

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

PAYMENT OF THE 2026 NC STATE BAR DUES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE PAID FROM THE IDS BUDGET

1. **Who is eligible to have their \$350.00 NC Bar dues paid by IDS?**

- Any member of the North Carolina State Bar that is employed by IDS, a State Defender Office, or Public Defender Office on the date that payment for NC Bar dues is issued.
- The expected Bar dues payment date is late January 2026.
- IDS will **not** impose a one-year-of-state-service requirement.
- Each attorney is *also* individually responsible for verifying with the State Bar that the Bar dues payment was credited, and that the attorney is considered in compliance.
 - **IDS will not pay for:**
 - Local bar dues
 - Bar association dues
 - North Carolina State Bar late fees
 - Online payment convenience fees (currently \$8.00)
 - State Bar Paralegal Certification Application or Exam fees
 - Bar dues paid to any state Bar other than North Carolina.

2. **What is the process for having state employee Bar dues paid by IDS?**

- DO NOT pay your dues directly to the NC Bar. No action is needed on your part.
- Judicial Branch employee records will be used by NCAOC to determine eligibility and issue payment from the IDS budget.

3. **When and how will the NC Bar dues be paid?**

- Payment for all eligible employees will be issued in one lump sum by the NCAOC to the NC Bar.
- The NC State Bar will post receipts to the attorney's user portal at <https://portal.ncbar.gov/>.

4. What if I already paid my Bar dues?

- Guidance on how to seek reimbursements will be provided by NCAOC.

5. Is this a permanent, recurring program?

- No, not necessarily - IDS can only pay bar dues if sufficient funding is available in a given fiscal year; this is assessed from year to year.

6. Are receipt-funded (grant or contract) employees eligible for Bar dues payment?

- Yes. Bar dues will be allowed from grant/contract funds if the budget allows and supports the expense. If the grant/contract budget approved by the funding agency does not allow the bar dues expense, please have your hiring authority contact the Accounts Payable team in the Fiscal Services Division (accountspayable@nccourts.org) for a special authorization form.

7. What if there are not enough grant/contract funds to cover Bar dues payment?

- If the grant/contract budget approved by the funding agency lacks sufficient funds to cover the bar dues expense, please have your hiring authority contact the Accounts Payable team in the Fiscal Services Division (accountspayable@nccourts.org) for a special authorization form.