

CLERK'S ALERT

DATE: May 2009

TO: Clark County Bar Association
Diane Wheeler, Executive Director

FROM: Sherry W. Parker, Clark County Clerk
Teri A. Nielsen, Chief Deputy Clerk

Changes in Fee Schedule:

During the recently completed legislative session, two bills were passed that created changes in the Clerk's fee schedule.

HB 2362 created a surcharge on filing fees for a two year period only and becomes effective on July 1, 2009. The money from this surcharge will be deposited in the judicial stabilization trust account and used to offset cuts in the state budget. Neither the Clerk's Office nor the county general fund directly benefits from these funds.

An additional \$30 will be added to all new case filing fees except unlawful harassment, criminal convictions and failure to prosecute an appeal from a court of limited jurisdiction.

An additional \$20 will be added to filing fees for appeals from courts of limited jurisdiction.

SB 5013 created permanent changes to Clerk's fees and becomes effective July 26, 2009.

The fee for a certificate of qualification and a certified copy of letters of administration, letters testamentary, or letters of guardianship was raised from two dollars to \$5. This is consistent with the current charge for certified copies.

The fee for clerk's services such as performing historical searches, compiling statistical reports, and conducting exceptional record searches was raised from twenty dollars per hour or portion of an hour to \$30 per hour.

The fee for processing ex parte orders was raised from twenty dollars to \$30.

The fee for receiving faxed documents, pursuant to Washington state rules of court, general rule 17 was raised from three dollars for the first page and one dollar for each additional page to \$5 for the first page and \$1 for each additional page.