

## SOLICITORS COSTS - TAXATION GUIDELINES

### 1. **Basis of taxation:**

On a taxation, a Taxing Master will allow a reasonable amount in respect of all costs reasonably incurred.

The rules provide two bases of taxation, the standard basis and the indemnity basis (r63.25). When costs are taxed on the standard basis, the benefit of the doubt is given to the paying party. Where costs are taxed on the indemnity basis, the benefit of the doubt goes to the receiving party.

### 2. **Procedure:**

A person seeking taxation of a bill files a summons in the prescribed form (r63.36) and, at the same time, files a bill of costs. The summons is made returnable before a Taxing Master. The rules prescribe a time for service and for the lodging before taxation of a notice of objection. On the return date or any adjourned date, the bill is taxed and the Taxing Master states the result in the form of an order (r63.54). Where no notice of objection is filed, the Taxing Master retains a discretion "*to tax the bill and allow or disallow the amount of costs in it in whole or in part*" (r63.47).

### 3. **Format of bill:**

The bill should start with a narrative (as *rule 63.40(2) indicates*) setting out the issues involved in the proceeding. This narrative should be *short and succinct*. It should indicate the status of the fee-earner to assist the Taxing Master in considering the claims made in the bill.

The rules provide that a bill be divided into 7 columns:

- (a) the first for the consecutive numbering of the items;
- (b) in the second, the dates of the items are to be set out chronologically;
- (c) the third is to contain sufficient details of each item to enable the other party and the Taxing Master to ascertain the nature of the attendance or correspondence for which the claim is made.
- (d) the fourth is for the amounts claimed for disbursements;
- (e) the fifth is for the amount claimed for professional costs; and
- (f) the last two are for the Master to record the amounts taxed off, one column headed "disbursements taxed off" and the other "costs taxed off".

Rule 63.40(7) requires every bill lodged for taxation to be signed by the solicitor whose bill it is.

#### **4. Charges:**

The appropriate charge for an item of work is ascertained by reference either to the composite scale or to the time taken to perform the work. A good deal of work which is chargeable is done by a solicitor's clerk. Work of this kind includes such things as making and answering simple telephone calls, filing, service, searching and tasks of that nature. Where a solicitor does work which is essentially clerk's work (*ie no legal skill involved*) he or she can claim only for clerk's time with no loading for care and conduct.

##### ***Composite scale:***

Part 3 of the Appendix to Order 63 comprises the composite scale. It covers letters, drawing and engrossing documents, telephone calls, marking annexures and copying. It differentiates between work requiring the application of legal skill and work not requiring such skill. It then provides a composite scale for specific aspects or parts of litigation such as work done relating to discovery, interrogatories and the like. The set charges vary each year with the percentage increase in the unit rate.

Practitioners are not bound by the composite scale and, if they choose to, may charge for an item by reference to the time taken to perform the task. To be allowable, that charge must be for work reasonably done and time reasonably spent.

If the reasonable charge does not exceed by 20% or more the relevant composite scale fee for that item, only the composite fee is allowable (*063, Appendix Part 3, Note 4A*).

##### ***Composite scale fee for winding up applications:***

A composite scale fee has been determined for winding up applications. See Master's memorandum to practitioners dated 15 July 1993.

#### **5. General care and conduct:**

In a bill of costs, a party may, claim general care and conduct.

In exercising a discretion in relation to care and conduct (*or any item in a bill where he or she has a discretion*}, the Taxing Master is required to have regard to the factors listed in r 63.46(2).

General care and conduct, concerns the general care, conduct and skill applied by a solicitor in a proceeding as a whole, for which no direct time can be substantiated, and includes the general supervision of, and indirect responsibility for, the conduct of the proceeding.

Thus, general care and conduct covers the imponderables for which no direct time can be substantiated. It is a percentage mark-up of the costs allowed depending on the difficulty, responsibility and importance of the case to the client.

**6. Travelling time:**

Travelling time, where appropriate, will be allowed in respect of each item based on the solicitor's hourly rate. Waiting time will be similarly allowed.

