

District of Columbia Court of Appeals

No. M-233-08

NOTICE (FILED - June 13, 2008)

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals is considering the recommendation of the Board of Governors of the District of Columbia Bar filed June 5, 2008, pursuant to Rule II, § 5 of the Rules Governing the District of Columbia Bar, to raise the ceiling on membership dues from \$195 to \$285, effective July 1, 2009. The recommendation is available by visiting the District of Columbia Bar's web site at http://www.dcbbar.org/dues_ceiling/. Copies of the recommendation may also be obtained by calling the District of Columbia Bar at (202) 626-3468.

The Court notes that the D.C. Bar's request is for an increase in the ceiling or upper limit at which member dues may be set, not for an actual dues increase.

Throughout its history, the Bar has operated under a court-established dues ceiling. Those ceilings have been in place as long as 10 years and as short as two years, with the current ceiling having been in place five years, as was projected when the Bar last requested an increase in 2003.

Actual dues amounts are determined by the Bar's Board of Governors annually following an extensive process undertaken by its Budget Committee. Historically, D.C. Bar dues have been modest when compared to other jurisdictions and currently are near the bottom of all mandatory bars nationwide. Indeed, even if dues were eventually increased to the proposed new ceiling, the dues would still be among the lowest in the nation for comparable bars.

In its submission, the Bar notes that the major drivers of cost increases are the costs of personnel benefits and occupancy. The Bar's current dues ceiling is \$195. The Bar projects the proposed ceiling of \$285 would allow it to operate through Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

As directed by the Court, this notice is published to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit written comments concerning the proposed recommendation. Ten copies of any comments should be submitted to the Clerk, D.C. Court of Appeals, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 6000, Washington, D.C. 20001, by August 12, 2008. All comments submitted pursuant to this notice will be available to the public.