



PBA Puts Its Money Where Its Mouth Is

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When you've seen PBA recruiting literature proclaim in bold letters "NO CAP" and "NO LIMIT" on legal coverage, you may have wondered, "What's the catch?" The answer is...there is no catch. When a PBA case is opened and assigned to an attorney, there is no dollar amount authorized for the completion of the case; so long as your case remains coverable, PBA is in it for the duration.

A shooting incident led to a federal indictment against a Mississippi PBA member. PBA had an attorney representing that member from the night of the shooting through the federal trial and not guilty verdict. PBA's cost: \$36,000

A lawsuit named a North Carolina PBA member as a defendant, and her department refused to provide representation. A PBA attorney represented the member up until the case settled. PBA's cost: \$12,590.

After an incident involving a Tennessee PBA member's shooting of a dog was televised nationally, the member's employer improperly released that member's personal information, which was later posted in the internet. PBA filed suit, and the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. PBA's cost: \$73,755

After a shooting incident, a Mississippi PBA member was issued a 30-day suspension. PBA assigned an



attorney who appealed the suspension before the civil service board and into circuit court. PBA's cost: \$15,244.

The PBA legal department maintains contact with the attorneys representing PBA members in order to stay abreast of developments in the cases. There is an ongoing review process by PBA as cases, particularly disciplinary and grievance matters, proceed through the various levels of adjudication. While not every case will end up with the Supreme Court, PBA does not pre-determine a cost limit on representation.

The average cost of a disciplinary appeal handled by a PBA referral attorney over the past three years, including attorney fees and expenses, is \$940.14. For death in custody cases, the average is \$531.75. But bear in mind that PBA attorneys handle PBA cases at a fraction of their standard hourly rate. When these averages are calculated in accordance with a standard hourly rate, the average total for a disciplinary appeal is \$2,238.10, while the average for a death in custody case is \$1,266.07. And what about those difficult cases, such as those listed above, which involve large amounts of attorney time?

The Mississippi criminal case would cost about \$85,714. The North Carolina lawsuit defense would cost about \$29,976. The Tennessee grievance and plaintiff's action would cost about \$175,607. The Mississippi disciplinary appeal would cost about \$36,295.

It's clear that the \$23.50 monthly dues payment is a small price to pay for valuable legal protection.

NO CAP NO LIMIT

The PBA provides an attorney to protect your individual interest if you are named as a defendant in any civil or criminal action arising out of your duties as a law enforcement officer. No cap or limit. Will any other organization do that?