

Alaska Bar Association

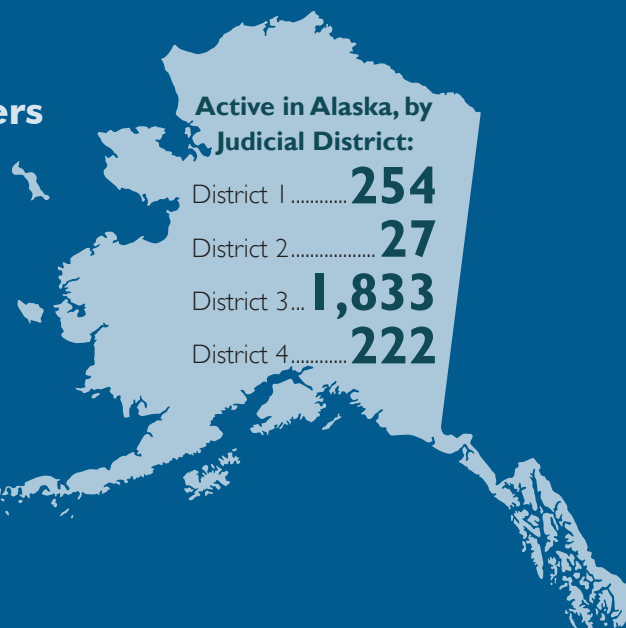
2017
Annual Report



The Alaska Bar Association has 4,418 members
in the following categories:

By Status:	Active in Alaska 2,332	Active Outside 740
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Inactive in Alaska 187	Inactive Outside 640	Retired 519
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Admissions/Licensing

2017 BAR EXAM RESULTS

Date	Applicants	Passed
Feb. 2017	46	22
1st time takers	33	21
July 2017	54	31
1st time takers	40	24

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

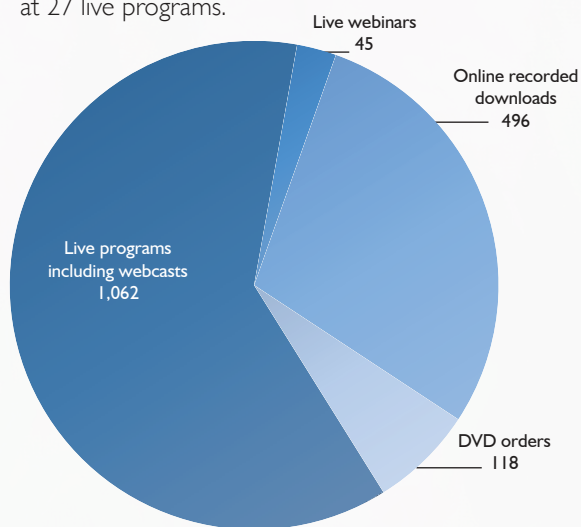
21 applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

26 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

The Bar uses an 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 27 live programs.



In addition, 250 individuals attended one or more CLE events at the annual convention in Juneau.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

2,916 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

99.5% reported compliance

53% reported earning at least 12 credits

20% reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

26% reported earning only 3 ethics credits

15 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.
- Insurance programs: the Bar sponsored group disability and life insurance programs for Bar members.

1,616 of the 4,418 Alaska Bar members are female in the following categories:

Active in Alaska

929

Active Outside

209

Inactive

342

Retired

360

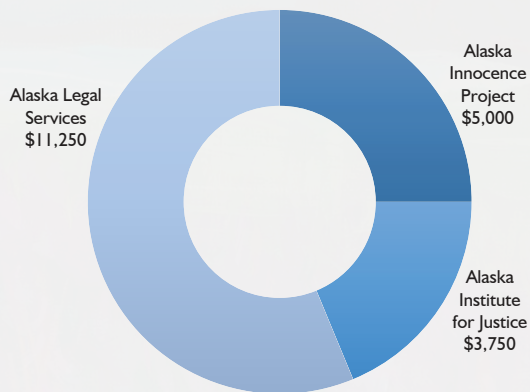
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Public Service

The Lawyer Referral Service had 59 attorneys in 32 practice areas.

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 2,981 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 (\$11,250), and the Alaska Institute for Justice (\$3,750) and the Alaska Innocence Project (\$5,000).



