

# Alaska Bar Association

2019 Annual Report



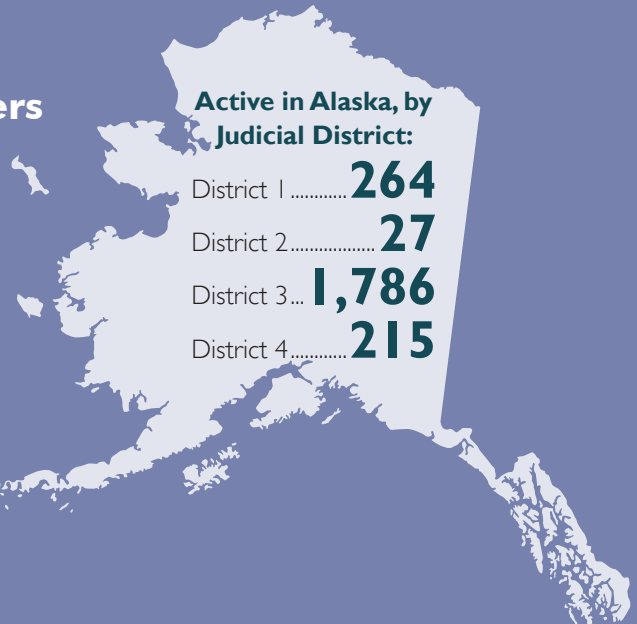
The Alaska Bar Association has 4,515 members in the following categories:

By Status:	Active in Alaska	Active Outside
	2,290	806

Inactive in Alaska	Inactive Outside	Retired
180	632	607

Active in Alaska, by Judicial District:

District 1 .....	264
District 2.....	27
District 3...	1,786
District 4.....	215



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## Admissions/Licensing

### 2019 BAR EXAM RESULTS

Date	Applicants	Passed
<b>Feb. 2019</b>	32	12
1st time takers	17	10
<b>July 2019</b>	57	32
1st time takers	44	28

**UBE:** Alaska administers the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) with the passing score set at 280. The Alaska Supreme Court asked the Board of Governors to review the cut score and whether it should remain the same. The Board recommended that the passing score remain at 280.

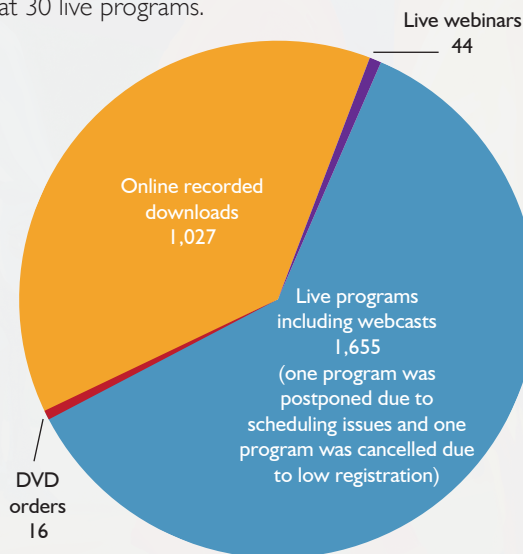
34 applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

43 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

Alaska continues to conduct its own character investigations. 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 30 live programs.



In addition, 231 individuals attended one or more CLE events at the annual convention in Fairbanks.

## 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

**99.8%** reported compliance

**55%** reported earning at least 12 credits

**20%** reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

**25%** reported earning only 3 ethics credits

**5 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.

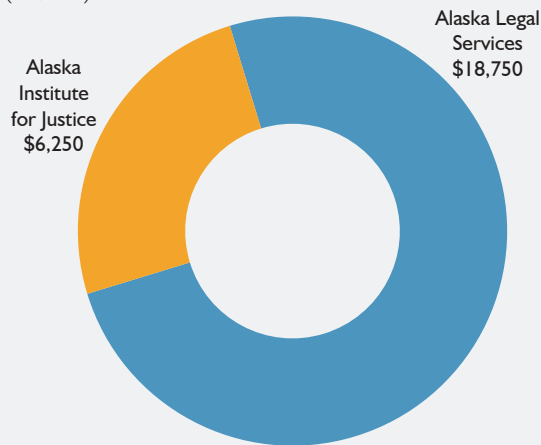
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## Public Service

The Lawyer Referral Service had 54 attorneys in 33 practice areas.

