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What Are the Average Salaries for Attorneys & Paralegals in Wisconsin?

By Shelley Moore, eHow Contributor

Attorneys represent clients in litigation and other legal proceedings, as well as provide advice to clients about legal transactions. Paralegals, in contrast, assist attorneys by performing duties such as research, interviewing clients and witnesses, and drawing up legal documents. Job growth is likely in both careers, but keen competition for these positions also exists, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Average salaries for attorneys and paralegals in Wisconsin are lower than the national average for these occupations.

Attorney Salary Range

The average salary for attorneys in Wisconsin as of May 2010 was \$106,610 per year, translating to \$51.26 per hour on a regular full time schedule, estimates the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That-was-about 18 percent lower than the national average for this occupation of \$129,440 per year. The middle 50 percent of Wisconsin attorneys made \$60,260 to \$134,350 per year. The bottom 10 percent of the pay scale was at or below \$46,770 per year. The bureau doesn't disclose the top 10 percent of salaries for attorneys.

Attorney Salaries by Region

The highest average salary for attorneys in Wisconsin in 2010 was in Green Bay, where they earned \$117,920 per year on average. Other high-paying areas were the greater Milwaukee region, at \$115,670 per year on average, and the Oshkosh-Neenah metro area, at \$110,430. The lowest-paying Wisconsin regions for attorneys were Racine, at an average annual salary of \$67,560, the west central nonmetropolitan area of the state at \$70,770, and the eastern nonmetropolitan area at \$72,190. Attorneys in other Wisconsin areas earned about \$80,000 to \$106,000 per year on average.

Paralegal Salary Range

Paralegals in Wisconsin in 2010 earned an average pay rate of \$20.39 per hour, or \$42,420 per year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That was about 15 percent lower than the nationwide average salary for this occupation of \$49,640 per year. The middle 50 percent of Wisconsin paralegals made \$32,370 to \$50,630 per year. The bottom 10 percent of the pay scale was at or below \$26,130 per year, and the top 10 percent had salaries of \$59,900 per year and higher.

Paralegal Salaries by Region

The highest average salaries for paralegals in Wisconsin in 2010 were in Madison, at \$48,360 per year, and in the greater Milwaukee area, at \$48,030. The lowest-paying areas were the south central nonmetropolitan region of the state, at an average annual salary of \$29,710, Appleton at \$32,610, and the Oshkosh-Neenah metro area at \$32,640. Paralegals in other parts of Wisconsin earned average salaries ranging from about \$33,300 to \$38,900 per year.

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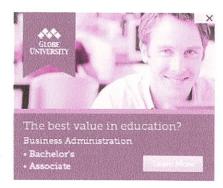
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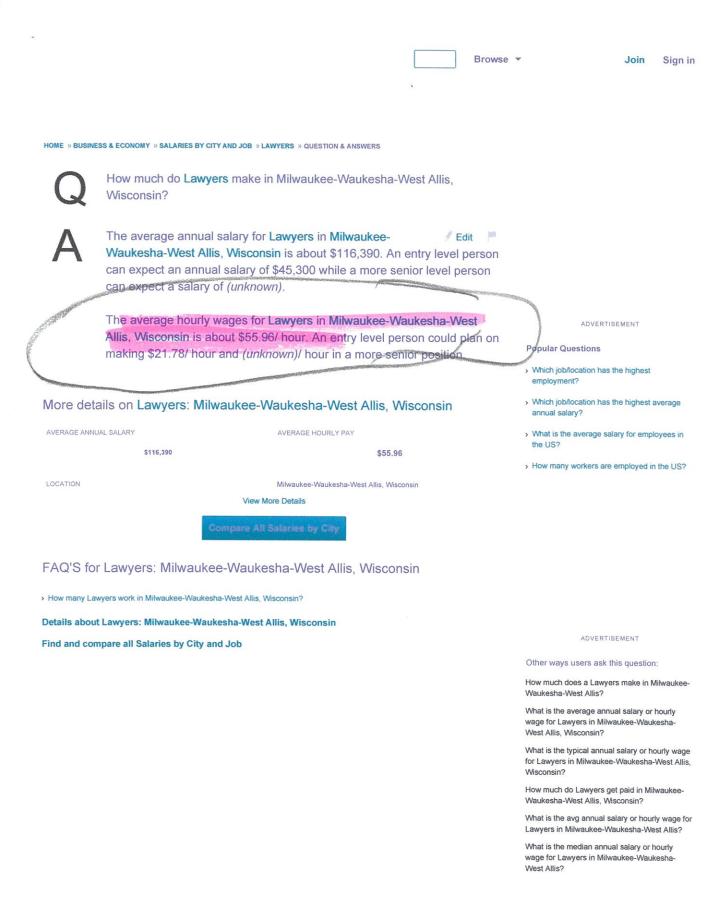








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