

Alaska Bar Association

2022 Annual Report



The Alaska Bar Association has 4,716 members in the following categories:

By Status:	Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive in Alaska	Inactive Outside	Retired
	2,268	863	196	644	745

Active in Alaska by Judicial District:

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4
250	22	1,788	208

Admissions/Licensing

2022 BAR EXAM RESULTS		
Date	Applicants	Passed
Feb. 2022	43	24
1st time takers	28	18
July 2022	59	30
1st time takers	47	28

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

49 applicants were approved for admission by UBE score transfer.

35 applicants were approved for admission by reciprocity.

CLE

In 2022 while still dealing with the aftermaths of COVID-19, the CLE department delivered 26 virtual programs, 2 in-person only programs and 4 hybrid (in-person & virtual) programs. Out of these 26 programs, 15 were free of charge (9 General & 11.5 Ethics credits).

The 2022 Annual Bar Convention was held in-person in Anchorage after being cancelled in 2020 and held virtually in 2021. 406 individuals attended at least one CLE or social event.

In addition to Live Alaska Bar CLE programs and convention, the CLE department also offers CLEs with a partnership with CLEWebinars and maintains a Video-on-Demand catalog.

CLE Attendance by Program Format	
Live AK Bar CLEs (virtual & in-person)	1,633
Live webinars by CLEWebinars	79
Video-On-Demand purchases	1,892

2022 Board of Governors

- Diana Wildland, President
- Aimee Oravec, Secretary
- Nicholas Ostrovsky
- Jeffrey Robinson, President-Elect
- Ricardo Castillo (Public Member)
- Rebecca Patterson
- Ben Hofmeister, Vice President
- Jed Cox (Public Member)
- Meghan “Sig” Tapqaq
- Bill Granger (Public Member), Treasurer
- Rachel Espejo
- Ambriel Sandone, New Lawyer Liaison
- Janell Hafner

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

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

48.41% reported earning at least 12 credits

22.48% reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

29.11% reported earning only 3 ethics credits

9 Bar members were administratively suspended for failure to comply

Member Services

- **The Alaska Bar Rag:** The Bar’s newspaper is published and sent to Bar members quarterly.
- **The Alaska Law Review:** Published online by Duke Law School.
- **ALPS (Attorney Liability Protection Society):** Bar endorsed malpractice insurance company.
- **E-News:** Electronic bulletin is sent weekly to Bar members.
- **Fastcase:** All Bar members have free access to this online legal research service.
- **Insurance programs:** Bar sponsored group disability and life insurance programs for Bar members.

Pro Bono Services

- **Martin Luther King Day:** As a result of COVID-19, the Bar hosted the 13th annual MLK Day free legal clinics via Zoom and Alaska Free Legal Answers. During the event, 45 volunteers provided 101 volunteer hours to 100 low to moderate income Alaskans with civil legal needs.
- **Alaska Free Legal Answers:** Provided assistance to 245 Alaskans by 25 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.

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, 2022 Pending	31
New Matters Opened	+16
Closed Matters	-19
December 31, 2022 Pending	30

Committees and Sections

- In 2022 there were 27 active **substantive law sections**, with a total individual membership of 2,952 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members) was 3,690.
- There are **ten Standing Bar committees and five Bar Rule committees**.

Public Service

The Lawyer Referral Service had 33 attorneys in 29 practice areas.

The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 2,311 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 (\$18,750) and Alaska Institute for Justice (\$6,250) and Alaska Innocence Project (\$5,000).

The Alaska Youth Law Guide: Assisted in guiding Alaskans through 45,391 downloads of the guide—a service project of the Law Related Education Committee.

