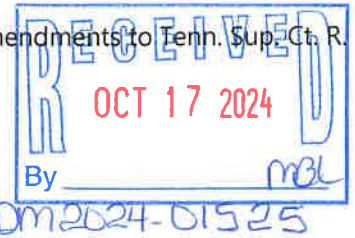


**MaryBeth Lindsey**

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**From:** Darrell Julian <tenn.dui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2024 11:47 AM  
**To:** appellatecourtclerk  
**Subject:** docket number ADM2024-01525 RE: Proposed Amendments to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 & 33



Greetings to the Honorable justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court:

I write with deep respect and sincere gratitude for the critical role this Court plays in maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of our legal profession. As an attorney licensed to practice in Tennessee, I wish to address the proposed increase of over 58 percent in our annual licensing fees. While I fully appreciate that no such increase has been implemented since 2009, I have concerns regarding the impact this significant rise will have on two distinct but vulnerable groups within our profession: senior attorneys and newly licensed, young attorneys.

For many senior attorneys, especially those transitioning into part-time practice or approaching retirement, such a substantial increase in fees can be burdensome. I respectfully suggest that the Court consider implementing exemptions or reductions for senior members of the Bar who may no longer have the same financial capacity as they did earlier in their careers.

Similarly, for young attorneys who are just beginning their professional journeys, many are already facing the immense financial pressure of student loan debt, which has become a prevalent and significant burden. An increase of this magnitude could disproportionately affect their ability to maintain licensure and fulfill their career aspirations.

I also wish to draw your attention to the experience of Washington State, where the Washington State Bar Association (“WSBA”) has taken proactive steps to mitigate the effects of fee increases by providing free continuing legal education (CLE) courses in the form of monthly webinars. This model serves as a meaningful trade-off, offering attorneys valuable resources for professional development while also helping to ease the financial burden of higher fees.

I submit these thoughts with the utmost respect for the Court’s authority and discretion, and with the shared goal of ensuring that our legal system remains accessible and equitable for all members of the Bar. I hope the Court will consider these points as you move forward in deliberating this important issue.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Darrell R. Julian,  
BPR # 025494

*“Never underestimate the difficulty of changing false beliefs by facts.”*

— Henry Rosovsky, Harvard economic historian

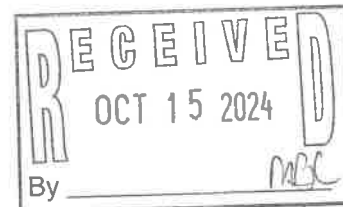
Darrell R. Julian  
Sent from my iPhone

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**MaryBeth Lindsey**

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**From:** A Bridge <abri73b@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 1:26 PM  
**To:** appellatecourtclerk  
**Subject:** Docket number ADM2024-01525.



ADM2024-01525

Dear Supreme Court

The annual registration fee for lawyers should not increase from \$170 to \$270 because it disproportionately affects lawyers making less income than lawyers making a greater amount.

Tennessee's failure to have an income tax is the reason for any insufficiency of funds it experiences. Arkansas has an income tax and has a surplus of funds.

Increasing the payment for all or giving out the same tax to everyone does not proportionately affect the poor as it does the wealthy. An example would be that the income of someone making \$50,000 a year would be substantially affected if the price of gas increased by 50% changing there yearly gas expenditure from \$1,000 a year to \$1,500 a year, an increase from 2.5% of their income to 3.7% of their income compared to someone who makes \$500,000 a year where the total amount paid wouldn't amount to half of 1% of their income. The wealthy person wouldn't notice the change. Simply put, taxing everyone the same simply avoids taxing the people who have the majority of the money and simultaneously makes things harder for those barely scraping by.

The office of Professional Responsibility does not need additional funds because everyone is already terrified by the annual list of attorneys on suspension or who have been disbarred. Their constant presence and potential consequences of invoking their wrath is felt from law school until retirement from the profession.

Increasing the payment of attorneys that take appointments for indigent clients is a good thing, but it should not come from the appointed attorney. The increase should come from the people who are thriving with the most money because they have benefitted from the capitalist system.

Best regards,

Anthony Bridgeforth  
Attorney at Law  
Bridgeforth Law Firm  
(901) 730-5555  
[abri73b@gmail.com](mailto:abri73b@gmail.com)

**MaryBeth Lindsey**

ADM2024-01525

**From:** Chip Dawson <chip@charlesdawsonlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 5:58 PM  
**To:** appellatecourtclerk  
**Subject:** ADM2024-01525



I am dually licensed, and the proposed increase in the annual registration fee brings Tennessee's fees closer to Alabama's (while still being lower). I support the increase because of the concomitant increase in the improvements that the allocations can make in all areas.

Thanks.

