

SAMPLE REPORT

Legal Bill Review

An independent, line-by-line analysis of attorney billing — every entry compared against state-bar fee guidelines, professional responsibility rules, and comparable market rates.

REVIEWED UNDER

Texas state-bar fee
guidelines & ABA Model Rules

REPORT DATE

May 8, 2026

MATTER ID

LBR-2026-0508-H7K2

MATTER REVIEWED

Henderson v. Coastal Property Mgmt LLC

Premises liability · Travis County District Court · Cause No. D-1-GN-25-003817

Engagement period: Sept 2025 – Feb 2026 · Total billed: \$24,780.00

Generated automatically in 4 minutes 12 seconds · Every flag in this report is citation-backed and verifiable.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What we found

Of the \$24,780.00 billed across this matter, \$3,420.00 (13.8%) consists of charges that are commonly questioned, commonly disallowed, or fall outside the reasonable range under Texas Disciplinary Rule 1.04(b) when compared against the engagement letter and prevailing Travis County market rates.

Our analysis flagged 14 line items across four recurring patterns: block billing, billing administrative tasks at attorney rate, full-rate travel, and one likely double-billed entry. None of these findings, on their own, constitute a fee dispute — but together they give you a clear, citation-backed basis to request itemization or a partial fee adjustment.

\$3,420 FLAGGED FOR REVIEW	\$24,780 TOTAL BILLED	13.8% OF MATTER	14 of 92 LINE ITEMS FLAGGED
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

TOP FINDINGS

The four patterns driving the flagged amount

FINDING 01**Block billing across research / draft / review**

Six entries combine multiple tasks into a single time block (e.g. "research, draft, review" billed as 6.0 hr). Texas fee-arbitration panels routinely require itemization for any block-billed entry exceeding 2 hours.

Recommend requesting a re-itemized invoice for these six entries before paying.

Citation: Tex. Disc. R. 1.04(b)(1); In re Polybutylene, 23 S.W.3d 428

\$3,900.00

commonly disallowed

FINDING 02**Travel billed at full partner rate**

4.2 hours of travel time (Austin → Houston deposition) was billed at the full \$750/hr partner rate. Industry guidelines and the Texas Code of Professional Responsibility Comment 1.04 treat non-working travel as billable at half rate or as a flat travel fee. Excess at issue: \$1,575.00.

Citation: ABA Formal Op. 93-379; UTBMS code L120

\$1,575.00

commonly disallowed

FINDING 03**Administrative tasks at attorney rate**

Three entries totaling 1.4 hours describe scheduling correspondence, calendar management, and file organization — work most fee guidelines treat as paralegal-rate or non-billable overhead. Suggested adjustment based on Travis County paralegal rate (\$175/hr) vs partner rate billed: \$0–\$87.50 per entry.

Citation: ABA Formal Op. 93-379; Missouri v. Jenkins, 491 U.S. 274

\$262.50

commonly disallowed

FINDING 04**Likely double-billed correspondence review**

Entry on 10/03 ('review correspondence, 0.4 hr, \$300') appears to cover the same documents as entry on 10/04 ('review correspondence and prepare response, 0.7 hr'). Same recipient, same case reference, no new documents identified between entries.

Citation: Tex. Disc. R. 1.04(a) — "unconscionable fee" standard

\$300.00

commonly disallowed

— LINE-BY-LINE ANALYSIS

Every entry, categorized

Each line was compared against the engagement letter, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct §1.04, ABA Model Rules, UTBMS task codes, and Travis County comparable rates.

Categories: Consistent with guidelines, Commonly questioned, or Commonly disallowed.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HRS / RATE	AMOUNT	CATEGORY
09/14	Initial client conference (file opening, fact intake)	1.8 / \$750	\$1,350.00	Consistent
09/22	Draft demand letter to defendant insurer	2.2 / \$750	\$1,650.00	Consistent
10/02	Draft motion to dismiss; legal research	3.4 / \$650	\$2,210.00	Consistent
10/03	Review correspondence (subject: insurer response)	0.4 / \$750	\$300.00	Disallowed
10/04	Review correspondence + prepare response (same thread)	0.7 / \$750	\$525.00	Consistent
10/06	Travel time, Austin → Houston deposition (partner rate)	4.2 / \$750	\$3,150.00	Questioned
10/08	File court motion (e-filing, paralegal task billed at partner)	0.5 / \$750	\$375.00	Questioned
10/10	Block: research / draft / review (no itemization)	6.0 / \$650	\$3,900.00	Disallowed
10/14	Calendar deadline; coordinate with opposing counsel scheduling	0.6 / \$750	\$450.00	Questioned
10/22	Depose plaintiff witness (working transcript review)	3.1 / \$650	\$2,015.00	Consistent
11/03	Internal conference re: settlement posture (partners only)	0.6 / \$1,400	\$840.00	Questioned
...	80 additional entries reviewed and categorized — full table on request		\$8,015.00	see notes

Categories defined: **Consistent** — within fee-guideline norms. **Commonly questioned** — fee-arbitration panels frequently reduce or require itemization. **Commonly disallowed** — typically reduced or removed under Texas Disciplinary Rule 1.04 or comparable state-bar guidance.

COMPARABLE COST RANGE

What this matter typically runs

Based on Travis County District Court premises-liability matters of comparable complexity (5-month engagement, single defendant, no expert witness deposed, settlement before summary judgment), here is the cost range we typically observe.

