

Alaska Bar Association

2018 Annual Report



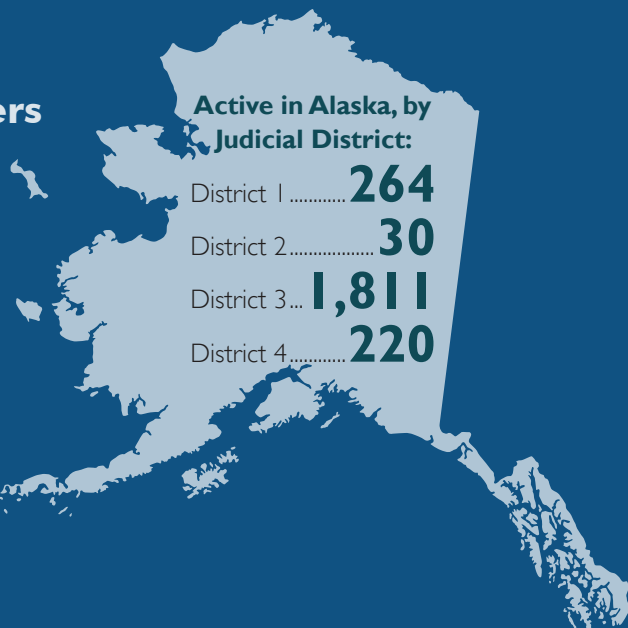
**The Alaska Bar Association has 4,484 members
in the following categories:**

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| By Status: | Active in Alaska | Active Outside |
| | 2,324 | 790 |

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------|
| Inactive in Alaska | Inactive Outside | Retired |
| 174 | 629 | 567 |

**Active in Alaska, by
Judicial District:**

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| District 1..... | 264 |
| District 2..... | 30 |
| District 3..... | 1,811 |
| District 4..... | 220 |



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Admissions/Licensing

| 2018 BAR EXAM RESULTS | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------|
| Date | Applicants | Passed |
| Feb. 2018 | 39 | 24 |
| 1st time takers | 24 | 18 |
| July 2018 | 43 | 24 |
| 1st time takers | 36 | 24 |

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

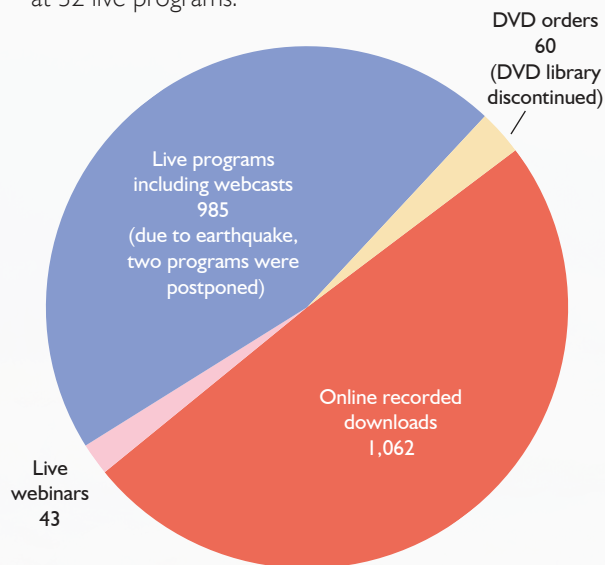
48 applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

45 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

The Bar is using 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 32 live programs.



In addition, 452 individuals attended one or more CLE events at the annual convention in Anchorage.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

2,927 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

99.7% reported compliance

54% reported earning at least 12 credits

20% reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

26% reported earning only 3 ethics credits

8 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.