**Chip Dawson Attorney**  
**Law Office of Charles C. Dawson, Jr., LLC**  
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***Admitted in Alabama and Tennessee***

*LAW OFFICE OF CHARLES C. DAWSON, JR., LLC represents the rights of creditors throughout the states of Alabama and Tennessee.*

**MaryBeth Lindsey**

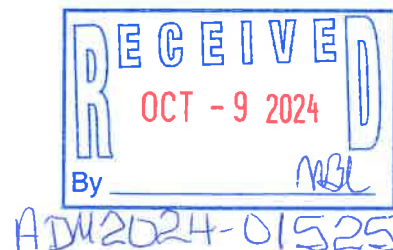
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**From:** Jeff Kohl <jeffrey.kohl@farmersinsurance.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 2:20 PM  
**To:** appellatecourtclerk  
**Subject:** Opposition to Increase in Annual Registration Fee Docket No ADM2024-01525

Mr. Hivner:

I oppose the proposed increase in the Annual Registration Fees. The sum currently assessed is already steep and instead of looking to increase revenue, the board should be looking to cut its expenses to stay in line with its current level of revenue.

Jeffrey R. Kohl  
#18072



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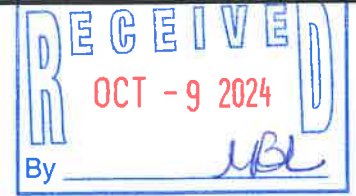
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**MaryBeth Lindsey**

ADM 2024-01525

**From:** Blake, Karen <kblake@bakerdonelson.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 7:39 AM  
**To:** appellatecourtclerk  
**Subject:** Comment on docket number ADM2024-01525



An increase in fees from \$170 to \$270—a \$100 increase—is **almost 60%!!** It's not clear why this increase is justified and is going to be difficult for some to pay, given current economic conditions. Please reconsider increasing it incrementally.

Thank you!

**Karen Blake**

Conflicts Attorney  
*(Admitted to practice in TN, CA and GA)*

**Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC**

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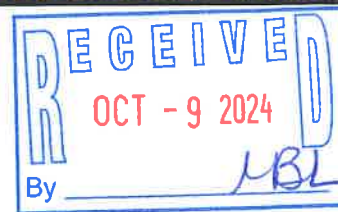


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MaryBeth Lindsey

ADM 2024-01525

**From:** Sarah Schnell <schnell@miamemphis.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 8:42 AM  
**To:** appellatecourtklerk  
**Subject:** Rules 9 and 33



To Whom It May Concern,

Simply, there should not be an increase in the annual registration fee. The idea of having more money for the Client Protection fund sounds good; however, it is not in the long run.

Being an attorney is not as profitable as it used to be, and the salary most newer attorneys get cannot take any more strain. Between insurmountable student loans, CLEs, our "privilege" tax, and the registration fee, we are being bled dry. The legal field is not a safe and financially fortuitous field any more. Please stop up charging us like it is.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schnell

(she/her)

Children's Project Staff Attorney

Mid-South Immigration Advocates | [miamemphis.org](http://miamemphis.org)

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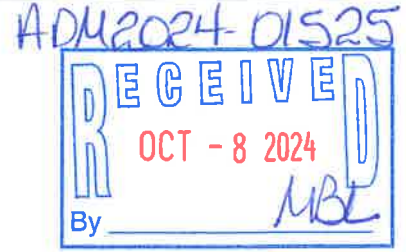
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## MaryBeth Lindsey

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**From:** Lisa Cothron <lcothron@nctc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 6:15 PM  
**To:** appellatecourtclerk  
**Cc:** Lisa C. Cothron  
**Subject:** ADM2024-01525.



Honorable Court:

I am opposed to the proposed increase of the annual registration fee.

As a rural, sole practitioner, who has spent over 30 years with half my case-load being appointed cases, this is another action that would burden rural practitioners, and urban practitioners who carry a heavy load of indigent clients, with yet another expense. Perhaps there are very well paid lawyers and judges for whom \$270/year would be a pittance. But there are many non-well-paid lawyers that are representing poor people across this state, whether indigent or not, and for whom this is another example that they are not valued.

When those who are representing indigent clients are paid a REAL reasonable rate for their work, perhaps it would be more reasonable. Or perhaps, raise the rate for those attorneys who feel incompetent to take an appointed case, and relieve those who take five or more cases per year of the additional fee. Me, I have semi-retired, and no longer accept appointed cases, though I have two still that are seeking permanency. But my financial situation will never recover from the 30 years I spent thinking I was doing important work, but was essentially working for free. And this proposal does not make me happy.

## Lisa C. Cothron

Attorney at Law  
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M: 615.633.2334  
LCothron@nctc.com

"... think it possible that you may be mistaken." Oliver Cromwell