



To: Members of the Alaska Bar Association

From: Danielle Bailey, Executive Director

Date: November 18, 2024

Subject: **2024 Alaska Bar Membership Survey Results**

Earlier this fall, the Alaska Bar Association conducted a membership survey to better understand how we can enhance the services, resources, and support we provide to legal professionals across the state. We are glad to report that 12% of our active membership participated, and even more excited to share that 89.4% of respondents reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the Alaska Bar.

This positive feedback is a great starting point, but we see it as only the beginning. We are committed to using the survey insights to further improve our offerings and increase member satisfaction. Below is an overview of the survey findings and the next steps we’re taking.

Member Benefits:

Your feedback reassured us that most membership benefits are highly valued, with only four scoring below 60%: the Alaska Law Review, Fastcase/vLex, the Fee Arbitration Program, and member discounts on commercial products (Clio, LawPay, etc.). Many respondents were unaware of these benefits, so we plan to better communicate their value. For example:

- 21.9% didn’t know that Fastcase/vLex is a legal research platform offered for free to members.
- Alaska Law Review and commercial product discounts are provided at no cost to the Bar.
- Our partnership with Clio not only offers members a 10% discount on the member management platform, but also benefits the entire Bar as Clio contributes ongoing financial support to the Bar for every member that uses their program.

We’re committed to showcasing the value of these benefits to ensure members can take full advantage of them.

Opportunities and Participation in the Bar:

Most members find Bar-offered opportunities important, but some expressed interest in learning more or becoming more involved. For those who provided their email, we’ll be reaching out early next year with details about engagement opportunities.

Pro Bono Opportunities and Involvement:

Only 15% of respondents reported meeting the recommended 50 hours of pro bono service, citing various barriers to volunteering. To address these challenges, we will be:

- Collaborating with our new Pro Bono Director and legal service providers.

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- Planning free CLEs on subject-specific training.
- Exploring co-counseling opportunities to ease the burden of pro bono work.
- Evaluating new ways to incentivize pro bono work.

CLE and Convention:

The survey highlighted that seminar topics are the biggest draw for CLEs and conventions. Members expressed a desire for more practice-oriented, subject-specific options. We are:

- Reviving and energizing Bar sections to develop targeted CLEs.
- Collaborating with the court system, adjunct legal organizations, and community partners to develop broader range of CLE programs.
- Expanding the number of concurrent sessions at Convention to offer a wider variety of topics and speakers.
- Actively seeking suggestions for speakers and topics. If you have ideas, please bridge@alaskabar.org!

Learning from Other Bars:

For members of multiple Bars, we asked what offerings from other jurisdictions we should consider. Again, we were happy to see that many of you felt our Bar offered better services. However, you also provided some good suggestions:

- Practice area listservs.
- Online systems for tracking CLE credits.

We are exploring these and other ideas and will reach out to other Bars for inspiration.

Improving Bar Operations:

We appreciated your candid feedback on areas for improvement:

- Inactive Sections: Sections that haven't met in the past year will be moved to inactive status. Starting in 2025, members will only be able to sign up for active sections.
- Rural Outreach: We are working to serve all of Alaska. In 2024, we visited Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Sitka, and Nome, hosting CLEs, legal programming, and community events. Let us know if your community is due for a visit, and we'll try to add it to our calendar.
- Affinity and Local Bars: We're developing a guide on starting local or affinity Bars and plan to strengthen our connections with existing ones.

Membership Dues:

We recognize that lowering dues is a priority for many members. While we can't reduce dues in 2025, we are proud to mark the 14th consecutive year without an increase. Additionally, Alaska Bar dues are no longer the highest in the nation, despite being one of only nine Bars to handle admissions and discipline independently without state funding. We are committed to finding ways to keep costs down.

Thank you for your participation and feedback.

We remain committed to delivering value, improving our services, and supporting AK Bar members across Alaska. The full results of the survey are included on the next pages. If you have additional suggestions, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at bailey@alaskabar.org.



2024 Alaska Bar Membership Survey Results

The Alaska Bar Association conducted its 2024 membership and stakeholder survey. The survey was made public on September 16, 2024 and it was open until October 7, 2024. The survey was directed to every bar member and individual who subscribes to the Alaska Bar Association's E-News. On September 16, 2024, the survey was first advertised. A direct email to all bar members was sent with a link to the survey, it was posted on the Alaska Bar's Facebook page, and it was added to the Latest News section of the Alaska bar's Website. A reminder to fill out the survey was also included in the weekly E-news of the Bar. Below are the survey results.

1. What is your current status with the Alaska Bar Association?

Active: 392
Retired: 57
Inactive: 34
Resigned: 1
Paying dues, not practicing: 2
Emeritus: 1
Waiver: 1
Negatively impacted pro se: 1

2. How many years have you been a member of the Alaska Bar Association?

<u>All Responses</u>	<u>Active Only</u>
Non-attorney/no answer: 2	Non-attorney/no answer: 0
Less than 5: 51	Less than 5: 50 (13%)
5-10: 50	5-10: 44 (11%)
11-20: 110	11-20: 106 (27%)
21-30: 87	21-30: 70 (18%)
31+: 189	31+: 122 (31%)

3. Which of the following best describes your practice? (active data only)

Private, solo: 25.3%
Government: 21.7%
Private, office of 6 or more: 17.9%
Private, office of 2-5: 12.2%
Public Service Agency: 6.4%
Private Corporate Attorney: 6.4%
Judge or Judicial Officer: 6.4%
Other (mediator, tribal, administrative, pro bono, contract): 3.7%