In 2016 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 in 2016 totaled \$900,000. In 2017 the remaining funds of \$320,000 for community redevelopment were awarded to Alaska Business Development Center (\$60,000), Covenant House (\$60,000) and Disability Law Center (\$200,000).

Committees and Sections

- In 2017 there were 30 active **substantive law sections**, with a total individual membership of 2,806 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members) was 3,691.
- There are nine **Standing Bar committees** and five **Bar Rule committees**.
- **Law Related Education Committee** co-hosted the annual student art contest with the Access and Fairness Committee of the Alaska Supreme Court..
- **Historians Committee** sponsored a presentation by Michael Carey in Anchorage, and one in Fairbanks, as well as a program on the first women lawyers in the Alaska Bar.

Pro Bono Services

- Partnered with 130 justice volunteers to host the 8th annual MLK Day free legal clinic in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau plus a statewide phone bank in partnership with Alaska Public Media; has provided more than 5610 combined volunteer hours to 3160 clients totaling \$500k in donated legal services.
- Launched Alaska Free Legal Answers—a free web-based legal clinic for low-income Alaskans—by assistance from 20 volunteer lawyers who work with clients that can ask up to three civil legal questions in one year.
- Provided technical assistance and organizational support for free legal services to annual Project Homeless Connect event which serves more than 700 homeless Alaskans.

2017 Board of Governors

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|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Darrel Gardner, President | • Sharon Barr | • Rob Stone |
| • Brent Bennett, President-Elect | • Blake Chupka | • Adam Trombley (Public Member) |
| • Hanna Sebold, Vice President | • Susan Cox | • Mari Carpeneti, New Lawyer Liaison |
| • Molly Brown, Secretary | • Bill Gordon (Public Member) | |
| • Bill Granger (Public Member), Treasurer | • Cam Leonard | |

Financial & Administration

Bar dues	\$660
Total general fund revenue.....	\$2,778,603
Total expenses	\$2,614,502
Net Gain.....	\$164,100

Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 227 grievances against lawyers in 2017 compared to 176 grievances in 2016, a 29% increase.

Of the 227 grievances processed, 186 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, and 15 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	
Open for Investigation on January 1, 2017	42	
Files Opened for Investigation	+22	
Closed by Disbarment	-3	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court	-2	(2 lawyers)
Closed by Public Censure	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Public Reprimand by Disciplinary Board	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Written Private Admonition	-1	(1 lawyer)
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-10	(5 lawyers)
Open for Investigation on December 31, 2017	46	

The change in open caseload increased by 7% in 2017.

The Discipline Section fielded 500 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 one claim in 2017. \$2,500.00 was paid.

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. \$392.22 was paid to Trustee Counsel from the Fund in 2017. Additionally, the vetting and destruction of a deceased attorney's files by the Bar totaled \$10,720.31 in 2017.

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, 2017 Pending	13
New Matters Opened	+29
Closed Matters	-28
December 31, 2017 Pending	14

BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2017

The Board of Governors:

- Adopted revamped Bylaws. Effective January, 2017
- The Alaska Supreme Court:
- Adopted amendments to Bar Rule 16(c) establishing fees and costs for attorney discipline cases. Effective October 15, 2017.
- Adopted amendments to Bar Rule 26(b) adding language that defines "willful failure to file an income tax return" as a "serious crime" under Bar Rule 26(b). Effective October 15, 2017.
- Adopted amendments to Bar Rule 43.1 replacing the phrase "Alaska Pro Bono Program", which is no longer in existence, with "qualified legal services provider". Effective October 15, 2017.
- Adopted amendments to Bar Rule 44(6)(a) replacing "eight months" with "twelve months" for purposes of duration of legal intern permit. Effective October 15, 2017.
- Adopted numerous revisions to Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct including language recommended by the ABA Ethics 20/20. Effective October 15, 2017.
- Adopted Bar Rule 43.4, allowing waivers to practice for Military Spouses. Effective October 15, 2017.

ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted two formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2017. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, bar counsel's office typically responds to over 600 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.

Cover art: Chilkat Fireweed by lue isaac

Summer Solstice, 2016, found me awaiting the Fairweather Ferry to Juneau at Chilkat State Park south of Haines, gazing northwest across Chilkat Inlet to the mountains and glaciers beyond. The early blooms of fireweed in the summer sun set the scene ablaze.