

Alaska Bar Association

2016
Annual Report



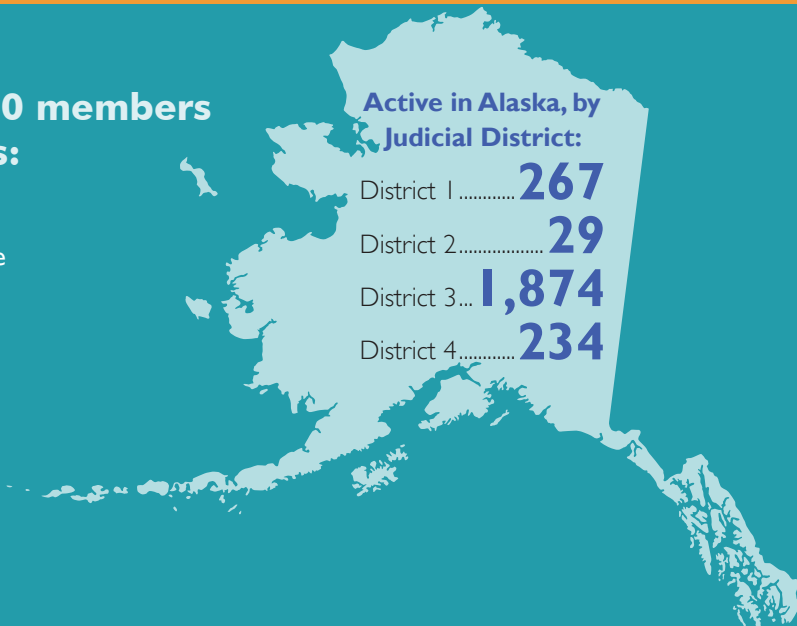
The Alaska Bar Association has 4,390 members
in the following categories:

By Status:	Active in Alaska	Active Outside
	2,402	685

Inactive in Alaska	Inactive Outside	Retired
182	650	471

Active in Alaska, by
Judicial District:

District 1	267
District 2	29
District 3	1,874
District 4	234



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Admissions/Licensing

2016 BAR EXAM RESULTS

Date	Applicants	Passed
Feb. 2016	52	40
1st time takers	35	30
July 2016	53	24
1st time takers	40	23

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

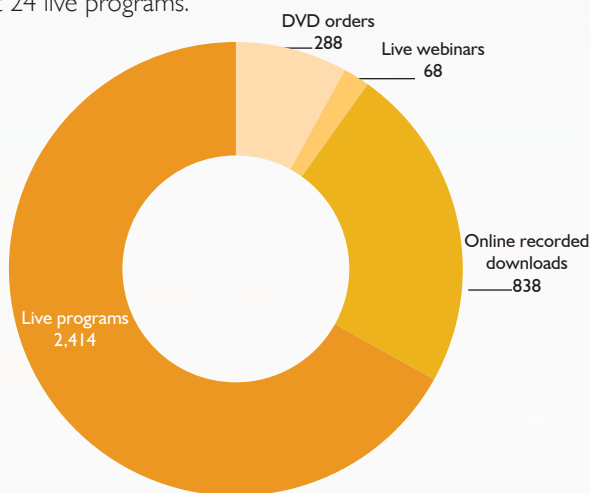
21 applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

18 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

The Bar is using 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 24 live programs.



In addition, 540 individuals attended one or more CLE events at the annual convention in Fairbanks.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

2,859 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

58% reported earning at least 12 credits

18% reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

23% reported earning only 3 ethics credits

10 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.
- 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 disability and life insurance programs for Bar members. The group medical plan was cancelled by Premera when the number of lives on the plan fell below 100.

Of the 4,390 members of the Alaska Bar Association, Female Attorney Categories:

Total Female Attorneys	Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive	Retired
1,591	946	191	350	104

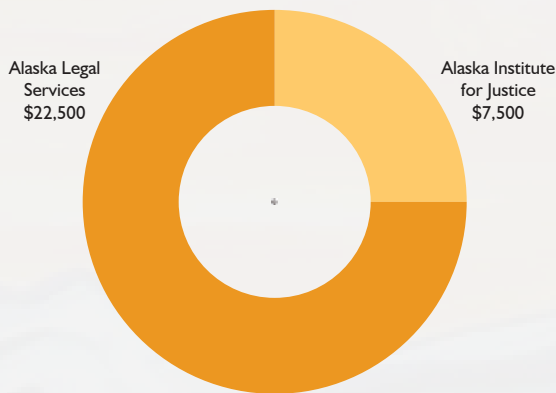
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Public Service

The Lawyer Referral Service had 71 attorneys in 34 practice areas.