4. In which judicial district is most of your work conducted? (active data only)

First: 8.7%

Second: 2.3%

Third: 70.2%

Fourth: 8.7%

Outside: 9.7%

5. What is the main way you receive communication from the Bar? (active data only)

Direct Email: 95.9%

Alaska Bar Rag: 2.6%

Bar Website: 1%

6. Do you think the following member benefit is valuable? (active data only)

a. Alaska Bar Committees

Yes: 67.6%

No: 15.6%

Unaware of Service: 13%

No Answer: 3.8%

b. Alaska Bar Rag

Yes: 72.4%

No: 23.7%

Unaware of Service: 1.5%

No Answer: 2.3%

c. Alaska Bar Sections

Yes: 81.9%

No: 12.5%

Unaware of Service: 3.1%

No Answer: 2.6%

d. Website

Yes: 90.69%

No: 3.6%

Unaware of Service: 2.3%

No Answer: 3.6%

e. Alaska Law Review

Yes: 54.3%

No: 34.2%

Unaware of Service: 5.9%

No Answer: 5.6%

f. Employment Bulletin Board

Yes: 61.5%

No: 5.1%

Unaware of Service: 21.2%

No Answer: 5.1%

g. Ethics Opinions

Yes: 93.4%

No: 2.3%

Unaware of Service: 3.1%

No Answer: 1.6%

h. Fastcase/vLex (free legal research)

Yes: 44.6%

No: 27.3%

Unaware of Service: 21.9%

No Answer: 6.1%

i. Fee Arbitration Program

Yes: 55.9%

No: 15.1%

Unaware of Service: 23.0%

No Answer: 6.1%

j. Free ethics guidance for attorneys

Yes: 93.9%

No: 1.2%

Unaware of Service: 2.8%

No Answer: 2.0%

k. Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA)

Yes: 62.5%

No: 16.1%

Unaware of Service: 14.8%

No Answer: 6.6%

l. Lawyer Referral Service

Yes: 63.3%

No: 17.6%

Unaware of Service: 11.7%

No Answer: 7.4%

m. Lawyers' Assistance Committee

Yes: 60.3%

No: 10.2%

Unaware of Service: 22.5%

No Answer: 7.0%

n. Member Discounts on Commercial Products (Clio, LawPay, etc.)

Yes: 30.1%

No: 33.9%

Unaware of Service: 30.4%

No Answer: 5.6%

o. Online Lawyer Directory

Yes: 80.6%

No: 8.4%

Unaware of Service: 7.1%

No Answer: 3.8%

p. Weekly E-News Emails

Yes: 71.4%

No: 14.3%

Unaware of Service: 8.2%

No Answer: 6.1%

7. Do you find the following opportunities offered by the Alaska Bar important? (active data only)

a. Networking (convention, sections, committees, events, meetings, etc.)

Yes: 69.4%

No: 24.0%

Unaware of Opportunity: 3.6%

No Answer: 3.1%

b. Service Opportunities that benefit the community (pro bono, legal clinics, lawyer's assistance committee, etc.)

Yes: 78.1%

No: 14.5%

Unaware of Opportunity: 4.1%

No Answer: 3.3%

c. Opportunities to participate in the improvement of the law (committees, task forces, etc.)

Yes: 68.9%

No: 16.1%

Unaware of Opportunity: 10.7%

No Answer: 4.3%

d. Professional Development (CLE, convention, etc.)

Yes: 90.6%

No: 6.4%

Unaware of Opportunity: 1.0%

No Answer: 2.0%

8. Does the Alaska Bar deliver the following opportunities well?

a. Networking (convention, sections, committees, events, meetings, etc.)

Yes: 67.6%

No: 22.2%

Unaware of Opportunity: 6.6%

No Answer: 3.6%

b. Service Opportunities that benefit the community (pro bono, legal clinics, lawyer's assistance committee, etc.)

Yes: 71.4%

No: 14.3%

Unaware of Opportunity: 9.2%

No Answer: 5.1%

c. Opportunities to participate in the improvement of the law (committees, task forces, etc.)

Yes: 56.1%

No: 20.9%

Unaware of Opportunity: 18.1%

No Answer: 4.8%

d. Professional Development (CLE, convention, etc.)

Yes: 82.7%

No: 13.3%

Unaware of Opportunity: 1.7%

No Answer: 2.3%

9. In what capacity have you participated within the Alaska Bar community?

a. Served as a trustee counsel

No Answer: 93.7%

Participated within past year: 1%

Participated more than a year ago: 3.5%

I would like to participate/more information: 1.8%

b. Served on a fee arbitration panel

No Answer: 85.3%

Participated within past year: 2.8%

Participated more than a year ago: 8.6%

I would like to participate/more information: 3.1%

- c. Served on a discipline hearing committee**
 - No Answer: 89.4%
 - Participated within past year: 2.2%
 - Participated more than a year ago: 4.9%
 - I would like to participate/more information: 3.5%

- d. Section chair**
 - No Answer: 87.9%
 - Participated within past year: 2.5%
 - Participated more than a year ago: 8.0%
 - I would like to participate/more information: 1.4%

- e. Section member**
 - No Answer: 39.1%
 - Participated within past year: 39.5%
 - Participated more than a year ago: 20.0%
 - I would like to participate/more information: 1.2%

- f. Committee member**
 - No Answer: 70.1%
 - Participated within past year: 14.5%
 - Participated more than a year ago: 12.3%
 - I would like to participate/more information: 3.1%

- g. Wrote for the Bar Rag**
 - No Answer: 85.9%
 - Participated within past year: 3.7%
 - Participated more than a year ago: 8.2%
 - I would like to participate/more information: 2.2%

- h. Wrote for the Alaska Law Review**
 - No Answer: 90.2%
 - Participated within past year: 0.8%
 - Participated more than a year ago: 6.1%
 - I would like to participate/more information: 2.9%

- i. Speaker at a CLE**
 - No Answer: 63.2%
 - Participated within past year: 10.8%
 - Participated more than a year ago: 23.5%
 - I would like to participate/more information: 2.2%

j. Served on a task force or proposed a Bar Rule change

No Answer: 63.0%

Participated within past year: 11.9%

Participated more than a year ago: 22.3%

I would like to participate/more information: 1.8%

k. Volunteered on a pro bono case or opportunity through a legal service provider

No Answer: 87.9%

Participated within past year: 3.5%

Participated more than a year ago: 6.3%

I would like to participate/more information: 2.2%

l. Volunteered on Alaska Free Legal Answers

No Answer: 90.0%

Participated within past year: 1.8%

Participated more than a year ago: 5.1%

I would like to participate/more information: 3.1%

m. Volunteered at a legal clinic

No Answer: 75.9%

Participated within past year: 4.3%

Participated more than a year ago: 16.2%

I would like to participate/more information: 3.3%

n. Served on a board of the Alaska Bar, a local or affinity bar, or other adjunct organization

No Answer: 83.8%

Participated within past year: 5.3%

Participated more than a year ago: 9.2%

I would like to participate/more information: 1.2%

o. Spoke to a class or organization about law related education

No Answer: 62.0%

Participated within past year: 10.2%

Participated more than a year ago: 23.3%

I would like to participate/more information: 3.3%

p. Spoke to a class or organization about our judicial selection and retention system

No Answer: 84.7%

Participated within past year: 5.7%

Participated more than a year ago: 5.9%

I would like to participate/more information: 3.1%

10. ARPC 6.1 encourages 50 hours annually of pro bono service—either free or deeply discounted consistent with the rule—to low income Alaskans with civil legal needs. How many hours of pro bono did you perform in 2023?

