

DOYLES

Pricing Report – Family Law Hong Kong Legal Market, 2016.

Hourly Rates

Although Hong Kong's family lawyers are expensive when compared to their counterparts in other major cities in the Asia-Pacific region they are, nonetheless, cheaper than their counterparts in most commercial practice areas. The city's most pricey family lawyers top out at \$6,000 per hour, generally at least \$2,000 less per hour than their colleagues in other practice areas.

There's also much less of a link between firm type and pricing than is typically seen in other areas. Hong Kong's senior family lawyers are generally priced according to seniority or "experience". Family law partner rates within a particular firm may vary substantially dependent upon experience with less "senior" partners being up to \$1,500 per hour less than more senior partners.

Those requiring the services of Counsel should expect to pay even more. Stronger Junior Counsel typically begin pricing levels at \$5,500 per hour and those retaining the limited pool of Senior Counsel with experience in the Hong Kong legal market should expect to pay a rate significantly higher than this.

Hourly Rate (HKD)	Brisbane
\$3,500 - \$4,000	11%
\$4,000 - \$4,500	17%
\$4,500 - \$5,000	44%
\$5,000 - \$5,500	19%
\$5,500 - \$6,000	9%

Alternative Pricing

Hong Kong's family lawyers struggle to move away from an hourly rate model. Only 7% of the market reported using an alternative pricing method in the past 12 months and, anecdotally such use was sparing. In cases where an alternative pricing method was used then a fixed or capped price was the favored method.