

Civil Law Fee Scales - Commonwealth Fees up to 30 June 2024

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Merit advice

		State	Commonwealth
Solicitor	All work including instructions, brief, review of advice, per hour to maximum of 4 hours or 12 hours in complex matters	\$195	\$150
Junior counsel	All work including preparation of advice, per hour to maximum of 4 hours or 12 hours in complex matters	\$195	\$150
Senior counsel	All work including preparation of advice, per hour to maximum of 7.5 hours or 20 hours in complex matters	\$195	\$150

Local Court

		State	Commonwealth
Solicitor	All preparation work and initial appearances, per hour	\$195	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195	\$150

NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)

		State
Solicitor	All preparation work and initial appearances, per hour	\$195
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195

Mental Health Review

		State
Solicitor	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$293
Junior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$293
Senior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$488
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$488

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Matters other than Veterans' matters

		Commonwealth
Solicitor	All preparation work and initial appearances, per hour	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$150

Veterans' matters

		Commonwealth	
Solicitor	Stage 1	All work up to and including second preliminary conference	\$1,500
	Stage 2	All work up to the hearing	\$1,800
		Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225
Junior counsel	Stage 2	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225

Fair Work Commission

		Commonwealth
Solicitor	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$150
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225
Junior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$150
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225
Senior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$375
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$375

District Court

		State
Solicitor	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$293
Junior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$293
Senior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$488
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$488

Duty Lawyer

		State
Legal practitioner	Duty work per hour, to maximum hours approved on the duty purchase order	\$195

Supreme Court

		State
Solicitor	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$293
Junior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$293
Senior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$488
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$488

Federal Circuit and Family Court

		Commonwealth
Solicitor	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$150
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225
Junior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$150
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225
Senior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$375
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$375

Federal Court

		Commonwealth
Solicitor	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$150
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225
Junior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$150
	Appear as advocate at hearing, per hour	\$225
Senior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$375
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$375

High Court

		State	Commonwealth
Solicitor	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195	\$150
Junior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$195	\$150
	Court appearance at hearing, per hour	\$195	\$150
	Appear as advocate at appeal, per hour	\$293	\$225
Senior counsel	Preparation and non advocacy work, per hour	\$488	\$375
	Court appearance at appeal, per hour	\$488	\$375

Civil fee guidelines

1. Costs orders and recovery of costs

Where a costs order is made, fees will be paid at 175% of the hourly rate but only where those costs are recovered.

2. Payment of solicitor advocate or counsel's fees

Solicitor advocate or counsel's fee rates will not be paid in the following courts and tribunals unless Legal Aid NSW is satisfied the matter is complex:

- Local Court
- NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal
- Mental Health Review Tribunal
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- Fair Work Commission

3. Fees for conciliation stage in Fair Work Commission

The hourly rate of \$150 will be paid at the conciliation stage in unfair dismissal or general protection matters in the Fair Work Commission regardless of whether junior or senior counsel is briefed.

4. Veterans' matters

Where Legal Aid NSW determines a Veteran's matter is complex, fees will be negotiated with the lawyer.