0:	34.63%
1 to 10:	6.76%
11 to 20:	5.53%
21 to 49:	7.17%
50:	6.56%
51 to 99:	3.07%
100 to 250:	5.33%
250 +:	.82%
Work @ Non-profit:	3.48%
Don't Know:	3.89%
No Answer:	22.75%

11. What resources would be valuable in supporting your pro bono work?

- No Answer: 259 responses
- Focused CLE subject area training: 140
- Co-counsel opportunities: 139
- Mentoring: 76
- Annual meet/greet w/ legal service providers: 44
- Other: 38

Other Responses
my current employment does not lend itself to pro bono work
written guidance
dedicated email; address & phone numbers so don't have to use personal
Keep FastCase!! Essential to my ability to do pro bono
a forms/template/brief bank
Other:got to see later
government employee
I am retired
I do not live or practice in Alaska at this time.
I do simple things on local basis
I don't need support from the Bar.
Insurance
it's incompatible with most SOA law jobs, even if technically possible
Malpractice coverage for Wills clinics- they are impossible to organize without it and ALSC doesn't have the resources to support wills clinics anymore
malpractice insurance coverage for attorneys in retired status
Other: A different job; I am limited by my work.
Other: A lot more time. I already work overtime and have a personal life
Other: Ability to receive information on non-personal or corporate work emails

Other: access to volunteer staff
Other: As a public service employee, I work very long hours, for a fraction of the pay of private counsel. I volunteer for clinics arranged occasionally (DV or landlord-tenant) when there is not a conflict of interest.
Other: Be aware that many courts/judges (for law clerks) prohibit pro bono service during clerkships
Other: By statute, I may not engage in the practice of law except in my official capacity.
Other: Do not think that being in Wyoming and retired there would be much opportunity.
Other: Ethical Guidance AND training in Domestic Bowls dynamics. Some lawyers are so aggressive and money hungry they are bankrupting Survivors and causing women and children to be homeless. If your lawyers shield ABUSIVE men, then you're lawyers are a BIG BIG BIG part of makes Alaska the MOST DANGEROUS state for women. The utter lack of ethics in some cases is a DISGRACE to your organization.
Other: Expanded definition of pro bono for retired status attorneys that would include advising charitable organizations
Other: Figure something out with federal agency that makes it difficult to do outside work
Other: finding some for judicial officers
Other: more time
Other: More time in the day/competing interest for limited time/less MCLE hours
Other: None ..This rule is bullshit
Other: Not sure there is anything.
Other: pro bono work is important but it should NOT be required, it may require extra insurance and other considerations
Other: Retired. Previously worked out of state.
Other: Service for community based organization.
Other: The whole system is based on false premise, very demeaning to recipients
Other: Time
Other: Work with PDA/OPA to make pro bono possible.
Other:When I retire soon I may donate time

12. Rank which plays the biggest factor in what encourages you to attend CLE programs

a. Format (Live/In person)

- Very important: 29.9%
- Somewhat important: 35.4%
- Not Important: 24.1%
- No answer: 10.6%

b. Cost

Very important: 47.2%
Somewhat important: 35.0%
Not Important: 10.0%
No answer: 7.8%

c. Content/topic

Very important: 85.3%
Somewhat important: 7.8%
Not Important: 0.8%
No answer: 6.1%

d. Time/date of the program

Very important: 44.6%
Somewhat important: 36.0%
Not Important: 10.0%
No answer: 9.4%

e. Reputation of speakers

Very important: 35.2%
Somewhat important: 42.9%
Not Important: 14.9%
No answer: 9.6%

f. Number of credits offered

Very important: 30.1%
Somewhat important: 40.9%
Not Important: 18.6%
No answer: 10.4%

13. What is your preference for CLE program format?

Watch on Demand: 45.8%
Live/In person: 26.2%
Live virtual: 22.1%
No answer: 5.9%

14. What is your preference for CLE program length?

1-2 Hour: 61.6%
3 Hours: 28.6%
Full Day Seminars: 4.3%
No Answer: 5.5%

15. What is your preference for CLE program times?

- Morning: 32.3%
- Lunch: 23.9%
- Afternoon: 20.7%
- After work: 9.6%
- No answer: 13.5%

16. What would you like to see in our CLE programming?

1) How to volunteer more 2) topics related to government service
16. What would you like to see in our CLE programming? (general topics or specific speakers)
Advanced practice seminars on commercial topics.
AI training for lawyers would be a useful and timely topic
AI; cybersecurity
Alaska Legislature procedures
Alaska Native Law
Alaska Native law
Alaska native law and tribal sovereignty
Alaska specific ethics
Alaska specific programming. The ALPS ethics vinets leave a lot to be desired.
Alaska-specific practice tips in areas and Alaska specific ethics programs.
Annual legislative update; annual alaska supreme court decisions update; Q&A roundtable lunch with active or retired state judges; Annual ethics and disciplinary update;
answers to reasonable questions
Bankruptcy
Bankruptcy, Immigration, Public Benefits (SSI/SSDI and VA appeals), law office management (business)
Bar counsel explaining ethics opinions when they come out. More panels for education.
Basic bankruptcy law for the non-bankruptcy practitioner
Better MCLE's.
Business ethics
Career advice; work-life balance as an attorney; practical skills (i.e., conducting an effective deposition, oral argument preparation, resolving discovery disputes, etc.); trainings on arbitration and mediation; review of key ethics opinions
case law updates; statutory changes
Changes to Alaska Law
Civil Procedure
CLE credits compliant with other jurisdictions (eg, I need credits for my bar membership in WA, so if given the choice between a class that will give credit for WA and AK vs one that only gives credit for AK, 99% of the time I'll do the first class)

