the advocates practicing in it, who were divided into consulting advocates and speaking advocates, followed the king in all his movements; and hence was brought about a graduation of fees based in some degree, curiously enough, on the style in which the advocate travelled. A writer of that age says, "Their salary is regulated by days, according to the importance of the affair, according to their learning and their estate; for it is not reasonable that an advocate who goes on horseback should receive as large wages as one who travels with two horses, or with three or more." It would appear, therefore, that a one-horse lawyer was at the lowest grade of the profession.

The fees do not seem to have been very large, and we are told that often the lawyers pleaded without pay for relatives, "or for the poor, in the name of our Lord." They were forbidden by the rules of the order to refuse their services in defence of a party who was indigent or oppressed, under penalty of expulsion from the bar. If a lawyer practised without pay, no oath of office was administered, but he could not charge any fees until he had taken an oath of office "to maintain himself in the office of advocate well and loyally, and not knowingly to sustain any but a good and loyal cause."

It must not be supposed that when a cause was to be tried by wager of battle the lawyers had nothing to do with the case; for the allegations on either side were drawn up by lawyers, so as to form a regular issue; and these allegations were read on the ground before the parties engaged in the combat. But here the place of the lawyer was quite subordinate; and as all the persons present would prebably be anxious for the fight to begin, he was specially admonished, in matters of this kind, to be brief, and to see that his language was direct. It was also needful that he should speak with such prudence and discretion as to say nothing of his own motion tending to injure or insult the adverse party; for if he should do so, he ran a great risk of becoming a principal in a like contest, in which he would require the presence of some other lawyer to perform a similar service for himself; and at least one instance is recorded where an advocate, who was performing a professional duty of this sort, was called into the field, on wager of battle, for some unlucky word which he had inserted in his pleadings; though it is said that he got off with a good scare. The odds between a lawyer, who had probably never put on a coat of mail in his life, and a knight, who had been accustomed to all military exercises from his infancy up, were obvious enough. According to the theory, indeed, this inequality was a matter of no significance, since Heaven was supposed to fight on the side of the right, and to overthrow the wicked; so that all the champion of innocence had to do was to go through the motions of a combat, in the serene confidence that his humble efforts would be rendered effectual by supernatural aid. It would seem, therefore, that the lawyer in question was a little skeptical on this point, or else that he was too modest to expect the divine interference in his behalf.

The same barons who settled their disputes by the short arbitrament of the sword, sat in judgment between parties who preferred a more peaceable solution of their controversies. Whenever they happened to be in Paris, they sat as judges if it so pleased them, in the Court of Parliament. Fancying, as ignorant men often do, that they had a great knack of deciding cases, they rarely missed a favorable opportunity of assuming a place on the bench. Their opinions are not cited, because they gave none. Their preference was to decide in favor of plaintiff or defendant, with but little discrimination as to details; but as sometimes nothing could be done without recourse to writings and figures, there were connected with the court certain learned men of the law, who acted as private advisers to the judges in matters of unusual difficulty. In the course of time these jurisconsults, as they were called, were occasionally requested to sit on the bench with the judges for the convenience of consultation and the better despatch of business; and it came to pass at last that they acquired the right to sit there, as it were by prescription, and to hold the court alone when its barons were absent, as they were for the first time during the long wars of the reign of Charles the VI. Their absence enabled the administration of justice to assume a more regular form, and the law a more settled accuracy. In the course of time the barons found themselves unable to keep up with these changes, which made the rude country barons ridiculous where they had formerly been distinguished for ease and readiness of decision; and as they were not