



Expanding Access to Legal Services with Alternative Fee Options

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE

August 24, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

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DESCRIPTION

Traditional options for billing a client, including costs per hour or retainers, inevitably bar many individuals from accessing legal services. Join seasoned practitioners on-demand as they share insight into more accessible options: flat fee, subscription, and pay-as-you-go. Sandra Schilling, Professional Responsibility Counsel at the WSBA, will also share applicable RPCs and ethics opinions related to billing.

AGENDA

1 Professional and Ethical Considerations for Alternative Fee Models

This session will explore the ethical considerations that arise with alternative fee models, including subscription, flat fees, and pay as you go approaches. Presenter will provide practical guidance utilizing the Rules of Professional Conduct and ethics opinions.

Sandra Schilling – Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA

2 Alternative Fee Options for Better Lawyer and Client Experience

Traditional billing can create barriers for clients and challenges for lawyers. Ethical alternatives such as pay-as-you-go, flat fees, and subscription models can increase access to services while reducing uncollected fees and simplifying billing. Experienced practitioners will discuss how these approaches work in practice and the considerations involved in adopting them.

Ruby Powers – Powers Law Group, P.C., Houston, TX

Mark Baumann – Mark K Baumann, Attorney at Law P.S., Port Angeles, WA

Kimberly Bennett – Fidu, Atlanta, GA

Melissa Hall – Smol Law PLLC, Seattle, WA

Moderator: *Jordan Couch – Palace Law Firm, University Place, WA*