



## Stuart Maue: Legal Bill Audit and Analysis

### Overview

A Legal Bill Audit and Analysis performed by Stuart Maue is a customizable service depending on the needs of the client. It is designed to give clients a retrospective analysis of their legal costs. The audit is intended to identify potentially duplicate, excessive, unnecessary, inappropriate, non-compliant, non-billable and/or otherwise questionable attorney's fees and expenses. Each audit is unique and defined by the facts and circumstances surrounding the client's need for the audit.

### Purpose of A Legal Bill Audit and Analysis

Clients request a legal bill audit for various reasons. Stuart Maue's findings assist clients in:

- *positioning themselves to effectively negotiate the recoupment of previously paid fees, going-forward credits, or other discounts (such as hourly rates decreases or freezes).*
- *evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of law firms for planning purposes.*
- *allocating costs among matters, time periods, projects, and claims (for example, assisting carrier clients with determining what constitutes a reimbursable defense cost and assessing when or if any applicable deductibles have been satisfied).*

- *preparing for litigation. Stuart Maue's findings often form the basis of expert witness testimony to assist the trier of fact in assessing the appropriateness of underlying legal costs.*
- *identifying the cause and extent of billing issues in outside counsel invoices in order to revise and improve billing policies and guidelines.*

### Why Stuart Maue

The professionals at Stuart Maue possess years of experience as both practicing attorneys and legal auditors. This practice allows us to deliver the most accurate, reliable, and significant findings in the legal cost review industry. We do not rely on computer based searches that can often generate limited and unreliable findings. By using attorneys in our process, we provide our clients a thorough and comprehensive analysis of their legal costs.

Stuart Maue works with a variety of organizations and individuals to analyze legal costs. Our experience includes a broad spectrum of underlying lawsuits with legal fees at issue ranging from \$100,000 to in excess of \$400,000,000.



*Stuart Maue customizes the legal bill audit and analysis process for each client, taking into account factors such as time or cost constraints.*

**In general, our process may include the following phases:**

**Data Reconciliation-** Invoice data is imported into our proprietary software and reconciled by our accountants to identify issues such as mathematical errors, missing data, and duplicative cost entries.

**Case Background Review-** Our attorney reviewers analyze all the materials at their disposal including dockets, pleadings, work product, correspondence, retention letters, billing guidelines, budgets, etc. The background review is important in order for our attorneys to familiarize themselves with the underlying litigation and to provide context to the invoices under review.

**Initial Data Evaluation-** Stuart Maue's proprietary database allows our attorney reviewers to generate a high-level snapshot of the staffing of the underlying litigation and to identify unusual or problematic billing patterns.

**Line-By-Line Analysis-** Our attorney reviewers engage in a line-by-line review of every billing entry. We identify inappropriate or questionable billing activities based upon our years of professional experience as litigators and fee experts in light of industry standards, ethical rules of professional responsibility, established legal precedent, and any applicable billing guidelines or terms of retention. Included in this analysis is an evaluation of each phase, project, and activity performed by counsel. Additionally, Stuart Maue can implement an alternate hourly rate schedule to capture any unwarranted fees caused by excessive or unapproved hourly rates.

**On-Site File Review and Attorney Interview-** Stuart Maue attorneys may travel to the law firm(s) to review case files, evaluate document control procedures, and interview firm personnel.

**Report Generation-** Our attorney reviewers draft detailed reports outlining categories of questioned fees and expenses. Each questioned cost category is supported by a descriptive narrative justifying the attorney reviewer's categorization and includes exhibits highlighting the problematic fee and expense entries.

**Post-Report Negotiation and Testimony-** Stuart Maue often assists clients with presenting audit findings to law firms for purposes of negotiating the recoupment of previously paid fees and/or going-forward credits. Additionally, Stuart Maue's audit reports often form the basis of expert witness testimony to tribunals, arbitrators and mediators.



### **About Stuart Maue**

Stuart Maue develops customized cost management solutions for our clients in the areas of *legal cost management, legal bill review audit and analysis, bankruptcy, and vendor invoice review*. Our clients recognize significant savings from our programs as well as gain vital insights into legal and vendor costs. With added pressure to reduce costs and improve their return-on-investment, Stuart Maue can assist clients in gaining a more accurate picture of their spending as well as the performance of their firms and vendors.

**For more information about Stuart Maue or our services, call us at: 314.291.3030 or e-mail us at: [info@smmj.com](mailto:info@smmj.com).**