

# Alaska Bar Association

## 2024 Annual Report



### Bar members by the numbers

The Alaska Bar Association has 4,864 members in the following categories:

#### By Status:

Active in Alaska.....	2,245
Active Outside.....	923
Inactive in Alaska .....	189
Inactive Outside .....	631
Retired.....	876

#### Active in Alaska by Judicial District:

District 1 .....	248
District 2.....	22
District 3.....	1,772
District 4.....	203

#### Active in Alaska by Gender:

Female Attorneys .....	989
Male Attorneys .....	1,249
Other .....	7

#### Active in Alaska by Race/Ethnicity:

Alaska Native .....	50
Asian.....	35
Black or African American.....	22

Hawaiian Native or other Pacific Islander .....	1
Hispanic or Latino.....	32
India Subcontinent .....	7

Native American.....	18
White.....	940
Other .....	7
Not reported.....	1,133

## Admissions/Licensing

Alaska administers the **Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)** with the passing score set at 270.

### 2024 BAR EXAM RESULTS

Date	Applicants	Passed
<b>Feb. 2024</b>	45	19
1st time takers	29	14
<b>July 2024</b>	66	42
1st time takers	49	38

### Applicants Approved for Admission:

- Bar Exam: 61
- UBE Score Transfer: 52
- Admission on Motion: 48

### Temporary Waivers to Practice Issued:

- Rule 43 ALSC Waivers: 3
- Rule 43.4 Waiver for Military Spouses: 1
- Rule 43.6 Waiver to Engage in Pro Bono Practice: 3
- Rule 44 Supervised Practitioner Permits: 49
- Rule 44 Legal Intern Permits: 40
- A.S. 08.08.210. Statute Waivers (10 Month Rule): 21

## 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.
- **vLex/Fastcase:** All Bar members have free access to this online legal research service.
- **Practice Management Tools:** All Bar members have discounted access to **Clio** (case management tool) and **LawPay** (payment solution for attorneys).
- **Insurance programs:** Bar-sponsored group disability and life insurance programs for Bar members.

## CLE

In 2024, the AK Bar Continuing Legal Education (CLE) department presented a total of 73 programs, comprising 45 virtual sessions, 14 in-person events, and 14 hybrid program combining in-person and virtual elements. Among these offerings, 61 programs were provided free of charge.

There was no convention held in 2024 due to the Board of Governors’ decision to move the convention to the spring of 2025.

The Alaska Bar offered 82 general CLE credits and 5 Ethics credits through the facilitation of 107 section meetings.

Beyond the live Alaska Bar CLE programs, convention and section meetings, the CLE department extends its educational reach through partnerships with Clio, ALPS, Fastcase, and CLEWebinars. Additionally, it maintains a comprehensive Video-on-Demand catalog, ensuring accessible and diverse educational resources for its audience.

### CLE Attendance by Program Format

Live AK Bar CLEs (virtual & in-person)	<b>2,175+</b>
Section Meeting CLEs	<b>2,449+</b>
SharedED Programs	<b>80</b>
Video-On-Demand Purchases	<b>3,289</b>

## 2024 Board of Governors

- Jeffrey Robinson, President
- Rebecca Patterson, President-Elect
- Ben Hofmeister, Vice President
- Bill Granger (Public Member), Treasurer
- Aimee Oravec, Secretary
- Jed Cox (Public Member)
- Rachel Espejo
- Donald Handeland (Public Member)
- Grace Lee
- Nicholas Ostrovsky
- Meghan “Sig” Tapqaq
- Patrick Roach
- Ambriel Sandone, New Lawyer Liaison



## Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

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Active Bar members are required to:

- earn at least 3 CLE ethics credits and report MCLE compliance annually
- encouraged to earn an additional 9 credits
- In 2024, Bar members report their MCLE compliance for 2023

99.53% reported compliance

51.39% reported earning at least 12 credits

20.71% reported earning between 3 and 11 credits

27.83% reported earning only 3 ethics credits

14 Bar members were administratively suspended for failure to comply

Starting January 1, 2025, active Bar members will be required to earn twelve CLE credit hours per year. Three of those twelve CLE credits must be ethics credits.

