The Best Law Firm Billing Software in 2026

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Every law firm has their own unique challenges—whether it's spending too much time on administrative tasks, navigating conflict checks, or dealing with late payments. The good news is law firm billing software has the power to help firms overcome these barriers. And as a result, unleashing new levels of success for small law firms everywhere.

Let's say, for example, your law firm is the heart of your small community. Odds are, some clients are looking for alternative billing options to ease the burden of their legal fees. Given the close relationship you have with them, you should offer a more client-centred experience. Or, you might be one of several small firms in your community and looking for ways to separate yourself from the competition.

In both cases, law firm billing software helps by allowing you to easily bill in different ways. Clio's legal time and billing software includes easy time tracking, expense tracking, LEDES billing, invoicing, alternative fee options, and more.

This barely scratches the surface of the capabilities of law firm billing software. Read on as we highlight the many billing possibilities and look at the best law firm billing software solutions in 2024.

Discover the top highlights from our 2024 Legal Trends for Solo and Small Law Firms Report to gain insights on how small law firms are performing and industry wide trends.

What are the functions of a successful billing system in a law firm?

Legal billing software allows lawyers to effortlessly track their work and receive payment for it. For small law firms, billing systems can bring an array of benefits. It can make lawyers' lives easier with the ability to track their hours in real time, create and send invoices in a few clicks and send automatic payment reminders.

The best small law firm billing options on the market

We've established that legal e-billing software can make a real difference at a small law firm by streamlining time-consuming tasks. That said, not all solutions are created equal. Let's explore some of the best options available for small law firms.

Clio Payments

Founded in 2008, Clio brought the first cloud-based practice legal management software for law firms. Clio Payments—which is Clio's built-in payment solution—offers a fast, flexible, and convenient way to manage a law firm's collections.

Pros

- It's affordable. All Clio Manage subscriptions come with the ability to accept online payments. Clio Payments offers simple and transparent pricing.
- Clients gain flexibility. With Clio Payments, clients can easily pay their legal bills using credit card, debit, bank transfer, bank, Apple Pay & Google Pay.
- It saves time. By offering the ability to easily track time, create invoices, and send electronic bills to clients, Clio Payments reduces the time spent on routine administrative tasks. Plus: Clio integrates with Xero and QuickBooks Online, which means users can say goodbye to error-prone manual data entry.
- You'll gain true peace of mind. Clients sleep well knowing that Clio Payments is PCI-compliant and follows trust accounting standards. Earned and unearned fees are kept separate, and transaction fees never come out of your trust account.
- World-class support. Clio has cemented a reputation for a bunch of things—its stellar customer support among them. Customers have access to the company's award-winning team 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday, be it through live chat, phone, or email.

> ""I absolutely love this function (Payments) in Clio, it is by far my favourite function! Clio payments has really made a massive difference to our accounts payable processes. Offering our clients a pay now button when they receive their invoices, means there are less obstacles to make payment and in turn less admin for us, when following up overdue accounts (and less overdue accounts in general). Previously a client would have to ask for a payment link which we would then have to retrieve from Xero and share with them, it was a convoluted process, and we are glad we can now offer this function to our clients." – Sara Giampa Kease, Studio Legal"

Cons

- Geographic restrictions. Some integrations are only available in certain countries.

LawPay and MyCase

MyCase is a practice management platform designed for small and medium-sized firms. Their software doesn't include payments capabilities which is why they work with LawPay to offer LawPay Payments to their users.

Pros

- Alternative payment options. MyCase allows customers to accept alternative payment options—such as ClientCredit, a legal fee financing solution that lets legal clients pay loans in automated installments.
- Create multiple invoices at once. MyCase's batch billing feature helps save time by expediting the billing process.

Cons

- Higher transaction fees. Users have to pay higher fees on transactions, which can be a challenge for smaller law firms. Transaction fees are 3% for VISA and MasterCard and 3.9% for AmericanExpress. That's $300 for every $10k processed using a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. $390 for AMEX.
- Inability to apply payments to matters. Users complain about payments being applied to clients, not matters, which can complicate the billing process for staff and clients.
- Limited integrations. Often results in duplicate and manual data entry for users. (Clio integrates with over 250 partners.)

PracticePanther

PracticePanther is a law practice management solution that offers case management, billing, time tracking, and automation features.

Pros

- Alternative payment methods. PracticePanther offers the ability to pay through alternative methods, such as payment plans—giving clients the flexibility to choose an option that's best for them.
- Customisable invoices. With customisable invoice templates, PracticePanther lets users create invoices for a range of matters.

Cons

- High costs for basic features. Users will have to pay a premium for basic features like LEDES billing and integrations that you would otherwise get automatically with other legal billing providers.
- Limited integrations.

Rocket Matter

Rocket Matter is a legal practice management platform with a payment processing feature.

Pros

- Built for small law firms. Rocket Matter is specifically designed for solo practitioners and small law firms.

Cons

- All or nothing prices. Rocket Matter's essentials package is very basic, which means you'll find yourself paying more for features that you would automatically get with other programs.

Smokeball

Smokeball is a cloud-based practice management software offering automatic time and activity tracking, document automation, and legal billing through the same LawPay integration mentioned above.

Pros

- Work efficiently. Smokeball comes with batch editing, finalizing and printing, allowing users to generate multiple reports.

Cons

- Different interfaces. While billing can be managed online, it's through a separate product and interface.
- Higher fees. With SmokeBall, you'll be running your billing through a LawPay integration. While this integration comes with PCI compliance, and they help you meet your trust accounting obligations, LawPay charges higher fees than most legal payment processors.
- Compatibility limitations. Only PCs running Windows 10 that meet the minimum technical requirements can run Smokeball. Despite being the most used email service in the world, no Gmail compatibility exists.
- Conflicting programs. Because Smokeball Billing only works with Google Chrome, the local installation may cause issues with other software on your computer.

Try Clio for Free

Learn how you can do more billable work, deliver the service your clients want, and make it easier for clients to pay with Clio.

Get Started

Final notes on the best small law firm billing software

As small law firms have unique needs, they also have unique considerations when it comes to comparing the best lawyer billing software. Among the top criteria, it's important to choose a solution that's easy to set up, cost effective, reduces time spent on administrative tasks, offers flexible payment options, and maintains trust accounting compliance.

Checking off all boxes may sound like a tall order, but it's not. Today, a wide range of small law firm billing software solutions—including Clio Payments—are making the billing process easier than ever.

Try the best law firm billing software on the market: Sign up for a Clio Payments demo today.

About Clio

Clio is the global leader in legal AI, powering legal work across the profession, from law firms of every size to corporate legal teams, government agencies, and courts. Its Intelligent Legal Work Platform unites the business and practice of law, connecting the people, information, and processes behind legal work. Clio's AI brings the context together with legal sources drawn from Clio Library, a growing collection of more than one billion legal documents. Over 400,000 legal professionals in more than 130 countries rely on Clio to run their legal world. Learn more at www.clio.com.