



The State Bar Court of California

APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF FILING FEE

INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

If you are unable to afford the filing fee for a proceeding in the State Bar Court, you may request a waiver by completing and submitting the **Application for Waiver of Filing Fee**. This application is governed by **Rule 5.32 of the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar Court**.

1. **Eligibility:** Any litigant whose gross annual individual income from all sources is below the threshold set in rule 2.15 of the Rules of the State Bar, governing license fee scaling, may request a waiver of any State Bar Court filing fee. The income threshold is currently set at \$60,478.35.
2. **Submission:** The application for a waiver of the filing fee must be submitted at the same time as the underlying pleading, but as a separate submission. The application for a fee waiver **must** be submitted on the form available on the court's website. The application for a fee waiver **should not be served** on other parties in the case (e.g., the Office of Chief Trial Counsel or the Committee of Bar Examiners) regardless of the service requirements for the underlying pleading.
3. **Confidentiality:** The application and the information in it will be kept confidential. However, the fact that a litigant has applied for a fee waiver, and the court's determination to grant or deny the waiver, will not be confidential.
4. **Documentation:** There is no requirement to submit documentation in support of an application for a fee waiver, but the applicant may do so. The court, in its discretion, may require submission of additional documentation after the application has been submitted.
5. **Determination:** If the court grants the application for waiver, the underlying pleading will be filed, with the filing date set as the date the pleading was submitted. If the court denies the application for waiver, payment of the filing fee is due within 10 days of service of the court's order denying the application. If payment is not received within the 10 days, the filing for which the fee is due will be stricken and the case dismissed without prejudice.
6. **Finality:** The court's determination to grant or deny the waiver is not subject to review. It represents the final ruling in the State Bar Court.
7. **Signatures.** The application must be signed by the applicant or petitioner, or if the applicant or petitioner is represented by counsel, by counsel for the applicant or petitioner.