**7. Letters and telephone calls:**

For letters and telephone calls, a minimum of one unit applies. A solicitor is free, in the case of a letter, to adopt item 1 of the Composite Scale, or, in the case of a telephone call, to adopt item 4 of that scale. The solicitor is also free to base a charge on the time involved in producing the letter or making the telephone call and charge accordingly at the relevant rate.

The 6 minute unit for a letter includes perusing and considering incoming letters. Therefore, no separate charge is allowable for incoming letters see paragraph 6 of Part 1 of the Appendix.

For a Taxing Master to allow a sum larger than the Composite Scale provides, the charge must be based on the actual time involved for letters of substance and for telephone calls which properly amount to attendances. Details of the work done must be provided by the solicitor and time records produced.

**8. Service of process:**

If it is proper for service of process (*other than an originating process*) to be effected by a solicitor or clerk, a relevant chargeable item should be shown in the bill.

If service is effected by a process server or by a solicitor's agent, the process server's or the agent's charges should be shown as a disbursement.

**9. Witness fees:**

Witness fees are at large and are allowed on the basis of what is reasonable (*r63.32(3)*).

**10. Time records:**

Correctly kept and detailed time records will be helpful in support of a bill if they explain the nature of the work as well as recording the time involved. The absence of these records may result in the disallowance or diminution of the charges claimed. Time records cannot, however, be accepted as conclusive evidence that the time recorded either has been spent, or, if spent, is reasonably chargeable.

Accounts must be produced for all payments claimed (*other than ordinary out-of-pocket disbursements*). In the case of substantial witness expenses and professional fees, (*other than fees to counsel or medical experts*), the account must be accompanied by details showing the work done and the computation of the charge. Copies of these details should be annexed to the copy bill served on the paying party. Failure to comply with this requirement will delay the taxation and may result in a reduction or a disallowance of the costs allowable on taxation.

**11. Travelling expenses:**

Where travelling expenses are claimed, they should be shown as a disbursement and details supplied. Local travelling expenses will not be allowed. The meaning of "local" is a matter for the discretion of a Taxing Master. While no absolute rule can be laid down, as a matter of guidance, in a proceeding in Darwin or in Alice Springs, "local" will be taken to mean "within a radius of 50 kilometres from the office of the relevant Registry."

**12. Postage etc:**

The cost of postage, outgoing telephone calls and facsimile messages is, in general, part of the solicitor's normal overhead expenses and must not be claimed in a bill. The Taxing Master may, in his or her discretion, allow it as a disbursement in unusual circumstance or where the cost is so unusually heavy that the solicitor could not reasonably be supposed to have taken it into account as part of normal overheads.

**13. Agency:**

Where the agent is an interstate solicitor, rule 63.42 must be complied with. It would assist the Taxing Master *if* a copy of the relevant interstate costs scale were attached to the agent's bill.

Agency charges for advising the principal how to proceed are not recoverable on the standard basis of taxation.

**14. Part (f) - Taxation:**

Drawing a bill of costs is a chargeable attendance under the rules.

When bills are lodged for taxation, the relevant papers should be available to the Taxing Master. Failure to observe this requirement can substantially increase the time and expense of the taxation process and may result in the bill being refused or disallowed. For the purpose of this paragraph, "relevant papers" are:

(1) Where -

- (a) costs are to be taxed pursuant to a judgment or order of this Court - the judgment or order duly authenticated;
- (b) the entitlement to have costs taxed arose by virtue of a direction given by the court - that direction;
- (c) a party is entitled to have costs taxed under the *Supreme Court Rules* the relevant order made or notice given or a copy of the amended pleading (*as the case may be*);
- (d) a person entitled to have taxed costs payable under an arbitration - the original or a certified copy of the award: and
- (e) a party is entitled to have taxed costs payable under an order, award or determination of a tribunal or other body constituted by or under an Act the original or a certified copy of the order, award or determination (*as the case may be*); and

- (2) Unless the Taxing Master otherwise orders, the papers and vouchers specified below in the order mentioned -
- (a) unless the relevant information is included in the judgment or order, or the parties have agreed the time of the hearings, a certificate of those times or a copy of the associate's report of listing;
  - (b) a bundle comprising fee notes of counsel and accounts for other disbursements;
  - (c) one complete set of pleadings arranged in chronological order, with any interlocutory summonses and lists of documents annexed to it;
  - (d) brief to counsel to advise with counsel's advice and opinions and instructions to counsel to settle documents and briefs to counsel with enclosures arranged in chronological order;
  - (e) reports and opinions of medical and other experts arranged in chronological order;
  - (f) the solicitor's correspondence and attendance notes; and
  - (g) any other relevant papers duly bundled and labelled.

