

Alaska Bar Association

2015
Annual Report



The Alaska Bar Association has 4,349 members
in the following categories:

By Status:	Active in Alaska	Active Outside
	2,439	663

Inactive in Alaska	Inactive Outside	Retired
178	636	433

Active in Alaska, by
Judicial District:

District 1	282
District 2	32
District 3...	1,887
District 4	238

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Admissions/Licensing

2015 BAR EXAM RESULTS

Date	Applicants	Passed
Feb. 2015	60	39
1st time takers	37	31
July 2015	75	45
1st time takers	58	41

UBE: Alaska administers the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) with the passing score set at 280. Alaska continues to conduct its own character investigations.

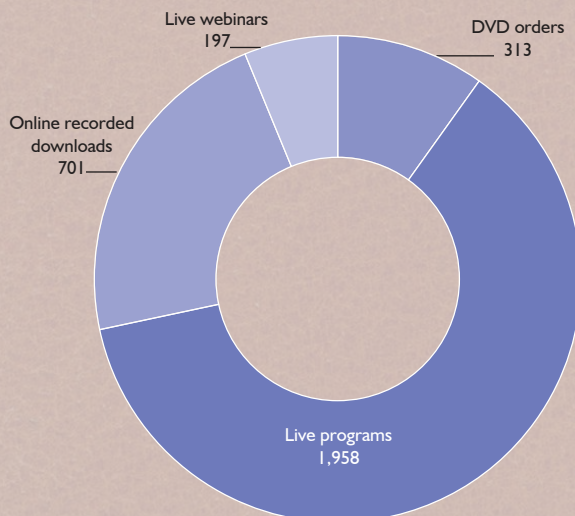
18 applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

38 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

The Bar launched a new admissions database which allows applicants to enter their information directly into the system.

CLE

CLE programs were delivered in a variety of formats for the year; with the greatest attendance at 41 live programs.



In addition, 562 individuals attended one or more CLE events at the annual convention in Fairbanks.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

2,832 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 2015

61% reported earning at least 12 credits

17% reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

21% reported earning only 3 ethics credits

6 Bar members were administratively suspended for failure to comply

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* is published online by Duke Law School.
- Mentors: the Bar placed six 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 4,349 members of the Alaska Bar Association, Female Attorney Categories:

Total Female Attorneys	Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive	Retired
1,585	952	198	350	95

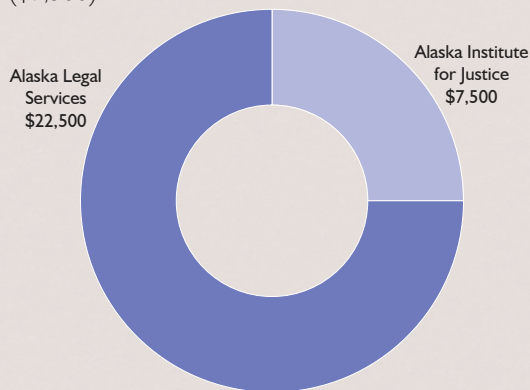
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Public Service

The Lawyer Referral Service had 87 attorneys in 34 practice areas.

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 3,025 callers. The most frequently requested areas were divorce/custody; trusts/wills/estates; and negligence.

The Alaska Bar Foundation distributed IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) grants to Alaska Legal Services (\$22,500), and the Alaska Institute for Justice (\$7,500).



Pro Bono Services

- Partnered with 150 attorneys to host the 6th annual MLK Day free legal clinic in three communities; provided more than 450 combined volunteer hours to 425 clients totaling \$60k in donated legal services.
- Organized and hosted the 5th Annual Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic during the Alaska Federation of Natives conference; 22 volunteer attorneys provided free legal services to 50 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.
- Hosted the annual student art contest with the Access and Fairness Committees of the Alaska Supreme Court; selected three winners out of 46 submissions from 11 communities.

2015 Board of Governors

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

Committees and Sections

- In 2015 there were 31 active **substantive law sections**, with a total individual membership of 2,965 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members), was 3,842.

There are nine **Standing Bar committees** and five **Bar Rule committees**.

- **Law Related Education Committee activities:**

The Attorney Connect program partnered 25 volunteer attorneys available to all middle and high schools in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Hosted first annual video contest in partnership with the Juvenile Justice Section for Alaska students grades 9-12 on subjects featured in the Youth Law Guide; winning videos now included in the online guide.

Added three new articles and videos to the online Youth Law Guide.

- **Lawyers' Assistance Committee** received training on substance abuse and interviewing skills.
- **Historians Committee** sponsored two presentations by Michael Carey in Anchorage, and one in Fairbanks.

Financial & Administration

Total general fund revenue..... \$2,884,604
Total expenses \$2,661,240
Net Gain..... \$223,313

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

Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 181 grievances against lawyers in 2015 compared to 232 grievances in 2014, a 22% decrease.

Of the 181 grievances processed, 170 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, and 11 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	
January 1, 2015 Pending	50	
New Files Opened	+11	
Closed by Disbarment	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court	-5	(3 lawyers)
Closed by Public Reprimand by Disciplinary Board	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Written Private Admonition	-1	(1 lawyer)
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-18	(14 lawyers)
December 31, 2015 Pending	35	

The open caseload decreased 30% in 2015.

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, 2015 Pending	24
New Matters Opened	+30
Closed Matters	-33
December 31, 2015 Pending	21

Cover Art by:

"Anee Netyaaghe" Oh my, blueberries 2012
Koyukon Athabascan, Kathleen Carlo, Nulato, Alaska
Basswood, feathers, beads, copper wire, gold leaf, tacks, paint

"K'ets'eots'ene" The other world, the spirit world 2012
Koyukon Athabascan, Kathleen Carlo, Nulato, Alaska
Basswood, caribou horn, Mexican melagros, copper tacks, gold leaf, paint

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 2 claims in 2015. Of that number, 1 claim totaling \$30,763.50 was paid and 1 claim totaling \$1,104.41 was 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. \$16,761.77 was paid from the Fund in 2015.

BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2015

The Board of Governors:

- Amended Bar Rule 43, adding Sections (3) and (4) allowing waivers to admission for Alaska National Guard members practicing in Courts Martial, and for Military Spouses. (Both Amendments pending before Alaska Supreme Court)

The Alaska Supreme Court:

- Amended Bar Rule 4(5), clarifying that only a failed applicant is entitled to inspect the applicant's Multistate Essay Examination and Multistate Performance Examination answer books and grades.
- Amended Bar Rule 44(3)(c)(3), allowing that a person who has failed the bar in another jurisdiction may qualify for an intern permit if the applicant has passed a bar exam in another jurisdiction, either before or after the failure.
- Amended Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 and 8.4, clarifying a lawyer's ability to advise a client on lawful state activities, even though those activities may violate federal (but not state) law.
- Rejected a proposal to Bar Rules 28(g) and 30(e) which would have required notification of public discipline and disability transfers only in the newspaper of general circulation serving the community in which the attorney maintained practice, and requiring publication on the Bar Association's website.

ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 2 formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2015. 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.