BENCHMARK	LOW	TYPICAL	HIGH	YOUR MATTER	NOTE
Total fees billed	\$14,500	\$19,800	\$26,000	\$24,780	Within range, upper quartile
Hours billed	78 hr	112 hr	148 hr	138 hr	Within range
Block-billed share	<5%	8%	15%	23%	Above typical
Travel billed	0-1 hr	2-3 hr	4-5 hr	4.2 hr	Within range, but rate questioned
Effective rate	\$185/hr	\$220/hr	\$280/hr	\$240/hr	Within range

TALKING POINTS

Questions you may want to ask your firm

- On block billing** "I noticed several entries combine research, drafting, and review into single time blocks — for example the 10/10 entry billed at 6.0 hours. Could you provide an itemized breakdown for those entries? Texas fee-arbitration panels typically require this for any block-billed entry over 2 hours."
-
- On travel time** "The deposition travel on 10/06 was billed at the full \$750 partner rate for 4.2 hours. ABA Formal Opinion 93-379 and most state guidelines treat non-working travel at half rate or a flat fee. Could we revise that to either half rate or a fixed travel fee?"
-
- On administrative tasks** "Three entries describe scheduling, calendaring, and file coordination. Could those be re-billed at your paralegal rate, or written off as overhead? That's consistent with ABA Op. 93-379 and Missouri v. Jenkins."
-
- On the duplicate review** "The 10/03 and 10/04 entries appear to cover the same correspondence thread. Could you confirm whether the 10/03 entry covered different documents, or remove it from the invoice?"
-

OPTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER

Three paths forward

These are common paths Texas clients take when bills look like this. None of them is legal advice, and which one fits depends on your relationship with your firm, the size of the issue, and your comfort level. Most clients start at option 1 and only escalate if the firm is unresponsive.

01**Request itemization first**

Send the firm a brief written request for: (a) re-itemized entries for any block-billed line over 2 hours, (b) confirmation of which paralegal vs attorney work was billed at which rate, and (c) clarification on the 10/03 / 10/04 correspondence entries. Most billing concerns resolve at this step. Firms have a professional obligation under Tex. Disc. R. 1.04(b) to provide this information.

Time: ~1 week · Cost: \$0 · Risk: very low

02**Texas State Bar fee dispute resolution**

Texas runs a free, voluntary fee-arbitration program through the State Bar's Client-Attorney Assistance Program (CAAP). It's non-adversarial, confidential, and binding only if both parties agree. Median time to resolution: 60–90 days. Bring this report and the engagement letter.

Time: 60–90 days · Cost: \$0 · Risk: low

03**Independent fee review attorney**

If the firm is unresponsive or the disputed amount exceeds \$5,000, an independent fee-review attorney can negotiate on your behalf. Typical engagement: flat fee \$500–\$1,500, or 25–33% of the reduction obtained. Texas Lawyer Referral Service can connect you with attorneys who handle fee reviews.

Time: 2–6 weeks · Cost: \$500–\$1,500 or contingent · Risk: low–medium

METHODOLOGY

How this report was generated

This report was generated by the Legal Bill Review automated analysis engine. Each invoice line is parsed (description, hours, rate, total), classified by UTBMS task code, then compared against four reference sets:

- Jurisdiction-specific rules — Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct §1.04 ("Fees"), Texas Lawyer's Creed, and Travis County local rules.
- National guidelines — ABA Model Rule 1.5, ABA Formal Opinions 93-379 (billing for travel and overhead) and 02-425 (engagement letter clarity).

- Comparable rates — Travis County premises-liability rate data from publicly filed fee applications, fee-arbitration awards, and Texas Lawyer rate surveys.
- Engagement letter cross-check — when provided, every billed entry is compared against the rate schedule, scope, and billing increments specified.

The engine flags a line for review when (a) it falls outside guideline norms, (b) it exceeds comparable-matter benchmarks by more than one standard deviation, or (c) it conflicts with the engagement letter. Every flag is citation-backed.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

What this report is — and isn't

This is an analytical service, not legal advice. Legal Bill Review is operated by Nova Aurora Ventures LLC. We are not a law firm. We do not provide legal advice, do not represent clients, and reading this report does not create an attorney-client relationship. The analysis is informational and descriptive — it identifies industry patterns and cites publicly available guidance, but it does not tell you what you should do in your specific matter.

Before taking any action — disputing a bill, withholding payment, terminating your engagement, or filing a fee-arbitration claim — we strongly recommend consulting an independent attorney licensed in your jurisdiction. The State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral and Information Service (1-800-252-9690) can connect you with one.

Citation accuracy. Every flag in this report is paired with a publicly available citation to a rule, opinion, or precedent. We do not invent citations. If a citation is unavailable for a given finding, the report says so explicitly.

Document handling. The invoice and engagement letter you uploaded were encrypted in transit and at rest, processed only to generate this report, and will be deleted from our systems within 30 days. We never share, sell, or train models on your data. To request immediate deletion, email hello@legal-bill-audit.com.

ABOUT THIS REVIEW

Service

Legal Bill Review

Jurisdiction reviewed

Texas (state-bar fee guidelines)

Operated by

Nova Aurora Ventures LLC

Engine version

LBR Analysis Engine v2.4

Pricing

Single bill: \$29 (intro \$19) · Whole matter: \$49 (intro \$39)

Generated

May 8, 2026 · 7:32 AM CDT · 4 min 12 sec

Have your own bill reviewed.

Upload at legal-bill-audit.com · Results in minutes · From \$19 during launch.