The Taxing Master may require a party seeking taxation of a bill to deposit with the Taxing Master before the taxation any of the relevant papers referred to in paragraph (2) above.

**16. *Reconsideration and review:***

A party dissatisfied or aggrieved with a ruling of the Taxing Master may apply to the Taxing Master to reconsider. The rules prescribe the procedure (*r63.55*). A request for reconsideration must be made within 14 days after the date of the decision to which it relates. Any party dissatisfied with the decision of the Taxing Master following a reconsideration may apply to a Judge for review (*r63.55(11)*).

VARIATION TO SCALE ORDER 63 OF THE SUPREME COURT RULES 1987 (NT) APPENDIX

PART 3

**Composite Scale**

#	Matter charged	1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	1-Jan-23	1-Jan-24
<b>1</b>	<b>Letters</b>							
(a)	Special	140	143	143	143	145	149	155
(b)	Ordinary	101	103	104	104	106	109	113
(c)	Circular	15	15	15	15	15	15	16
<b>2</b>	<b>Drawing and Engrossing</b>							
(a)	Court document							
(i)	Requiring skill	157	160	162	162	164	169	175
(ii)	Using form or standard document or in case of a standard form of judgment, order or the like	85	87	87	87	89	92	95
(b)	Other							
(i)	Requiring skill	44	45	45	45	46	47	49
(ii)	Not requiring skill	28	29	29	29	29	30	31
<b>3</b>	<b>Engrossing a document drawn by someone other than the Solicitor making the charge (per unit)</b>							
		15	15	15	15	15	15	16
<b>4</b>	<b>Telephone calls (per unit)</b>							
(a)	Requiring skill	27	28	28	28	28	29	30
(b)	Not requiring skill	15	15	15	15	15	15	16
<b>5</b>	<b>Marking annexures, exhibits, enclosing notices of appointment, and the like (per unit)</b>							
		15	15	15	15	15	15	16
<b>6</b>	<b>Copying (per unit)</b>							
		15	15	15	15	15	15	16
<b>7</b>	<b>Instructions to sue to notice of trial</b>							
		1941	1981	1998	2001	2040	2102	2176
<b>8</b>	<b>Instructions to defend to notice of trial</b>							
		1405	1434	1446	1448	1476	1521	1574
<b>9</b>	<b>Application in a proceeding</b>							
(a)	Contested	1243	1269	1279	1281	1306	1346	1393
(b)	Uncontested	994	1015	1023	1025	1045	1077	1114

#	Matter charged	1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	1-Jan-23	1-Jan-24
<b>10</b>	<b>Requiring discovery and inspection</b>							
		746	762	768	769	784	808	836
<b>11</b>	<b>Providing discovery and inspection</b>							
		558	570	574	575	586	604	625
<b>12</b>	<b>Seeking answers to interrogatories</b>							
		858	876	883	885	902	929	962
<b>13</b>	<b>Furnishing answers to interrogatories</b>							
		908	927	934	936	954	983	1017
<b>14</b>	<b>Attendance at a listing hearing or other directions hearing<sup>1</sup></b>							
		305	311	314	315	321	331	342
<b>15</b>	<b>Attendance at a settlement conference<sup>2</sup></b>							
		509	520	524	525	535	551	571

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<sup>1</sup> Item introduced on 12 July 2017 to apply only to Listing Hearings, Directions Hearings and Settlement Conference occurring post 12 July 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## PART 4