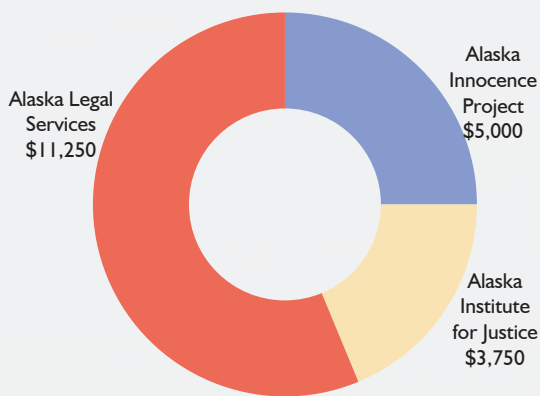
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Public Service

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

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 3,097 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), Alaska Institute for Justice (\$3,750) and the Alaska Innocence Project (\$5,000).



Committees and Sections

- In 2018 there were 31 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 ten **Standing Bar committees** and five **Bar Rule committees**.

Pro Bono Services

- Partnered with 130 justice volunteers to host the 9th annual MLK Day free legal clinic in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Palmer; has provided more than 5610 combined volunteer hours to 3160 clients totaling \$500k in donated legal services.
- 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.

Awards

Board of Governors

Distinguished Service

Kevin Clarkson

Layperson Service

Deirdre Booth

Professionalism

Susan Wibker

Judge Nora Guinn

Crystal Garrison

Bryan P. Timbers Pro Bono

Solo Practitioner

Marc June

Firm

Hughes, White, Colbo, Wibker & Tervooren, LLC.

Alaska Bar Foundation

Jay Rabinowitz Public Service

Victor Fisher

Of the 4,484 members of the Alaska Bar Association, Female Attorney Categories:

Total Female Attorneys

1,658

Active in Alaska

939

Active Outside

236

Inactive

349

Retired

134

2018 Board of Governors

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

Financial & Administration

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Bar dues | \$660 |
| Total general fund revenue..... | \$2,851,956 |
| Total expenses | \$2,719,272 |
| Net Gain..... | \$132,685 |

Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 245 new grievances against lawyers in 2018 compared to 227 grievances in 2017, an 8% increase.

Of the 245 new grievances, 184 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, 22 were opened for formal investigation and 26 remained under review at the end of 2018.

Caseload:

Grievances

| | | |
|--|------|--------------|
| Open for Investigation on January 1, 2018 | 46 | |
| Files Opened for Investigation | +35* | |
| Closed by Disbarment | 0 | |
| Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court | -6 | (3 lawyers) |
| Closed by Public Censure | 0 | |
| Closed by Public Reprimand by Disciplinary Board | -1 | (1 lawyer) |
| Closed by Written Private Admonition | 0 | |
| Dismissed after Formal Investigation | -16 | (11 lawyers) |
| Open for Investigation on December 31, 2018 | 59 | |

*Includes grievances filed earlier than 2018

The change in open caseload increased by 26% in 2018.

The Discipline Section fielded 560 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 no claim in 2018.

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. The vetting and destruction of a deceased attorney's files by the Bar totaled \$420.05 in 2018.

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, 2018 Pending | 14 |
| New Matters Opened | +28 |
| Closed Matters | -27 |
| December 31, 2018 Pending | 15 |

BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2018

The Board of Governors:

- Amended Bylaw II, sec. 7 regarding resignations by members, and providing for readmission under certain conditions.
- Amended the Bylaws by adding VIII(a)(10) establishing a scholarship committee responsible for implementation of the scholarship program.

The Alaska Supreme Court:

- Amended Bar Rule 5, revising the Oath of Attorney.
- Amended the Bar Rules by adding 11.1, which specifically authorizes Bar Counsel's informal ethics guidance and outlines the way such guidance can be used.
- Amended Bar Rule 26(d) concerning the Alaska Court System's duty to report attorney convictions to the Bar.
- Amended Bar Rule 43.1, extending the time of the waiver allowed for JAG attorneys.

ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 2 formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2018. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, bar counsel's office responded to 825 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.

Cover art by Scott McDaniel

"Their Land Alone - Moose Meadow." Painted in 1983

Denali, or Mt. McKinley, (as it used to be called) was a long-time favorite subject for Artist Scott McDaniel who came to Alaska in 1948. He and his wife would often drive to Willow where they could get a great view of Denali and photograph scenes like this which he would then paint for others to enjoy.