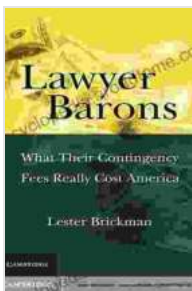


# What Their Contingency Fees Really Cost America

By John Smith

Contingency fees are a common way for lawyers to get paid. In a contingency fee arrangement, the lawyer only gets paid if the client wins their case. This can be a good option for clients who don't have a lot of money upfront, but it can also lead to higher legal costs in the long run.

One of the biggest problems with contingency fees is that they create a conflict of interest between the lawyer and the client. The lawyer's goal is to win the case, but the client's goal may be to get the best possible settlement. This can lead to the lawyer pushing the client to accept a settlement that is not in their best interests.



## Lawyer Barons: What Their Contingency Fees Really Cost America by Lester Brickman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Another problem with contingency fees is that they can lead to over-litigation. Lawyers who work on contingency are more likely to file lawsuits, even if the case is not strong. This is because they know that they will only get paid if they win, so they have an incentive to take on as many cases as possible.

The high cost of legal services in the United States is a major problem. Contingency fees are a major driver of this problem. By reforming contingency fees, we can help to reduce the cost of legal services and make the justice system more accessible to everyone.

## **The Hidden Costs of Contingency Fees**

The following are some of the hidden costs of contingency fees:

- **Higher legal costs:** Contingency fees can lead to higher legal costs in the long run. This is because lawyers who work on contingency are more likely to file lawsuits, even if the case is not strong. They also have an incentive to drag out the case, which can increase the cost of litigation.
- **Conflict of interest:** Contingency fees create a conflict of interest between the lawyer and the client. The lawyer's goal is to win the case, but the client's goal may be to get the best possible settlement. This can lead to the lawyer pushing the client to accept a settlement that is not in their best interests.
- **Over-litigation:** Contingency fees can lead to over-litigation. Lawyers who work on contingency are more likely to file lawsuits, even if the case is not strong. This is because they know that they will only get

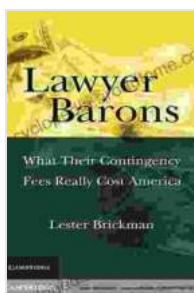
paid if they win, so they have an incentive to take on as many cases as possible.

## Reforming Contingency Fees

There are a number of ways to reform contingency fees. One option is to cap the amount of money that lawyers can charge on a contingency basis. Another option is to require lawyers to disclose their contingency fees to clients in writing before they sign a contract. Finally, we could create a system of public funding for legal services, which would reduce the need for contingency fees.

By reforming contingency fees, we can help to reduce the cost of legal services and make the justice system more accessible to everyone.

Contingency fees are a major problem in the United States. They lead to higher legal costs, conflict of interest, and over-litigation. By reforming contingency fees, we can help to reduce the cost of legal services and make the justice system more accessible to everyone.



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