### Basic costs

#	Matter charged	1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	1-Jan-23	1-Jan-24
<b>1</b>	<b>Costs to be claimed on Writ<sup>3</sup></b>							
		746	762	768	769	784	808	836
<b>2</b>	<b>Costs on Judgment in default of appearance</b>							
(a)	Where Writ served by post	994	1015	1023	1025	1045	1077	1114
(b)	Where Writ served by solicitors' clerk	1111	1134	1143	1145	1167	1202	1245
(c)	Where Writ served by person other than solicitors' clerk	994	1015	1023	1025	1045	1077	1114
	<b>In addition:</b>							
(d)	Where more than one Defendant - for each	27	28	28	28	28	29	30
(e)	The cost of stamp duty paid on filing the writ and on relevant copies or fees payable under the <i>Supreme Court Regulations 1985 (NT)</i> , Schedule, Part 2, item 1							
(f)	Where paragraph 2(c) applies, a reasonable amount paid for service							

### Additional costs

#	Matter charged	1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	1-Jan-23	1-Jan-24
<b>3</b>	<b>In addition to costs payable under Item 2:</b>							
(a)	Costs in default of defence	126	129	130	130	132	136	141
(b)	Where service outside of the jurisdiction is ordered and effected:							
(i)	Service in the Commonwealth	375	383	386	387	394	406	420
(ii)	Service outside of the Commonwealth	497	507	511	512	522	538	557
(c)	Substituted service is ordered and effected:							
(i)	On only Defendant	994	1015	1023	1025	1045	1077	1114
(ii)	Where more than one Defendant so served - in respect of each Defendant served and in addition,	126	129	130	130	132	136	141
(iii)	The reasonable fees incurred for any advertising required under an order for substituted service; and							

<sup>3</sup> In addition, stamp duty paid on filing the writ and on relevant copies or fees payable under the Supreme Court Regulations, Schedule, Part 2, Item 1.



(d)	Where a Judgment is registered under the <i>Service and Execution of Process Act 1992</i> (Cth) - for costs of registration	248	253	253	253	258	266	275
(e)	Where leave to proceed is given under the <i>Service and Execution of Process Act 1992</i> (Cth) - on entry of Judgment	746	762	762	763	778	802	830

## Costs – Rate per unit

The rates per unit applicable under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the Appendix to Order 63 of the *Supreme Court Rules 1987* (NT) are as follows:<sup>4</sup>

#	Fee earner	12-Jul-17	1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	1-Jan-23	1-Jan-24
>10 years	Solicitor	\$ 35.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 39.00	\$ 41.00
> 5 years	Solicitor (< 10-years)	\$ 32.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 37.00
> 2 years	Solicitor (< 5-years)	\$ 27.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 31.00
N/A	Law clerk	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 27.00
N/A	Legal secretary	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.00
N/A	Graduate clerk	\$ 14.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00
N/A	Administrative assistant	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 14.00

From above – separate rates for solicitors per years of experience and specified non-professional fee earners commenced from 1 January 2017.

<sup>4</sup> **Note:** 1 unit = one tenth of an hour.

## Composite Fees for winding up of companies

For further information, see Master's Memoranda:<sup>5</sup>

Fee type	1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	1-Jan-23	1-Jan-24
Composite fee for winding up order (not including disbursements)	\$ 36.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 39.00	\$ 41.00
Composite fee for appointment of provisional liquidator (not including disbursements and additional to the above)	\$ 33.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 37.00
Additional fee for adjournment where allowed or reserved by the Court, for each adjournment	\$ 28.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 31.00

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<sup>5</sup> Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia, *Master's Memorandum – Composite Fee – Winding up Orders No 3 of 1993*, 15 July 1993; *Master's Memorandum - No 1 of 2013*.

## Interest rates on Judgment debts

The following table sets out the rate for the calculation of post-judgment interest pursuant to Order 59 of the Supreme Court Rules.<sup>6</sup>

Period	%
1/1/2012 – 30/6/2012	10.25
1/7/2012 – 31/12/2012	9.50
1/1/2013 – 30/6/2013	9.00
1/7/2013 – 31/12/2013	8.75
1/1/2014 – 31/12/2014	8.50
1/1/2015 – 30/6/2015	8.50
1/7/2015 – 31/12/2015	8.00
1/1/2016 – 30/6/2016	8.00
1/7/2016 – 31/12/2016	7.75
1/1/2017 – 30/6/2017	7.50
1/7/2017 – 31/12/2017	7.50
1/1/2018 – 30/6/2018	7.50
1/7/2018 – 31/12/2018	7.50
1/1/2019 – 30/06/2019	7.50
1/7/2019 – 31/12/2019	7.00
1/1/2020 – 30/6/2020	6.75
1/7/2020 – 31/12/2020	6.25
1/1/2021 – 30/6/2021	6.10
1/7/2021 – 31/12/2021	6.10
1/1/2022 – 30/6/2022	6.10
1/7/2022 – 31/12/2022	6.85
1/01/23 – 30/06/23	9.10
1/7/23 – 31/12/2023	10.1
1/1/2024 – 30/06/2024	10.35