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 3,172 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 (\$18,750) and Alaska Institute for Justice (\$6,250).



## Committees and Sections

- In 2019 there were 30 active **substantive law sections**, with a total individual membership of 2,909 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members) was 3,742.
- There are ten **Standing Bar committees** and five **Bar Rule committees**.

### Of the 4,515 members of the Alaska Bar Association, Female Attorney Categories:

Total Female Attorneys	Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive	Retired
1,685	935	248	354	148

### 2019 Board of Governors

- Rob Stone, President
- Ben Hofmeister, President-Elect
- Molly Brown, Vice President
- Cam Leonard, Secretary
- Bill Granger (Public Member), Treasurer
- Jed Cox (Public Member)
- Susan Cox
- Darrel Gardner
- Bill Gordon (Public Member)
- Jessica Graham
- Aimee Oravec
- Hanna Sebold
- Diana Wildland, New Lawyer Liaison

## Pro Bono Services

- Partnered with 106 justice volunteers to host the 10th annual MLK Day free legal clinic in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Palmer; has provided more than 6000 combined volunteer hours to 3560 clients totaling \$561k in donated legal services.
- Alaska Free Legal Answers—a free web-based legal clinic for low-income Alaskans—provided assistance from 25 volunteer lawyers who work with clients that can ask up to three civil legal questions in one year.
- Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic—a live clinic hosted during annual Alaska Federation of Natives Convention for attendees—celebrated its ninth year by serving 20 clients by four volunteers at the Fairbanks venue.
- 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:*  
Peter Partnow

*Professionalism:*  
Bob Groseclose

*Layperson Service*  
Patty Kastelic

*Judge Nora Guinn*  
Magistrate Judge Kim Sweet

*Robert Hickerson Public Service:*  
Jennifer Hite

### Bryan P. Timbers Pro Bono

*Private Attorney:* Bonnie Coghlan  
*Public Sector:* Aisha Tinker Bray

### Alaska Bar Foundation Jay Rabinowitz Public Service

Senior Justice Dana Fabe

## ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION

840 K Street, Suite 100 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: 907-272-7469



## Financial & Administration

Bar dues ..... \$660  
Total general fund revenue..... \$3,004,183  
Total expenses ..... \$2,739,912  
Net Gain..... \$264,271

## Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 212 new grievances against lawyers in 2019 compared to 246 grievances in 2018, a 14% decrease.

Of the 212 new grievances, 150 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, 10 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	
Open for Investigation on January 1, 2019	58	
Files Opened for Investigation*	+26	
Closed by Disbarment	0	
Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court	0	
Closed by Public Censure	0	
Closed by Public Reprimand by Disciplinary Board	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Written Private Admonition	0	
Closed Administratively	-16	(8 lawyers)
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-7	(5 lawyers)
Open for Investigation on December 31, 2018	60	

\*Includes matters filed in 2018

The change in open caseload increased by 3% in 2019.

The Discipline Section fielded 569 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 2019.

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 program considered no claim in 2019.

## 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, 2019 Pending	15
New Matters Opened	+24
Closed Matters	-25
December 31, 2019 Pending	14

## BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2019

### The Board of Governors:

- Amended Bylaw III, sec. 1 (a) ending the senior lawyer discount for anyone who has not reached the age of 70 by February 1, 2020.
- Amended Bylaw VI, sec. 1 to provide that officers take office at the close of the annual business meeting at which they have been elected, and shall serve until the close of the next annual business meeting.

### The Alaska Supreme Court:

There were no Supreme Court Orders in 2019 amending the Alaska Bar Rules.

### ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 3 formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2019. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, bar counsel's office responded to 803 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.

### Cover art: Caribou Spring by Iris Sutton

I am inspired by vibrant color and Alaska's landscape and wildlife. Over the past 9 years I have been combining them to create colorful art. "Caribou Spring" is one of the most popular pieces I have done. It depicts caribou foraging on the blooming summer tundra and was painted in the winter of 2015.