

# Alaska Bar Association

2014  
Annual Report



## Active in Alaska, by Judicial District:

District 1 .....	<b>277</b>
District 2 .....	<b>32</b>
District 3 .....	<b>1,894</b>
District 4 .....	<b>247</b>

The Alaska Bar Association has 4,271 members  
in the following categories:

### By Status:

Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive in Alaska	Inactive Outside	Retired
2,456	623	178	629	370

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## Admissions/Licensing

### 2014 BAR EXAM RESULTS

Date	Applicants	Passed
<b>Feb. 2014</b>	45	31
1st time takers	33	26
<b>July 2014</b>	74	48
1st time takers	61	47

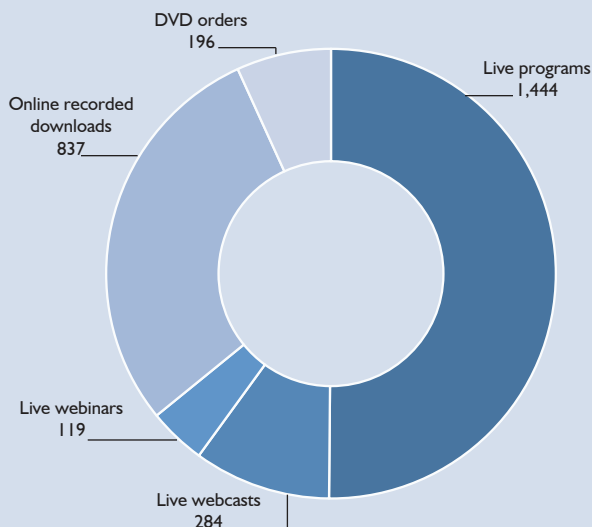
**UBE:** Alaska administered its first Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) in July 2014 with the passing score set at 280. Alaska continues to conduct its own character investigations.

Applications were accepted for admission by UBE score transfer in January 2014. Eight applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

37 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

## CLE

CLE programs were delivered in a variety of formats for the year, with the greatest attendance at 26 live programs.



In addition, 740 individuals attended one or more CLE events at the annual convention

## Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

**3,079** Active Bar members are required to:

- earn at least 3 CLE ethics credits
- encouraged to earn at least 9 additional credits
- report MCLE compliance annually

**99%** reported compliance for 2014

**66%** reported earning at least 12 credits

**17%** reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

**17%** reported earning only 3 ethics credits

**Fewer than 1%** were suspended for failure to comply with MCLE requirements

## Member Services

- ALPS (Attorney Liability Protection Society) is the Bar endorsed malpractice insurance company.
- Casemaker: all Bar members have free access to this online legal research service.
- The *Alaska Bar Rag*, the Bar's newspaper, is published quarterly.
- *E-News*: this electronic bulletin is sent weekly to Bar members.
- *Section News*, the electronic Section newsletter, is sent monthly to Bar members.
- The *Alaska Law Review*, published by Duke Law School, went online with the June 2014 issue.
- Mentors: the Bar placed 16 new Alaska bar members with experienced attorneys in the mentorship program.
- Insurance programs: the Bar sponsored group medical, disability and life insurance programs for Bar members.

## Of the 4,271 members of the Alaska Bar Association, Female Attorney Categories:

Total Female Attorneys	Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive	Retired
1,519	946	161	335	77

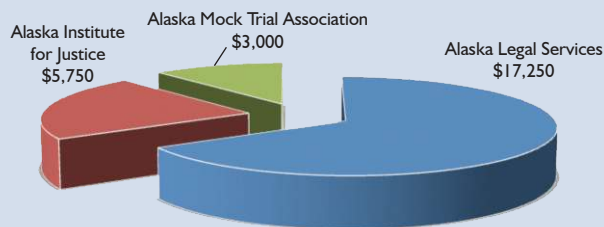
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## Public Service

The Lawyer Referral Service had 76 attorneys in 34 practice areas.

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 3,476 callers. The most frequently requested areas were divorce/custody; labor relations; and negligence.

The Alaska Bar Foundation distributed IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) grants to Alaska Legal Services (\$17,250), Alaska Institute for Justice (\$5,750) and Alaska Mock Trial Association (\$3,000).



