

Law Offices Fong Joe Hou, LLC fee policy

Legal fees of Law Offices Fong Joe Hou, LLC, is our charge against the client, are the costs of legal representation that every client of Law Offices Fong Joe Hou, LLC should be expected to pay.

For your information, our attorney's fees are assessed in a number of ways, usually set by contract in advance of the representation, including by billable hours, or flat fees for fixed tasks as posted in our web-page for certain straight forward tasks.

An upfront fee paid to a lawyer is called a retainer. We expect a retainer to be collected for all representation of legal works we undertake.

For client's information and for comparison, the most widely followed set of rates in the US are what is called the [Laffey Matrix](#) that is available from the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. These have been available since 1982 and are updated each year. The hourly rates are shown by years of experience. For June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007 the rates are as follows: 20+ years of experience, \$425 per hour; 11-19 years, \$375; 8-10 years, \$305; 4-7 years, \$245; 1-3 years, \$205; and Paralegals/law clerks \$120. The Laffey Matrix appears to be growing in acceptance by many courts throughout the United States, but the matrix must be adjusted to account for higher or lower costs for legal services in other areas.

Law Offices Fong Joe Hou, LLC charge \$240.00 per hour for Fong Joe Hou, Esq's work (20+ years of experience) and \$195.00 per hour for Michael Esq's Liem's work (11+ years of experience). We believe that this is very reasonable compare to the rate set forth in the Laffey Matrix.

We also have arrangement for a fixed fees (for a "book" of matters), and other options beyond straight hourly billing. Please review other places in our web-page for reference.

New Jersey lawyers are required to provide either a written fee agreement, i.e., Retainer, or a notice as what we hereby posted on our web-site **the notice and the written communication to client concerning the need to pay us fee**, to new clients and our rate. If still not knowing by client of such needs, we will arrange retainer be done shortly after the lawyer (we) first accepts the case. Even if you believe that you have been regularly represented by the lawyer in the past, you should discuss any questions regarding the fee to be charged at the initial conference so that you will have a clear understanding of what the lawyer has been hired to do and how much the case will cost. Despite agreements and discussions about fees, sometimes problems arise. Fee disputes, like any disagreement over the value of services, may be resolved either by a lawsuit or the followings.

As an alternative to court action, the Supreme Court of New Jersey has created 17 district fee arbitration committees, which will resolve, at your request, through binding arbitration, disputes concerning alleged unreasonable fees. To begin the process of determining whether the fee charged by your lawyer was reasonable you should dial the Ethics/Fee Arbitration Hotline, 1-(800)-406-8594. After you provide the zip code of the attorney's office address, you will be connected to the district fee arbitration Secretary who will provide you with a Request for Fee Arbitration Form.

Thank you for your understanding of this fee arrangement.