

Merdes & Merdes, P.C.

P.O. Box 71309
Fairbanks, AK 99707
(907) 452-5400
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2009 LEGAL FEE RATE SCHEDULE

This 2009 fee schedule is subject to change without notice. Additional or different rates/terms/conditions may apply in particular cases. Read your attorney/client Fee Agreement carefully. Have it reviewed by your legal/accounting and other advisors.

1. Injury/Death Claims:

We focus on Injury and Wrongful Death claims arising from automobile wrecks, plane wrecks, industrial accidents and malpractice. We usually work for a contingent fee: We are paid a fee *only* if we provide benefit to you, such as collecting money or reducing liens. If we provide you with no benefit, you pay us no attorney fee.

Our normal rate is a standard thirty-three percent (33%) of whatever gross benefit we get for you. This rate is good through conclusion of the *first* trial. Normally, an additional five percent (5%) is charged for each retrial and/or appeal, but they are rare. Costs, such as filing expenses, electronic research, experts, copying, depositions transcription, postage, etc. are billed as incurred, *in addition* to our contingent attorney fee.

Steps we take when representing you in an injury/death claim:

- A. Client Interview(s);
- B. Witness Investigation/Interview(s);
- C. Site/Vehicle/Police Report Inspection & Investigation;
- D. Medical Treatment Chronology – using Casemap™ Software;
- E. Jury Instruction Drafting and Related Lexis™ Legal Research;
- F. Expert Witness Retention/Preparation;
- G. Jury Verdict Research™ Statistical Claim Valuation;
- H. Demand Package Drafting and Presentation;
- I. Researching and Drafting the Civil Complaint;
- J. Written Discovery – Interrogatories, Production Requests, etc.;
- K. Deposition(s) Preparation and Attendance; and
- L. Motion Practice, Jury Selection, Jury Trial.

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2. Free One-Hour Consultation (Phone or Office):

We offer a free one-hour consultation to any person who needs legal help. If we can help you, we will. If we can't help you, we'll point you toward a good attorney, at no charge. It costs you *nothing* to phone us and discuss a claim: (907) 452-5400.

3. Civil Litigation/Claims Litigation:

People usually want us to help them get something - land or insurance benefits. For such civil *claims* litigation we charge a standard contingent fee of 33%, gross. We are paid only if we recover benefit for you. We may charge a higher or lower percentage, depending upon your circumstances. Costs, as mentioned above, are billed *in addition*.

Where we are not doing claims work, our standard rates are: \$250/hr. to \$380/hr. for attorneys and \$115/hr. for paralegals/law clerks. Administrative work is billed at \$65/hr. Costs, such as court filing expenses, electronic research, experts, copying, depositions transcription, postage, etc. are billed as incurred, in addition to attorney fees. We sometimes require a retainer up front.

4. Probate/Decedent's Estates Administration:

We work on an hourly-fee basis when administering estates. Our normal rate is \$250/hr. to \$380/hr. for attorneys and \$115/hr. for paralegals/law clerks. Administrative work is billed at \$65/hr. Our rates may be higher in novel or particularly difficult cases. Costs, such as court filing expenses, electronic research, experts, copying, depositions transcription, postage, etc. are billed as incurred, *in addition* to attorney fees. If pursuing a probate or trust claim, we sometimes work on a contingent fee basis.

5. Probate/Trust Claims And Will Contests:

We charge a contingent fee of (normally) 33% of our gross recovery for *claims* against probate estates/trusts and will contests. We also charge for costs as detailed above.

Phone: (907) 452-5400 if you have additional questions. We genuinely enjoy practicing law and want to help.

Thank you.

- Ward Merdes, President