## Pro Bono Services

- Partnered with 150 attorneys to host the 5th annual MLK Day free legal clinic in three communities; provided more than 526 combined volunteer hours to 360 clients totaling \$70k in donated legal services.
- Organized and hosted the 4th Annual Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic during the Alaska Federation of Natives conference; 25 volunteer attorneys provided free legal services to 75 Alaska Native clients ranging from communities on the Beaufort Sea to the Southeast panhandle.
- Provided technical assistance and organizational support for free legal services to annual Project Homeless Connect event which serves more than 700 homeless Alaskans.
- Designed and disseminated first survey on the state of pro bono to membership.

## 2014 Board of Governors

Geoffrey B. Wildridge, President  
Nelson Page, President-Elect  
Laura L. Farley, Vice President  
Blake Chupka, Secretary  
Bill Granger (Public Member), Treasurer  
Alexander O. Bryner  
Susan Cox  
Darrel Gardner  
Bill Gordon (Public Member)  
Gene L. Gustafson  
Michael A. Moberly  
Adam Trombley (Public Member)  
David Wilkinson, New Lawyer Liaison

## Committees and Sections

- There were 30 active **substantive law sections**, with a total individual membership of 2,705 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members), was 3,364.
- **Law Related Education (LRE) Committee activities:**  
Launched program called Attorney Connect that piloted in 14 schools—eight middle and six high schools—through the efforts of 25 attorney volunteers that included presentations and provided judges for two high school debate competitions.  
  
Hosted the annual student art contest with the Access and Fairness Committees of the Alaska Supreme Court; selected three winners out of 208 submissions from 25 communities.  
  
LRE Committee added six new articles to the online Youth Law Guide.
- **Lawyers' Assistance Committee** expanded its purview to include mental health.
- **Historians Committee** sponsored two presentations by Michael Carey in Anchorage, and two in Fairbanks.

## Financial & Administration

Total general fund revenue.....	\$2,963,397
Total expenses .....	\$2,834,305
Net Gain.....	\$129,092

- Launched a new membership management database, and the accompanying new website/member portal.
- Launched a new discipline (case management) database.

## Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 245 grievances against lawyers in 2014 compared to 185 grievances in 2013, a 32% increase.

Of the 245 grievances processed, 224 were thoroughly reviewed, but did not warrant investigation and 21 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	
January 1, 2014 Pending	56	
New Files Opened	+21	
Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court	-17	(3 lawyers)
Closed by Public Reprimand by Disciplinary Board	-2	(2 lawyers)
Closed by Written Private Admonition	-1	(1 lawyer)
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-8	(6 lawyers)
December 31, 2014 Pending	49	

The open caseload decreased 16% in 2014.

## Fee Arbitration

Clients may invoke the Bar's mandatory fee arbitration process if they have a fee dispute with their lawyers.

Caseload:	Fee Arbitrations
January 1, 2014 Pending	19
New Matters Opened	+36
Closed Matters	-30
December 31, 2014 Pending	25

## Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

The Lawyers' Fund is responsible for reimbursing clients or others who have lost money or property due to a lawyer's dishonest conduct. The program considered 5 claims in 2014. Of that number, one claim totaling \$2,306 was paid and five claims totaling \$59,500 were rejected.

The Fund may also pay for the fees and expenses of Trustee Counsel who are appointed to assist clients of a deceased or unavailable attorney. \$37,381.48 was paid from the Fund in 2014.

### BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2014

#### The Board of Governors:

- Modified Article VII, Section 1(a)(10) to expand the role of the Lawyers' Assistance Committee and to provide for confidentiality.
- Rejected an amendment that would require members to provide an e-mail address for purposes of client and Bar communications.

#### The Alaska Supreme Court:

- Amended Alaska Bar Rule 31(g)(3) by removing the \$10,000 limitation on compensation to trustee counsel.
- Amended Alaska Bar Rule 2, Section 1(e) by adding a new section prohibiting a disbarred or suspended lawyer in another jurisdiction from submitting an application for admission.
- Amended Alaska Bar Rule 2, Section 2(c) by defining the practice of law for reciprocity admission purposes.
- Amended Alaska Bar Rule 37(a)(1) by eliminating the office requirement for area fee dispute resolution division members.
- Amended Alaska Bar Rule 44(c)(3) to allow a legal intern permit applicant to qualify for a permit even though the applicant failed a bar exam in another jurisdiction so long as the applicant has passed a bar exam in another jurisdiction.

### ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 4 formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2014. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, bar counsel's office typically responds to over 900 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.