Awards

Board of Governors

- Distinguished Service* – Matt Claman
- Professionalism* – Don McClintock
- Layperson Service* – Ingrid Vanderbrink
- Robert Hickerson Public Service* – Katy Soden

Bryan P. Timbers Pro Bono

- Private practitioner* – Dorne Hawxhurst
- Firm* – Stoel Rives LLC
- Public sector* – Alice Curci

Alaska Bar Foundation Jay Rabinowitz Public Service

Mayor Patricia B. Branson

Of the 4,716 members of the Alaska Bar Association, Female Attorney Categories:

Total Female Attorneys	Active in Alaska	Active Outside	Inactive	Retired
1,819	950	296	382	191

Of the 2,268 active members in Alaska, by Race/ethnicity categories:

Alaska Native	45	Hawaiian Native or other Pacific Islander	2	White	840
Asian	31	India Subcontinent	5	Other	1
Black or African American	21	Native American	17	Not reported	1,276
Hispanic or Latino	30				

ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION

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Financial & Administration

2022 Bar Dues Breakdown for Active Members

Bar Dues: \$660

Discipline	\$260	LFCP	\$10
Administration	\$204	Bar Rag	\$6
CLE	\$58	FastCase	\$5
Pro Bono	\$35	Committees	\$5
Fee Arbitration	\$25	Sections	\$3
BOG	\$17	Web Page	\$3
Lawyer Referral	\$15	MLK Day	\$1
MCLE	\$12	New Lawyer Travel	\$1

Total general fund revenue: **\$3,094,023**

Total expenses: **\$2,782,033**

Net Gain: **\$311,990**

Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 181 new grievances against lawyers in 2022 compared to 159 grievances in 2021, a 14% increase.

Of the 181 new grievances, 144 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, 6 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	Lawyers
Open for Investigation on January 1, 2022	29	
Files Opened for Investigation*	+9	
Closed by Disbarment	0	0
Closed by Suspension by Alaska Supreme Court	0	0
Closed by Public Censure	0	0
Closed by Private Reprimand	0	0
Closed by Written Private Admonition	0	0
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-5	(4 lawyers)
Open for Investigation on December 31, 2022	32	

*Includes matters filed previous to 2022

The change in open caseload increased by 10% in 2022.

The Discipline Section tracked 123 contacts with the public beginning March 1, 2022. Our offices were closed in the first quarter of 2022 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and our staff worked remotely.

Cover art: "Alaska Love" by Dawn Gerety

Dawn Gerety was born in Sydney, Australia and raised across the globe in Girdwood, Alaska. As a lifelong Alaskan, she is moved by the natural splendor that has surrounded her for her entire life – mountains, wildlife, rivers, wildflowers and outdoor activities. Dawn paints these images and creates her own language with a swipe of color or a rigid line of dots. She injects a fiercely whimsical vitality to Alaskan icons the only way she knows how.

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. One claim was filed in 2021 and the LFCP Committee decided to hold the claim in abeyance pending resolution of a related civil lawsuit. It continued to be held in abeyance for all of 2022. No other claims were filed in 2022.

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. No fees or expenses were paid in trustee counsel fees in 2022.

BAR BYLAWS, REGULATIONS, AND COURT RULES ACTED ON IN 2022

The Board of Governors:

Amended Article III, Section 3(b) of the Bylaws of the Alaska Bar Association regarding suspension for nonpayment of Bar dues.

The Alaska Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court signed SCO 1994 adopting Bar Rule 43.5 concerning waivers for non-lawyers trained and supervised by Alaska Legal Services Corporation.

The Supreme Court signed SCO 1991 amending Professional Conduct Rule 1.8(e) and Comment concerning a gift exception to the prohibition on providing financial assistance to a client in connection with pending or contemplated litigation.

The Supreme Court signed SCO 1994 amending Professional Conduct Rule 8.4(c) and Comment concerning dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; amending Professional Conduct Rule 9.1 concerning the definition of "fraud" and adding a definition for "lawful covert investigation"; and amending cross references to Professional Conduct Rule 9.1 in the Comments to the Professional Conduct Rules.

The Supreme Court signed SCO 1980 amending Bar Rule 2 to expand access to admission by transferred UBE score and incorporate Section 1(e) into eligibility requirements for all applicants.

ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 2 formal ethics opinion proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2022. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, Bar Counsel's office responded to 804 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.