Commercial and construction law, contract drafting and negotiation, debtor/creditor law; generally subjects that develop practitioners' knowledge and expertise with a primary emphasis on application to daily practice in these areas.
constitutional law
Court room presentation and technology
Criminal law updates, judges as panelists, solo practitioner information, introductory CLEs for all areas of law, i.e. crash course on bankruptcy, employment, immigration, etc
Criminal Trial techniques and issues, Rules of Evidence, Pre-trial motions, criminal appeals
Current developments in the law
Current issues
Current topics and speakers offered are already very good!
Cybercrime, AI , Arctic law, international law, elder law
Data Privacy, Cybersecurity, Federal Contracting, Environmental Law
Disability law, social security disability and health law
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE and HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN. YOU must teach lawyers how to build a case. These types of cases are complex and dangerous for Victims and their children.
e-discovery, Artificial Intelligence
Elder Law, Medicaid
election law, immigration law, to boost pro bono work. Modernize CLE offerings: intellectual property, AI-related legal, IP issues in self-publication journalism and other content in social media. Some of these topics could expand universe of wannabe attendees who will pay to attend (not just lawyers)? Updates in some of the core topics (contract, criminal and civil procedure)
Emerging issues in particular areas of the law directed to practice areas (e.g., not just Constitutional law updates, but family law updates, employment law updates etc.)
Employment Law
Employment law
Environmental law, public lands law, administrative/regulatory law, judicial review of agency decision-making, appellate advocacy, injunctive relief. Traditional two-party civil litigation for damages and criminal prosecution are not relevant to my work and a big reason I haven't taken advantage of many Alaska Bar programs.
Estate planning
Estate planning; tax planning; probate; trust planning; Community Property
ethics
Ethics
Ethics in Employment Law
Ethics, practice management and client management (esp. personality disorder related.)
Ethics.
Ethics; Civility; Legal Research; Access to Justice; Advising Difficult Clients

Ethics; Personal Injury Issues
family law
fewer gimmicky presentations, more nuts and bolts
general topics
Get rid of the requirement for CLE beyond that for ethics. That is what bar members were promised when ethics CLEs were required. Now the bar association has lied to members and agreed to requiring more CLE hours. So much for trusting the association.
Health law
Housing Law
hybrid viewing - where if you aren't in Anchorage you can attend via live feed
I actually get plenty of CLE through my sections and through other organizations
I appreciate general explainers like the most recent "probate for the generalist", and as many free ethics CLE's as are possible.
I generally take ethics classes
I liked the bar conventions where there appeared to be themes, like the year there were a lot of CLEs related to the interaction of law and psychology and the one with the former Enron employee. It seems there has been more of an emphasis on the business end of the legal practice recently, which is not of interest to everyone.
I think it is a pretty good range now. I usually attend ethics CLEs and those focused on my practice areas.
I would like more CLEs about developing practical skills, e.g., how to cross an expert, instead of lectures more focused on learning about a topic
Improving courthouse efficiency and capacity
In house counsel ethics. Refreshers on fast case use.
judicial matters-ethics, decisions
Juvenile Justice Issues, and I can be a co-presenter. It is what I do exclusively after retiring from OPA in 2013 and going solo in private practice.
Lack of diversity in the judiciary
Legal response to misrepresentation and criminal agitation on any and all platforms
Less esoterica, less of the same tired Boomer speakers recycling the same lectures year after year,
Litigating for incarcerated individuals
Managing group practice
Medicaid
Merger and acquisition, real estate, corporate transparency act
Mining, Construction, Maritime
more "Off the Record" CLEs, but with the Superior and District Courts
more criminal defense and ethics
More criminal programming.
More estate planning programming and commercial work.
More ethics

More ethics
More ethics credits
More ethics.
More ethics; history; law connected to current events
more free ethics choices
more free ethics opportunities
More free opportunities.
more MCLE programs relevant to pro-bono work
More national experts on a variety of topics who are not gimmicky or "partisan"
More on Alaska Native law issues
More on ethics that is specific to government attorneys. More in person outside of the big cities (Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks)
More practical CLEs
more practice-oriented offerings
More speakers from out of state with exceptional nationally recognized skills. More ethics. The number of attorneys violating ethics is through the roof. Many, many lawyers don't have escrow/ trust accounts and/or take vehicles and other valuables from clients without accounting for it as payment or on accounts receivable. There is not monitoring or accountability. WAY to many are taking HUGE flat fees, including the bulk of criminal attorneys, not keeping billable hours or tracking hours, have vague or illegal client contracts and are basically steeling from clients with HUGE flat fees they haven't earned and then lying to their clients about their rights afterwards regarding any refund. More training for judges and practitioners on the Rules of Evidence. More training about ethical motion practice and duty of candor to the court.
More specific and fewer out-of-state speakers who don't research AK law.
More training on cross over issues, like how DVPTOs and CINA intersect. Or CINA and DV criminal cases.
motion writing, ethics
N.A.
N/A
NAGPRA Tribal issues Emerging Contaminants
natural resources and environmental law, Alaska Native law, respecting gender identity and pronouns in legal filings
NEW AI
No Clue
None
Nuts and bolts type programs
post-conviction relief training
Practical application to my areas of expertise.
practical information about specific subject matter areas
primers on litigation (objections, motion practice, depositions)

Pro Bono representations of clients seeking DV protective orders; ethics for government attorneys; land use law in Alaska
Probate
Probate and Estate Planning
Probate and estate planning with written materials and forms.
Real estate, merger and acquisition, finance
Real estate/business
Refresher courses in different areas of civil practice
Review of cases pending before the US SC; AK legislation impacting the Court System
SCOTUS Review, AK Supreme Court review, federal Indian law
Social Security—general knowledge
Specific
Specific speakers
specific speakers
specific topics
Summary of Changes in AK Law Quarterly
tax, finance, business transactions
technology use updates for efficiency of small offices
There are extremely few in-person opportunities for attorneys practicing outside Anchorage.
Tips for more efficient discovery and trial tactics
Updates on areas of law, issues with ethics in a small town
What in-house counsel needs to know about... (insurance, buying/selling property, employment law, OSHA complaint process, what to do when police show up with a search warrant, due diligence for buying another company...)
Workers compensation issues that affect other areas of practice.

