

## LAWYER

**Licensing Authority** Keith Richardson  
Board of Law Examiners  
Iowa Supreme Court  
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**Legal Authority** Iowa Code 602.10101; Supreme Court Rule 100

**Job Description** Lawyers conduct criminal and civil lawsuits, draft legal documents, advise clients as to legal rights, and practice other phases of law. They gather evidence in divorce, civil criminal, and other cases to formulate defense or to initiate legal action; represent clients in court and before quasi-judicial or administrative agencies of government; may act as trustee, guardian, conservator, or executor; may teach college courses in law; and, may specialize in a particular phase of law.

**Education & Experience Required** An applicant for admission to practice law in Iowa must submit proof of graduation from a reputable law school fully accredited by the American Bar Association.

Attorneys may be admitted without examination provided they have practiced law at least five of the last seven years in another state and have met other requirements for admission. In such cases, there is an admission fee. An annual assessment is imposed upon all practicing lawyers to maintain Iowa's "client security" fund. Law students should file a Law Student Registration by November 1 of the year in which the person begins law school.

**Continuing Education** Lawyers are required to take fifteen hours of continuing legal education each year, including two hours of legal ethics for each two-year period.

**Examination** Written examinations are given in February (apply by October 1) and July (apply by March 1) of each year in Des Moines or Iowa City. The Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court should be contacted concerning specific locations and dates for the examination. A background investigation is conducted on all prospective lawyers and a fee is assessed to defray the cost of the investigation and the written examination. The Multi-State Professional Responsibility Examination must be taken before the bar exam is taken, and the applicant must receive a scaled score of at least 80.

Admission without examination is possible provided the person has practiced law at least five of the last seven years in another state and has met other requirements for admission.

**Fees** Assessment: \$200 – Applicants are exempt from payment for the first two years, then must pay a prorated amount until this figure is met  
Renewal: \$85 – Client Security Fund – An annual fee imposed upon all lawyers to fund disciplinary system.  
Exam: \$325 – To defray investigative and written exam costs.  
Other: \$25 – Law Student Registration  
\$75 – If not filed timely  
\$575 – For out-of-state attorneys wishing to practice in Iowa.  
\$10 – Continuing Legal Education (CLE) annual fee charged to all lawyers to fund CLE administration

**SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage** 23-1011 – Lawyers (\$38.87)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31,  
2001: 7,954  
2000: 7,849  
1999: 7,699  
1998: 7,664  
1997: 7,592

**For Additional Information** Drake University  
Office of Admissions  
27th & Carpenter  
Des Moines IA 50311

Iowa State Bar Association  
521 E Locust St  
Des Moines IA 50309

University of Iowa  
College of Law Placement Office  
Iowa City IA 52242

The Iowa Supreme Court Web site:  
<http://www.judicial.state.ia.us> (see Attorney Regulation)