

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2373

BY: PILGRIM of the HOUSE

and

SHEDRICK of the SENATE

AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL PROCEDURE; PROVIDING FOR THE
CONSIDERATION OF THE SERVICES OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS
IN ATTORNEY FEE COMPUTATIONS; DEFINING TERM;
PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 943 of Title 12, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In any action in which attorneys' fees are to be determined or
awarded by the court, the court shall consider, among other things,
time and labor of any legal assistants who contributed nonclerical,
meaningful legal support to the matter involved and who are working
under the supervision of an attorney. For purposes of this section
"legal assistant" means a person qualified through education,
training, or work experience, who is employed or retained by a
lawyer, law office, governmental agency, or other entity in a
capacity or function which involves the performance, under the
ultimate direction and supervision of an attorney, of specifically
delegated substantive legal work, which work, for the most part,

requires a sufficient knowledge of legal concepts that, absent such assistant, the attorney would perform the task.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1992.

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 1992.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1992.

President of the Senate