17. Did you attend either of the past two Alaska Bar Conventions?

No: 77.7%

Yes: 20.0%

No Answer: 2.2%

18. If you did not attend, could you please provide the reasons why and what changes would make you more likely to attend the next convention on April 23-25, 2025?

No Answer: 132

Seminar topics were not relevant to my practice needs: 160

Meeting date was not convenient: 130

Location of the meeting: 119

Registration fee exceeded my budget: 89

Did not need CLE Credits: 80

Other costs exceeded my budget: 66

Firm/Organization does not support my attending: 44

Quality of speakers: 27

Retired: 17

Live out of state: 13

Other: 47

Other Responses:
These are not meant to be critiques in-and-of themselves. Rather, the three-above factors combined with my current caseload obligations make it difficult to attend. It takes a lot of planning in advance to commit to attending, and I just haven't been able to make the necessary plans in advance/commitment to attend. I hope to change this for the upcoming 2025 convention and attend if possible.
Allow virtual attendance
Allow virtual attendance
Busy
Cannot see any benefit
Conflicted with Judicial Conference
Cost, and I work in another profession full time now.
Covid
Don't want to spend a whole weekend at the conference, and I prefer to do CLE at very random times (often the middle of the night)
Get most of my CLE credits internally
I am a commercial fisherman who does "low bono" legal services and cannot afford to attend conventions
I attend the annual judicial conference.
I did attend the September 23 convention. ABA staff physically took the mic I was using to ask a question. Three weeks later Hamas attacked Israel. Why does the ABA suppress free speech? And why will the ABA ignore this question and fail to contact me with a respectful response?
I do not find the Bar Conventions relevant
I have a 35 year unbroken record of not attending I believe.
I have no interest in attending the convention - I have attended CLEs when convention was in Anchorage.
I swore I would never attend another convention when the Bar invited the author of the torture memo to speak.(John Yoo)
I was not in the State at the time of the convention
I was unable to get time off

I'm happy to attend when they are in Juneau but less likely to travel for them.
Inactive
Inactive
Inactive, do my CLE in home state
It has just never been on my radar as something to do.
Just not interested in mingling with the egos present
lack of time or interest
No need to network
Not admitted
Not admitted
Not aware we had one and unclear if my job would send me.
Not something I am real interested in
Nothing of benefit from the convention.
Other work commitments
Out of state
Prefer CLE on demand
Purely a time/cost calculation.
Scheduling conflict
Semi- retired; other interests
Speakers seemed politically motivated last year
Too busy
Too busy.
Unable to miss that much work.
Unaware of the program
Was not a bar member 2 years ago
Was on vacation
Work demands
Your org condones unethical behavior

19. What would you like to see for the next convention on April 23-25, 2025?

A speaker on the law who speaks void of political partisanship
A virtual option if not offered. If offered, more advertising of the virtual offering.
Alaska Native Law
Always love Chemerinsky, how to deal with difficult opposing counsel, hearing directly from judges on their preferences
Anchorage
Appellate case law "year in review" presentations are always appreciated.
Chemerinsky Supreme Court Update
Chemerinsky/Levenson
civics training
commercial and real estate law CLE topics

constitutional law, path to federal and state judgeships
Criminal law topics
Decent vegan and GF food options for ticketed meals.
Ethics training; SCOTUS/AK Supreme Court Review; Indian Law updates
Free registration for those attending from out of town.
From past attendance, they are boring and a lot of self aggrandizement by mediocre lawyers.
I can't afford to attend.
I want the judges there. The convention I went to last year was hard to attend because of all the court hearings I had to attend.
I will likely not attend.
I would like to see a discussion about access to courts by pro se litigants and whether there should be different ethical considerations when one party is representing him or herself.
I would like to see the conventions moved back to Fall instead of Spring, as the Spring timeframe does not allow me to attend.
in Honolulu
Invite Barack and Michelle Obama! If they accept, be prepared to dramatically increase your hotel reservation space (and negotiate a corresponding room discount to go with it). Preference would be to let them speak on whatever they want (we know it will be good, and we know it will be relevant) bc seeing what they choose is interesting in and of itself. Limit attendance to Bar members and ticket holders only (to prevent Bar convention from becoming nothing more than a wide-scale media event for speakers and bar members). Increase one-time only bar member registration costs (one-time only) to handle the additional costs that will probably be incurred + give ABA a somewhat higher margin for (also one-time only) if ABA needs to generate additional revenue. If they do not accept, compile short list of other potential featured guests that will help you generate revenue: Lisa Murkowski? Andrew Weissman, Jeffrey Toobin, Sisters-in-Law podcast legal experts, Ari Melber, et al. Think outside of your traditional box for ways to generate additional revenue so we don't have to keep raising membership dues (seems like this is necessary in light of declining membership).
It is difficult to distinguish between the programs from year to year for the past decade. Maybe that could change.
It would be great to engage public attorneys (AAG/OPA/PDA/DOL/Muni) as lawyers and Bar members. We make up a large part of the Bar, yet are not engaged by Bar programming.
Keynote speaker and banquet are not necessary
Lawyer networking. Getting to know each other
lawyers and retirement plans; lawyers role in democracy
Let members ask questions don't take the microphone away from them because you're afraid of the question or the answer
Look forward to being there, networking opportunities.
Mock jury selection presentation. Seminars/speaker re: elder abuse/fraud
more balanced presentation of political views
More civil law related topics. I do not practice in criminal or family law, so anything but those.
More criminal CLE's.

