's Preliminary Approval Order:

Donald A. Ecklund, Esq.
Carella, Byrne, Cecchi, Brody & Agnello, P.C.
5 Becker Farm Road, Third Floor
Roseland, NJ 07068

Christine I. Gannon, Esq.
Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP
Three Gateway Center
100 Mulberry Street, 15th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
565 E. Swedesford Road, Suite 303
Wayne, PA 19087

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Betty J. McCorvey
Betty J. McCorvey
Date: 6-15-26