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 2,753 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 (\$22,500), and the Alaska Institute for Justice (\$7,500).



The Alaska Bar Foundation received a historic litigation settlement award between Bank of America and the U.S. Department of Justice for \$1.2 million dollars and created a new grant opportunity. The Foundation accepted applications from Alaska based civil legal services providers that serve low-income, underrepresented Alaskan residents in the areas of foreclosure prevention legal assistance and/or community redevelopment legal assistance. Grants awarded for the year 2017 were to Alaska Legal Services/ANDVSA – Foreclosure Prevention \$600,000, Alaska Legal Services/ANDVSA – Community Redevelopment \$165,000, and Alaska Institute for Justice – Community Redevelopment \$135,000. Grant applications will be accepted again in November for the remaining funds.

Committees and Sections

- In 2016 there were 31 active **substantive law sections**, with a total individual membership of 2,921 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members) was 3,801.
- There are nine **Standing Bar committees** and five **Bar Rule committees**.
- **Law Related Education Committee activities:**
Added three new articles and videos to the online Youth Law Guide.
- **Historians Committee** sponsored a presentation by Michael Carey in Anchorage, and one in Fairbanks.

Pro Bono Services

- Partnered with 150 attorneys to host the 7th annual MLK Day free legal clinic in three communities; provided more than 450 combined volunteer hours to 425 clients totaling \$52k in donated legal services.
- 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 six winners out of 11 submissions from nine communities.

2016 Board of Governors

- Susan Cox, President
- Darrel Gardner, President-Elect
- Blake Chupka, Vice President
- Molly Brown, Secretary
- Bill Granger (Public Member), Treasurer
- Sharon Barr
- Bill Gordon (Public Member)
- Bob Groseclose
- Hanna Sebold
- Rob Stone
- Adam Trombley (Public Member)
- David Wilkinson
- Morgan Griffin, New Lawyer Liaison

Financial & Administration

Total general fund revenue.....	\$2,911,020
Total expenses	\$2,746,522
Net Gain.....	\$164,498

Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 178 grievances against lawyers in 2016 compared to 181 grievances in 2015, a 1.6% decrease.

Of the 178 grievances processed, 153 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, and 30 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	
January 1, 2016 Pending	73	
New Files Opened	+30	
Closed by Disbarment	-3	(2 lawyers)
Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court	-2	(2 lawyers)
Closed by Public Reprimand by Disciplinary Board	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Written Private Admonition	0	
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-6	(6 lawyers)
December 31, 2016 Pending	91	

The open caseload increased by 25% in 2016.

The Discipline Section fielded 451 inquiries made by the public.

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 2016. Of that number, 2 claims totaling \$14,850.00 were paid and 3 claims totaling \$10,500.00 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. \$4,717.74 was paid from the Fund in 2016.

Cover art by Laura Ashton Dewey Turnagain Arm at Sunrise

As I make my morning drive to work in Girdwood, I often have to pull over on the highway just to stop and take in the beauty of the mountains and the ocean as the sun is rising.

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, 2016 Pending	20
New Matters Opened	+34
Closed Matters	-41
December 31, 2016 Pending	13

BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2016

The Board of Governors:

- Amended Bar Rule 16(c) to establish fees and costs for attorney discipline cases; pending before the Alaska Supreme Court.
- Amended Bar Rule 26(b) adding language of "willful failure to file an income tax return" to the definition of "serious crime" under Bar Rule 26(b); pending before the Alaska Supreme Court.
- Amended Bar Rule 43.1 replacing the phrase "qualified legal services provider" for the old language of "Alaska Pro Bono Program" which is no longer in existence; pending before the Alaska Supreme Court.
- Amended Bar Rule 44(6)(a) replacing "eight months" term with "twelve months" for purposes of duration of legal intern permit; pending before the Alaska Supreme Court.
- Revised sections of the Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct with language recommended by the ABA Ethics 20/20 revisions; pending before the Alaska Supreme Court.
- Adopted Amendment to Bar Rule 43.3 permitting waivers to practice law before Alaska National Guard Courts-martial and subsequent appeals.
- Clarified and returned to Supreme Court proposed revisions to Bar Rule 43.4 allowing waivers to practice for Military Spouses; pending before the Alaska Supreme Court.

The Alaska Supreme Court:

- Returned to the Bar for further clarification Amended Bar Rule 43.4 allowing waivers to practice for Military Spouses.

ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 1 formal ethics opinion proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2016. 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.