More directly legal topical presentations, less community-building type presentations. This suggestion is for the convention, not for CLEs in general which appropriately offer a wide range for different interests. I would love for convention attendance to increase and perhaps more "hard law" type presentations would encourage attendance.
More focus on what practicing attorneys need to learn. I loved the informal Q and A's with Justice Borghesan and the Alaska Supreme Court. It would be helpful to do something similar with Superior Court judges.
more in-depth caselaw review
More information about outreach to younger communities to develop more legal professional in our area for the future
More of the same
More people attending and government and private firms to encourage or mandate attendance
More Professor Levenson, and less Professor Chemerinsky
More programming focusing directly on the practice of law and the development of knowledge and expertise in areas that practitioners actually deal with day to day; much less programming on divisive social science-focused subjects like race, gender, etc. that are more akin to reeducation programming and in my experience do not provide meaningful value to the Bar's professional members.
More programming for public sector attorneys.
More topics of interest to active and retired judges
More topics relevant to in-house and Native law
N/A
N/A
N/A
No changes
No Desire
No liberal keynote speakers. Always seems to be a political agenda in selecting them.
No opinion
No opinion.
no preference
None
None
Not applicable
not sure
Not sure
Nothing to offer.
On line or on demand viewing
online access
Opportunity to get 12 cle credits
Option to attend virtually
Outside speaker on commercial or real estate topics

Personal Injury Topics
Practice focused topics/
Pre meeting service day or afternoon
Prof Chemerinsky
Professors Chemerinski and Levinson
Return to format precovid very disappointed in last convention
Sessions on office and law technology and hardware/equipment to streamline and make the practice more efficient. Also, need more CLS on the actual management of a law office such as business taxes, CTA and FINCEN, insurance, labor and employment topics, etc., having to do with the actual setting up and management of a law office.
Skip the whole thing
Some middle of the political spectrum speakers
Somewhere besides a big city; could be on the road system tho; less emphasis on private bar which is ALWAYS the emphasis
State of the law after Loper-Bright, agency deference, standing, etc.
Supreme Court justice
Supreme Court updates
That Erwin Chemerinsky NOT be a speaker. He is far too political and arrogant.
the year review of cases is good, also post-conviction relief training
Topical CLE
Topics related to estate planning, probate, elder law etc.
Training on the HIGH RATES of men injuring and murdering women, including TBI and STRANGULATION. Strangulation is a preferred method that men use to hurt and kill women in Alaska. Many women have been brutally strangled and beat to death. Your prosecutirs MUST BE TRAINED early in their careers to care about being part of the solution. These violent men must be held culpable and lawyers MUST BE ABLE TO MAKE THE CASE.
Trial tactics and modifying scheduling orders for more efficient discovery.
Tribal participation and partnership
Unable to attend
unsure
Virtual attendance option
Virtual attendance option
Well, I'd love to be a speaker on a panel!
Zoom access for immune compromised members -or for those whose family has immune compromised concerns

20. Are you a member of another state Bar?

- Yes: 44.0%
- No: 54.6%
- No answer: 1.2%

a. If yes, what state and do they offer any services or opportunities you would like the Alaska Bar to adopt?

Arizona (no), Colorado (no).
Arizona _ I find the Alaska Bar easier to navigate and participate in
Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Kentucky. No
Arkansas - Not a unified bar, Alaska's system is better
AZ
Bench-Bar conferences/retreats lasting 2-3 days
CA
CA
CA
CA. CA is worse than Alaska in that it tries to be all things to all people and spends money even more inefficiently than the Alaska Bar. I want both Bars to do less and not see attorneys as the source of their ever-expanding budgets to provide more and more services that only a small subset of their members are even using.
California
California
California
California
California
California
California
California -- inactive
California and no
California Bar and District of Columbia Bar
California,
California, lawyers' first three years of CLEs offered in a package and free
California, Nevada, Arizona, Kansas, and Missouri
California, New York, Washington
California. Their Bar is a mess. I would not recommend doing anything they do.
California. Yes.
catalogue of virtual CLE programs available for purchase/on-demand viewing
Colorado
Colorado
Colorado and no.
Colorado, Kansas, Missouri
Colordao (inactive)
Connecticut, District of Columbia, Oregon
DC
DC and Virginia

FL (Retired) CA (inactive)
Florida. No.
Free Zoom CLEs
Georgia and Alabama (AK is an example to them)
Georgia and New York State
Georgia. Unknown at this time.
Hawaii. and Alaska is far better in organization and offerings.
Hawaii; no
I don't want to say which state but I will say they are MUCH stricter on enforcing, monitoring and policing ethics violations and the CLE's are very high caliber and available free to bar members online in many cases.
I participated in a Bar-run Leadership Academy program for young (>10 y.) lawyers in another State - a program AK could consider to improve retention?
I prefer the Alaska Bar Association
ID, ND, MT, WY, CO, WA
Idaho and Indiana NO
Illinois
Illinois
Illinois - I have been inactive there since 2002 so I don't know. The inactive dues are half the cost of Alaska's though.
Inactive
Inactive so do not know
MA; NM. No
Maryland - have not paid attention to services and opportunities offered by Maryland Bar Ass'n
Maryland, but am inactive there
Maryland, yes, more causal networking like mixers and meeting of actual sub groups like the Women's Bar Committee.
Massachusetts
Massachusetts (inactive)
Massachusetts. Not that I know of.
Michigan and Illinois. I've not been in touch with them for quite a while.
Michigan and Illinois. No.
Minnesota
Minnesota- No
Minnesota/None
Minnesota; Wisconsin. Wisconsin's "Books Unbound" marketplace is a fantastic resource and a similar program would greatly benefit the Alaska Bar. See https://marketplace.wisbar.org/Books/Books-UnBound
Missouri- very large selection of CLE, including estate planning convention yearly.
Montana - no (AK Bar is much better)