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<sup>6</sup> **Note:** Before relying on the information in this table for any purpose, including in calculating post-judgment interest, users should independently verify its accuracy, currency and completeness.

## Claims for non-pecuniary damages for personal injuries

Pursuant to sections 27-28 of the *Personal Injuries (Liabilities and Damages) Act 2003* (NT)

Period	%
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2010	10.25
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2011	9.50
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2012	9.00
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2013	8.75
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2014	8.50
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2015	8.50
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2016	8.00
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2017	8.00
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2018	7.75
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2019	7.50
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2020	7.50
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2021	7.50
1/10/2009 – 30/09/2022	7.50

**Note:** The [Personal Injuries \(Liabilities and Damages\) Amendment Act 2022](#) received assent on 2 June 2022. The Amendment Act repealed the annual declaration on 30 September each year and instead provided that the maximum amount of damages a court may award for non-pecuniary loss under the Act is 680 000 monetary units. Please see links: Legislation Database ([nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au))  
Monetary units | Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

## Maximum amount of damages for non-economic loss

Pursuant to s 32(3) of the *Defamation Act 2006* (NT)

Period	Gazette	Amount
1/07/2009 – 30/06/2010	17 June 2009 – Gazette G26	\$ 294,500.00
1/07/2010 – 30/06/2011	7 June 2010 – Gazette G25	\$ 311,000.00
1/07/2011 – 30/06/2012	15 June 2011 – Gazette G25	\$ 324,000.00
1/07/2012 – 30/06/2013	14 June 2012 – Gazette G26	\$ 339,000.00
1/07/2013 – 30/06/2014	30 May 2013 – Gazette G24	\$ 355,000.00
1/07/2014 – 30/06/2015	5 June 2014 – Gazette G41	\$ 366,000.00
1/07/2015 – 30/06/2016	19 May 2015 – Gazette G23	\$ 376,500.00
1/07/2016 – 30/06/2017	16 May 2016 – Gazette G21	\$ 381,000.00
1/07/2017 – 30/06/2018	29 May 2017 – Gazette G23	\$ 389,500.00
1/07/2018 – 30/06/2019	22 May 2018 – Gazette G22	\$ 398,500.00
1/07/2019 – 30/06/2020	26 June 2019 – Gazette G26	\$ 407,500.00
1/07/2020 – 30/06/2021	10 June 2020 – Gazette G23	\$ 421,000.00
1/07/2021 – 30/06/2022	11 June 2021 – Gazette G25	\$ 432,500.00
1/07/2022 – 30/06/2023	15 June 2022 – Gazette G24	\$ 443,000.00
1/07/2023 – 30/06/2024	2 June 2023 – Gazette G12	\$ 459,000.00

## **Counsel's fees – Guidelines to taxation of costs and supplementary rules**

The following guidelines apply in respect of work done on or after 16 May 1988.

These guidelines apply only to members of the independent bar.

As a general rule, where counsel briefed is a member of a firm, the following should be noted

- (1) where Counsel is briefed by himself, the rate allowed to counsel will be 3/4 of the rate allowed to the independent bar calculated to the nearest dollar; and
- (2) where counsel is briefed by a member of the same firm in which he is employed, the rate allowed will be 5/6 of the rate allowed to counsel at the independent bar. (See Rule 63.73 of the Supreme Court Rules)

These guidelines do not fetter the discretion of the Taxing Master to allow a higher or lower rate in an appropriate case.

The two-third rule does not apply to junior counsel who shall be entitled to charge a proper fee which may be more or less than two-thirds of the fee for senior counsel.

