

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Prevailing Practice Surveys

Drs. Mike Brookshire and Frank Slesnick (and later Mike Luthy) have conducted surveys of members of the National Association of Forensic Economics (NAFE) approximately every three years since 1990. Ten such surveys of forensic economists and their methods and data sources have been published as peer reviewed articles in NAFE journals, and the 2015 survey article is forthcoming in the *Journal of Forensic Economics*. After 2015, Drs. Brookshire and Slesnick have handed off the continuing survey effort to Drs. Dave Rosenbaum of Nebraska and Dr. David Schap of Massachusetts.

The survey studies have provided forensic economics in North America with valuable information on prevailing opinions and practice involving methodology, data sources, and values of forecast variables. Typical topics covered are the earnings base, inflation, earnings growth rates, discount rates, fringe benefits, worklife expectancy, and maintenance and consumption deductions. Examples of special questions in a particular (2015) survey are the impact of the Affordable Care Act, the role of vocational rehabilitation experts, and questions on ethical conduct and forensic practice issues per se. The published results are often cited in the literature of forensic economics and in court testimony. In 2016, Mike and Frank will have a surveys-based chapter, "Forensic Economists and Their Changing Viewpoints over Time," in a new book on forensic economics edited by Dr. Frank Tinari of New Jersey.