Montana, DC
Montana. No, Alaska has better services and opportunities.
More CLE offerings in immigration and election law might promote and equip more lawyers to volunteer in these areas.
More free CLE opportunities; lower dues.
MT - none
N.A.
N/A
N/A
N/A
New Mexico
New Mexico; I'm inactive so can't say.
New York - No
New York (no services to adopt); Michigan (no services to adopt)
New York. No, New York's legal system is terrible. Alaska's is far superior.
No
No
No
No Comment
No. AK offers more opportunities for free CLEs.
North Carolina
Northern Marianas Commonwealth
not that I know of
NY
NY - no
NY and PA
OH
Ohio and Kentucky. The latter offers free Kentucky Law updates in multiple locations around the Commonwealth annually that cover 100% of mandatory CLE
Ohio. Better CLE and course books. Practice area listservs.
Oregon - New lawyer mentor program and lots of new lawyer cle opportunities
Oregon - online system to input and track CLEs
Oregon and Montana
Oregon, but inactive
Oregon, Washington
RI
SD
Senior Discounts on Bar Dues and CLE fees
Tennessee

Tennessee - actually, you offer services that I wish they did, e.g., pro bono clinics, mentoring opportunities, etc.
Texas
Texas
Texas - first class speakers
Texas and Colorado. Alaska is the best Bar because it is small so networking opportunities are easier.
Texas, inactive
Texas, on demand CLE and networking opportunities
Texas. None
They have more networking opportunities and a very active solo/small firm section.
Utah
Utah and Wyoming
VA; full-day pro bono CLE conference
Vermont and no
Virginia
WA
WA
WA, OR, MT -similar offerings, the more virtual (and free) is easier to attend
wash
washington
Washington
Washington
Washington
Washington
Washington
Washington
Washington -- better and more detailed Native Law and DEI CLEs/trainings
Washington - No, Missouri - No
Washington & Oregon
Washington does monthly free cle over lunch hour, can attend remotely.
Washington inactive member
Washington State
Washington State (inactive)
Washington, Alaska has better service opportunities
Washington, and no, but thank you!
Washington, Massachusetts
Washington. Good CLE reporting system.
Washington. Not sure, on inactive status but keep informed of things in WA

Washington. Offer a much broader range of CLEs, practice info, higher quality publications.
Washington; free monthly CLE program and online CLE tracking system
WISCONSIN, inactive, NO
WV, WI. WV offers similar opportunities, WI has far more services. One very useful one is a solo/small firm listserve. WI Bar magazine more substantive than Bar Rag, WV Bar mag, even though it is not a law review.
Wyoming, Montana, American Samoa - nothing.
Yes
Yes, formally Oregon Bar Association. Mandatory CLÉ
Zoom section meetings

21. Overall how satisfied are you with the Alaska Bar?

Very satisfied: 31.9%
 Satisfied: 57.5%
 Not very satisfied: 7.2%
 Not at all satisfied: 2.2%
 No Answer: 1.2%

22. Follow up: What would increase your satisfaction with the Alaska Bar?

a bar committee/organization/ meeting of attorneys working for/with labor unions
A greater focus on professional development and channels for education and mentorship in various areas of law encountered daily in private practice.
A more active role in statewide legal issues, including relevant legislative issues
A more supportive and realistic approach, rather than fear-based, to ethics CLE's.
A standing commitment to free expression and intellectual diversity.
A stronger more open disciplinary system
a system for tracking CLEs in membership account
Accessible CLEs with captions and live transcripts such as Zoom
AK bar due are quite high for services offered. Reduce less frequented services to reduce dues.
Already doing a great job!
annual fees are the highest in the country. Lower the fees!
Apology for inviting John Yoo to speak. And rescind mandatory CLE requirements.
Bar books
Being more politically neutral and not trying to force WOKE agendas on members. That is not the job of the ABA.
Better CLE and form books (please refer to Minnesota Bar for examples).
Better MCLE's.

Better seminars.
Bigger, badder Bar Convention (even if it means raising dues)
Cannot think of anything
CLE availability, particularly free ethics CLEs. Also (a small point) I find accessing the attorney directory on the bar's website more difficult than it was in the past- based on how important it is to the public, I think there should be a quick link at the main page.
Collegiality, fewer committees
Constitutional disengagement from judicial council
Do less with less money. You can't be everything for everyone.
Dues are too high for services offered
Events for solos to meet each other and ideally join forces (co-counsel or partnership)
For a small organization, I think we do pretty well overall.
Fun events that people actually attended.
Get rid of the Alaska Bar Rag. Just publish the photos of the people that have practiced for 25, 40, 50+ years.
Getting rid of the new CLE requirements. Recognizing that pro bono is not CLE work. Be neutral on political issues.
Getting to spend more time with Danielle and Kara--they're TERRIFIC. Thank you for all that you do!
Greater Alaska-specific resources; opportunities to co-counsel; lower bar fees.
Greater engagement in the impact of childhood acquired trauma on criminal cases and other child related issues
Greater outreach outside the Anchorage area, and more conventions outside Anchorage.
How about lowering your ridiculous fees
I am retired although I'm still admitted to the Alaska Bar.
I am retired and out of State.
I am satisfied with the Bar. I enjoy the Alaska Bar Rag.
I don't need or like mandatory CLE. If we have to have it, better and more interesting programs.
I don't feel the bar has ever done much for criminal prosecutors in terms of CLEs, or an active committee. I have called in for guidance on legal ethics a number of times over my career and have always found that service extremely helpful. I have also referred folks to the Lawyers Assistance Committee.
I don't know of any environmental section meetings at all last year?
I don't live in Alaska any longer so it's hard for me to assess from long distance.
I have to travel to the convention from out of state it is expensive and needs to justify the cost
I really want to attend the next convention and have fun there