The rule that refreshers are allowed at two-thirds of the brief fee no longer applies. Rates for appearances in Court are calculated at a calendar daily rate. Preparation time previously reflected in the fee on brief and refresher rates is now allowed for separately. The full daily rate will include the following –

- (1) attendance in Court during the hearing in excess of 2 1/2 hours;
- (2) short conferences before or after the hearing, or during the luncheon or other adjournments; and
- (3) work done outside of hearing time on that day including perusing transcript, preparing oral addresses, legal research and normal work for the continuance of the hearing.

Preparation time involved prior to the commencement of the hearing is allowed at a calendar daily rate and will include –

- (1) reasonable reading time and legal research time; and
- (2) preparation of chronologies, list of authorities, written submissions or outlines of written submissions (where reasonably necessary).

Conferences will be allowed where it is reasonable for a conference to have taken place, either by Counsel, or by instructing solicitor. Where a conference has occurred but could have, or should have, been avoided or reduced in time had the witnesses concerned been adequately proofed by the instructing solicitor, counsel's fees will be allowed at instructing solicitor's rates, and no allowance or a reduced allowance will be made on the solicitor's bill for such conferences. It is generally accepted that a conference or conferences will be allowed to counsel where the witness is –

- (1) The lay client;

- (2) a witness of substantial importance to the case including an expert witness; and
- (3) from interstate or from a place remote from the solicitor's office and it was not reasonable or practicable for the witness to be proofed by the solicitor before trial commences.

Conferences of the kind referred to above held during a day when a fee at the daily rate has been allowed will not normally be allowed unless the conference was lengthy and would have been allowed for separately if it had occurred prior to trial, and will not be allowed at all where the Taxing Master considers that counsel has been adequately remunerated by the daily rate for that day.

Where waiting or travelling time is reasonably incurred and is not part of the brief fee or refresher fee, that time will be allowed (*up to a maximum of 5 hours per day*) at a rate per hour equal to 15% of the daily rate.

These guidelines are to be read subject to Order 63 of the *Supreme Court Rules*.

A fee commensurate with the daily rate will be allowed, sufficient to reward counsel for the need to refresh his memory if the case is interrupted by lengthy adjournments.

In deciding upon a rate within a range, the Taxing Master will usually have regard to the standing of counsel involved, and the fees reasonably charged by counsel in matters of a similar kind. For the range itself to be applicable it is assumed –

- (1) that the case is of ordinary complexity for the category of counsel concerned;
- (2) that the amount involved, (where applicable), is neither significantly above nor below the normal range of Supreme Court matters for the category of counsel concerned;
- (3) that there has been no interlocutory or other work done which has significantly reduced the work otherwise necessary in relation to the brief:  
and
- (4) that there was no real possibility that counsel would be called upon to argue on behalf of a party not represented at the hearing.

Where the rate per unit for solicitors' fees fixed under Part 1 of the Appendix to Order 63 of the Supreme Court Rules is varied, the rates published in these guidelines shall be adjusted pro tanto in accordance with the percentage by which the rate per unit has been adjusted, (rounded off to the nearest \$10.00). such adjustments to take effect as and from the same date as the Chief Justice fixes for any adjustment to the rate per unit for solicitors fees.

Associate Justice Luppino



### Counsel's fees for the calendar year

#	Counsel type	1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	1-Jan-20	1-Jan-21	1-Jan-22	1-Jan-23	1-Jan-24
<b>Per hour</b>	<b>Court preparation up to:</b>							
	Junior	352	359	362	363	370	381	395
	Senior Junior	462	472	475	476	486	501	518
	Senior	737	752	758	759	774	797	825
<b>Per day</b>	<b>Court preparation up to:</b>							
	Junior	2043	2085	2103	2107	2149	2214	2292
	Senior Junior	3196	3262	3289	3295	3360	3462	3583
	Senior	5114	5220	5263	5272	5377	5540	5734
	<b>Opinions up to:</b>							
	Junior	868	886	893	895	913	941	974
	Senior Junior	1368	1396	1408	1410	1438	1482	1534
	Senior	2187	2232	2251	2255	2299	2369	2452
	<b>Drawing or Settling up to:</b>							
	Junior	450	459	463	464	473	487	504
	Senior Junior	697	711	717	718	732	754	781
	Senior	1094	1117	1126	1128	1150	1185	1226