## Awards

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### Alaska Bar Foundation

**Jay Rabinowitz Public Service:** *Bill Gordon*

The following awards were not given in 2024 due to the annual convention moving to April 2025:

### Board of Governor Awards:

*Distinguished Service, Professionalism, Layperson Service, Robert Hickerson Public Service;*

**Judge Nora Guinn Award;** and

**Bryan P. Timbers Pro Bono Awards.**

## Committees and Sections

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- In 2024 there were 28 active substantive law sections, with a total individual membership of 2,914 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members) was 3,675. The Alaska Bar Association held 107 section meetings with over 2,449 attendees.
- There are **ten standing Bar committees** and **five Bar Rule committees.**

## Pro Bono Services

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- **Martin Luther King Day:** The Bar hosted the 15th annual MLK Day free legal clinic in four communities throughout Alaska: Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, and Juneau. During the events, 77 volunteers provided 215 volunteer hours to 176 low to moderate income Alaskans with civil legal needs.
- **Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic:** The Bar hosted its 11th annual free legal clinic during the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention for convention attendees in Anchorage. During the event, 18 volunteers provided 56 volunteer hours to serve 26 clients.
- **Alaska Free Legal Answers:** On a free web-based legal clinic where clients can ask up to three civil legal questions in one year, 9 lawyers volunteered 142 hours of legal work to answer 248 questions on behalf of 231 low-income Alaskans.

## Public Service

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**Lawyer Referral Service:** had 39 attorneys in 29 practice areas. The Lawyer Referral Service provided referrals to 3,993 callers. The most frequently requested areas were divorce/custody; negligence; and labor relations.

**Alaska Bar Foundation:** distributed IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) grants to Alaska Legal Services Corporation (\$41,250), Alaska Institute for Justice (\$13,750), and Alaska Innocence Project (\$10,000).

**Alaska Youth Law Guide:** Law Related Education Committee updated and maintained the public education resource which helps young Alaskans understand the law and how it may affect them.

**Scholarships:** The Scholarship Fundraising and Implementation Committee offers law school scholarships to current 1st or 2nd year law students who demonstrate ties to Alaska, and an intent to return to Alaska. Since inception in 2019, the Scholarship Committee has raised a total of \$68,980 and has awarded 92 scholarships ranging from \$100-\$5,000.



## Financial & Administration

### 2024 Bar Dues Breakdown for Active Members

Bar Dues: <b>\$660</b>			
Discipline	\$267	MCLE	\$9
Administration	\$202	Succession Planning	\$8
CLE	\$53	Vlex/FastCase	\$7
Pro Bono	\$37	Bar Rag	\$6
BOG	\$21	Marketing/ Communications	\$4
Fee Arbitration	\$20	Sections	\$2
Lawyer Referral	\$13	Committees	\$1
LFCP	\$10		
Total general fund revenue: <b>\$3,242,619</b>			
Total expenses: <b>\$2,897,310</b>			
Net Gain: <b>\$345,309</b>			

## Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 179 new grievances against lawyers in 2024 compared to 218 grievances in 2023, an 18% decrease.

Of the 179 new grievances, 51 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation, 41 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	Lawyers
Files Opened for Investigation*	+41	
Closed by Disbarment	-16	1
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	-2	2
Dismissed after Formal Investigation	-16	(10 lawyers)
Open for investigation on December 31, 2024	65	

\*Includes matters filed previous to 2024

The change in open caseload increased by 14% in 2024.

The Discipline Section tracked 232 contacts with the public in 2024.

**Cover art: "Across from Sheep Mountain" by Lynn Brautigam Boots.** Boots was born in Alaska and has always been inspired to reflect the beauty of her home. She employs a classic impressionist technique, stretching the color and letting your eye fill in the details. Her favorite place to be is painting en plein air in front of an incredible vista.

## 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, 2024 Pending	31
New Matters Opened	+34
Closed Matters	-21
December 31, 2024 Pending	44

## 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 had 6 claims in 2024, totaling \$98,958.93. 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. In 2024 \$627.66 was paid to reimburse a trustee counsel's postage fees.

## Bar Bylaws, Regulations, and Court Rules Acted On in 2024

### The Board of Governors:

Amended Article IV, Section 3 and Article VI, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Alaska Bar Association to have Board of Governor members and officer terms transition at the close of the annual business meeting.

### Alaska Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court signed SCO 2031 amending Bar Rules 2, 3, 43, 43.1, 43.3, 43.4, and 44 concerning admission and practice waiver requirements.

The Supreme Court signed SCO 2020 adopting Bar Rule 43.6 to establish a practice waiver for out-of-state attorneys to participate in pro bono practice under the supervision of a qualified legal services provider; and adding headings to Parts IV and VI.

The Supreme Court signed SCO 2016 amending Bar Rules 65 and 66 to increase mandatory continuing legal education to 12 credit hours of which 3 must be ethics per year for active bar members.

## ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 0 formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2024. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, Bar Counsel's office responded to 916 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.