

Florida's costly legal system trumps expenses in other states, Tampa Business Journal, quotes by Joseph Miele, Esq., 11-30-2022

Florida has earned a reputation as a litigious state with some of the busiest courthouses in the nation..

According to an attorney at South Florida law firm Kaufman Dolowich & Voluck, "carriers are facing an onslaught of litigation unlike anyplace else in the country."

Joe Miele, who represents insurers in claims disputes, said insurance companies "just don't feel like they can get a fair shake in Florida, whether in the court system or as the result of jury perceptions."

One-way attorney fees, or when the loser in a lawsuit has to pay the other side's legal fees, are driving much of the litigation against insurers, he said. Plaintiff's attorney fees can reach between 30% and 50% of the total value of the settlement amount, according to Miele, and it's not uncommon for an experienced attorney to charge an hourly rate of \$400 an hour and beyond.

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