

Alaska Bar Association

2020 Annual Report



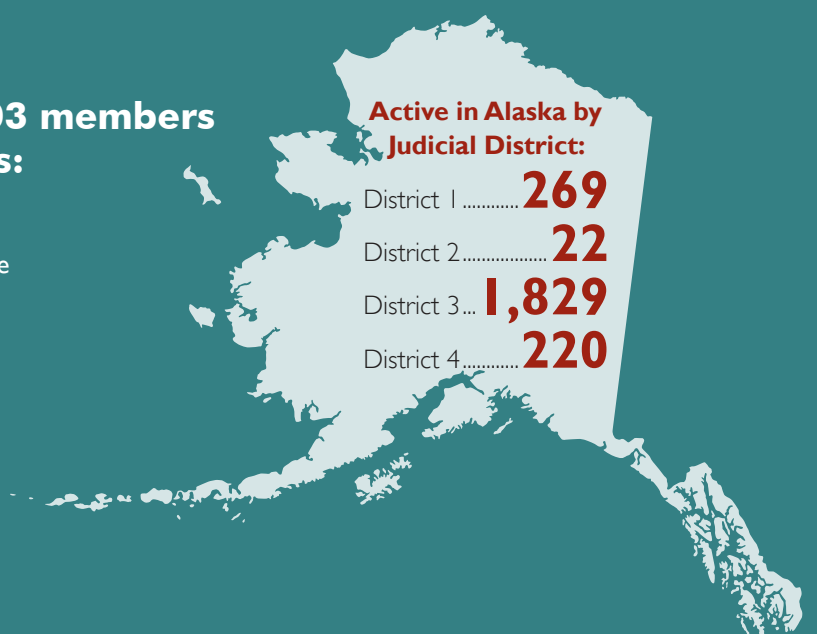
The Alaska Bar Association has 4,603 members in the following categories:

By Status:	Active in Alaska	Active Outside
	2,340	838

Inactive in Alaska	Inactive Outside	Retired
174	618	624

Active in Alaska by
Judicial District:

District 1	269
District 2.....	22
District 3...	1,829
District 4.....	220



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Admissions/Licensing

2020 BAR EXAM RESULTS

Date	Applicants	Passed
Feb. 2020	49	23
1st time takers	34	20
Sept. 2020	50	40
1st time takers	45	40

As a result of COVID-19, the July bar exam was moved to September. The Bar put protocols in place to ensure the safe administration of the exam.

UBE: Alaska administers the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) with the passing score set at 280.

46 applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

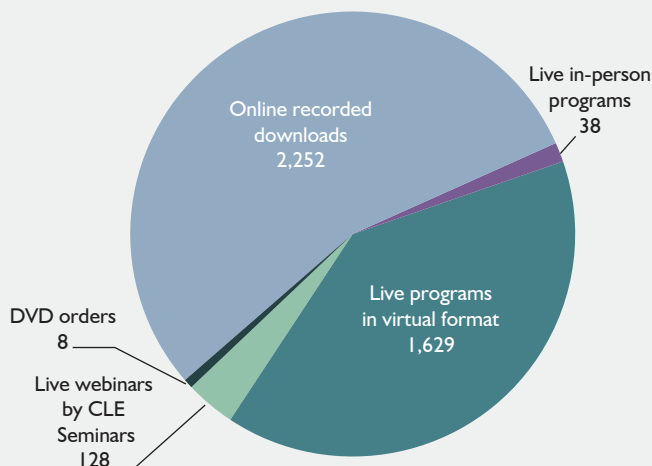
43 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

CLE

As a result of COVID-19, the Bar was limited in the amount of live in-person programs that it could offer. The 2020 Anchorage Annual Bar Convention was cancelled. In addition, 25 CLE programs were delivered primarily in virtual/Zoom format.

Despite the pandemic, CLE programs continued to be delivered in a variety of formats for the year; with the greatest attendance from online recorded downloads.

CLE Attendance by Program Format



Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

2,844 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

99.6% reported compliance

53.6% reported earning at least 12 credits

20% reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

26.4% reported earning only 3 ethics credits

9 Bar members were administratively suspended for failure to comply

Member Services

- **ALPS (Attorney Liability Protection Society):** 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 and sent to Bar members quarterly.
- **E-News:** Electronic bulletin is sent weekly to Bar members.
- **The Alaska Law Review:** Published online by Duke Law School.
- **Insurance programs:** Bar sponsored group disability and life insurance programs for Bar members.

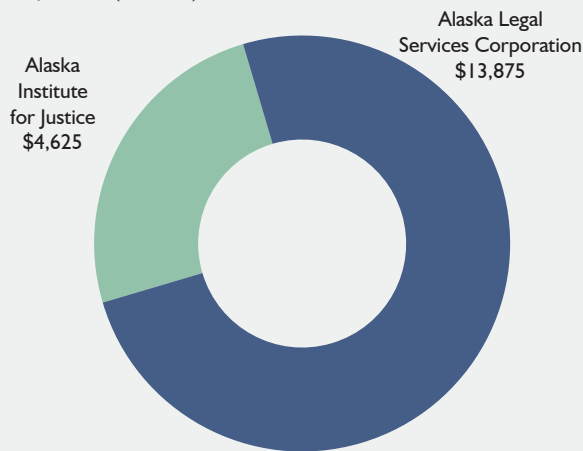


Public Service

The Lawyer Referral Service had 47 attorneys in 28 practice areas.

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 2,165 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 Corporation (\$13,875) and Alaska Institute for Justice (\$4,625).



Committees and Sections

- In 2020 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**.

Pro Bono Services

- Martin Luther King Day:** Hosted the 11th annual MLK Day free legal clinics in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Palmer. In partnership with 110 justice volunteers, MLK Day has provided in total more than 6,000 combined volunteer hours to 3,560 clients totaling \$561,000 in donated legal services.
- Alaska Free Legal Answers:** Provided assistance from 30 volunteer lawyers who work with low-income Alaskans on a free web-based legal clinic where clients can ask up to three civil legal questions in one year.
- Project Homeless Connect:** Provided technical assistance and organizational support for free legal services to annual Project Homeless Connect event which serves more than 700 homeless Alaskans.
- The Alaska Youth Law Guide:** Assisted in guiding young Alaskans through 31,871 downloads of the guide—a service project of the Law Related Education Committee.

Awards

Board of Governors

Distinguished Service - John Murtagh

Professionalism - Moira Smith

Layperson Service - Frances Talbott

Judge Nora Guinn - Magistrate Heidi Ivanoff

Robert Hickerson Public Service - Andy Harrington

Bryan P. Timbers Pro Bono

Individual - Lori Colbert

Firm - Lane Powell

Alaska Bar Foundation

Jay Rabinowitz Public Service

Christine Pate

Of the 4,603 members of the Alaska Bar Association, Female Attorney Categories:

Total Female Attorneys	Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive	Retired
1,740	967	262	351	156

2020 Board of Governors

- Ben Hofmeister, President
- Jessica Graham, President-Elect
- Hanna Sebold, Vice President
- Bill Granger (Public Member), Treasurer
- Diana Wildland, Secretary
- Molly Brown
- Jed Cox (Public Member)
- Bill Gordon (Public Member)
- Janell Hafner
- Cam Leonard
- Jeffrey Robinson
- Rob Stone
- Meghan "Sig" Topkok, New Lawyer Liaison

ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION

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



Financial & Administration

Bar dues	\$660
Total general fund revenue.....	\$2,792,850
Total expenses	\$2,653,425
Net Gain.....	\$139,425

Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 151 new grievances against lawyers in 2020 compared to 212 grievances in 2019, a 29% decrease.

Of the 151 new grievances, 95 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, 2 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	Lawyers
Open for Investigation on January 1, 2020	60	
Files Opened for Investigation*	+7	
Closed by Disbarment	-9	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Public Censure	0	
Closed by Private Reprimand	-1	(1 lawyer)
Closed by Written Private Admonition	-1	(1 lawyer)
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-4	(4 lawyers)
Open for Investigation on December 31, 2020	51	

*Includes matters filed in 2019

The change in open caseload decreased by 17% in 2020.

The Discipline Section did not track contacts with the public because our offices were closed beginning in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and our staff worked remotely for the remainder of the year.

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 2020.

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. A total of \$16,914.50 was paid in trustee counsel fees in 2020.

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, 2020 Pending	15
New Matters Opened	+24
Closed Matters	-25
December 31, 2020 Pending	14

BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2020

The Board of Governors:

- There were no Bar Bylaws amended in 2020.

The Alaska Supreme Court:

- The Supreme Court signed SCO 1958 which allowed a temporary suspension of Alaska Bar Rule 3(1), (3), and (6), concerning July 2020 bar examination date and deadlines.
- The Supreme Court signed SCO 1962 which allowed a temporary waiver to practice law for bar exam applicants working under AS 08.08.21(d).
- The Supreme Court signed SCO 1963 amending Bar Rule 44 to allow supervised practitioners and revise legal intern practice area.

ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 2 formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2020. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, bar counsel's office responded to 814 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.

Cover art: "Full Curl" by Bob Thompson

Bob Thompson has lived in Alaska since 1967. His love for art, like his love of Alaska has been part of him since childhood. He loves all things outdoors and considers Alaska home as well as the source of his inspiration. "Full Curl" was painted for Alaska Bar president Robert Stone and it beautifully illustrates Rob's love of aviation and Alaska's rugged wilderness.