I think bar dues should be significantly lower for new attorneys. It is widely known that retention and recruitment of new attorneys is a significant problem. The high cost of our bar dues should not be a deterrent to new attorneys considering practicing in Alaska.
I think the Bar needs to do more for the unlicensed practice of law in Alaska. My understanding is that the current legal framework does not allow the Bar to do more; if that is the case, I would like to see the Bar advocate for changes in the law so that it can protect the public from UPL. I would also like to see the Bar do more to bring more diverse attorneys to practice law in Alaska.
I think the Bar Rag and the Alaska Law Review are a total waste of paper. It would increase my satisfaction to know that my bar dues were not supporting them.
I think you all do a great job.
I would love to see the Bar continue to assist in recruitment of law students and lateral attorneys. My Agency refuses to advertise lateral opportunities in BIPOC Bar Associations due to an argument that that would be perceived as "favoritism" (ex. National Bar Association, National Native American Bar Association) - it would be great for the AK Bar Association to pick up that mantle.
I'd love to be able to have American Samoa as an option with the other states and territories.
If attorneys who violate the rules of professional conduct or local, state, or federal law were consistently subject to discipline.
If I could go retired at age 62. I am going to go inactive, as I don't feel it is worth 700 a year to subscribe to the bar rag. If I were 65, you would let me be retired. Because I retire at a reasonable age, you do not.
if the local BOG reps would ever show up and be responsive and visible to their constituents. they act like they are too important and never show up at local bar functions.
If ther bar had more Alaska Native attorneys attorneys
if they lowered the annual fees
If your org would actually hold Lawyers accountable to your ethical standards, they should not be allowed to use litigious abuse: it's very dangerous for survivors of domestic violence. Many of your lawyers are simply young green and Untrained. Unethical behavior seems to be the organization's cultural norm.
Improve the speed and quality of the website!
increased, effective communication with the wider population. the rule of law is under attack, as are the courts and judges -- what is the Bar, not just the Justice Not Politics or Fair Courts organizations -- doing about that?
It is expensive, roughly 4 x New York and 2 x Michigan. It feels mostly punitive, rather than supportive.
Knowing how to participate in committees and influence events, professional standards, and professional development offerings
Less costly option for part-time attorneys.

Less dues - Bar move to cheaper location to save us money.
Less focus on DEI and more focus on substantive legal & ethics issues
less irrelevant emailed information, ie, nothing on convention or CLE, for those retired
Less organizational "advocacy" for left-wing causes
let lawyers and bar staff meet in person and actually have some of those human connections again stop ignoring and avoiding public information. Not what the public thinks of any professional organization. Lawyers have professional obligations well beyond obligations to clients we all have obligations to the public and the profession. Those are being ignored right now in violation of our rules of professional conduct.
Lower annual dues, more free or reduced cost CLE should be offered for the amount of dues we pay
Lower bar dues
Lower bar dues, especially when I am inactive. I know this is an unusual answer that you never hear.
Lower cost for state workers
Lower costs and actually seeing the bar take disciplinary matters seriously.
Lower dues
Lower dues
Lower dues
Lower dues
Lower dues for senior attorneys
Lower dues, more diligent investigation of grievances
Lower dues.
Lower dues. Take a neutral stance on judge selection. The so called merit selection does not prioritize the people. As such the Bar should not take a stance. A very small group of people make decisions.
Lower fees and more efficient use of funds
lowering of annual bar dues.
Make sure we have more ethical attorneys and judges. Monitor how attorneys treat their clients and that they are ethically billing and practicing what they advertise with the skill required to do so. People give up their homes and retirements to lawyers in many cases and I see so much complete incompetence and unethical behavior it's alarming. Clients, especially criminal clients, are rarely believed if they lodge complaints and the legal community is so small in Alaska it's like a popularity contest. Lawyers won't speak out against other lawyers if they are well liked in the legal community or if so many others are doing the same thing. Others fear reprisal from the legal community if they speak out or stand up for those wronged and it just breeds more and more corruption. The Alaska Bar just ignores it all and the reputation of lawyers and the judicial system in Alaska is suffering severely as a result.
Mandatory membership is inappropriate. Bar Rag is a waste. Bar costs are too high.

Modernize invoicing and payments for electronic billing
More BIPOC attorneys and programs to increase BIPOC membership
more diversity
More engagement with rural areas - perhaps helping in setting up local bar associations or a rural association, such as in the Bethel area.
More events on the peninsula, specifically Homer.
More free CLE
More free CLEs
more free in person CLEs
More in person social/networking opportunities.
more in-depth caselaw, and fewer CLE speakers who travel the country saying the same thing
More in-person options outside of Anchorage, wider CLE topic range; practice guides for complex areas
More interaction with practitioners across the state
More networking, more CLE's, a solo/small firm section.
More non-Anchorage live CLEs and activities. There are excellent networking opportunities afforded in Anchorage but limited if any offered by the Bar in other areas.
more online access to in-person events
More programming relevant to administrative/regulatory law.
More programs/services for outside Anchorage
More regional activities
More support for incoming attorneys to help increase bar pass rate. AK needs more attorneys in our state!
Most of the programs and services are not relevant or applicable to my practice or the practice of most attorneys.
My AK inactive dues are about the same amount as my MO active dues. Not sure of the value there.
N/A
N/A
N/A
No Clue
Not be so Anchorage-centric.
Not sure
Nothing
Nothing comes to mind.

Obtain MCLE certification with state bars in the western states (e.g. WA, CA, OR). I think Alaska has good CLE courses, but I do not avail myself of them bc I also have to certify in other member states. Because of the good quality and in many cases, solid/excellent reputations of your presenters, it does not seem that it would be very difficult to seek certification from states like WA and CA on a select basis (acknowledging up front that I am not familiar with certification reqts). ABA is here to serve its in-state bar members and that is the way it should be; however, if you are seeking a way to increase enrollment in Alaska CLE offerings to generate revenue, that would be one way. I could see myself signing up for some of your virtual classes (or even attending bar convention for CLE credits) if I could knock off 2 birds with one stone. Seeking certification would be on a selective basis for CLE courses on federal law. For ex, Alaska's annual SCOTUS presentations are superb: Prof. Cherminsky (and Laurie Levinson?) are from CA; we can be certain he has already given the same course material in CA (probably all over the country). You may even be able to offer it remotely to California bar members?? (assuming CA does not engage in subtle discrimination against out-of-state CLE providers for reasons having to do with economic protectionism). That step could come later, once you have already certified in CA). Again, not suggesting this needs to be a high priority. But as long as it does not interfere with your priority service to Alaskans, seems like the profit margin for offering remote/virtual CLE credit to Alaska bar members living in lower 48 would be ideal and help the Alaska bar out. Start with initial inquiry of your existing CLE presenters: how many of them have already certified in other states and what incremental steps do they know they would have to go through in order to certify in WA or CA?

(You could also probably generate some add'l funds by hosting an annual social for Alaska bar member get-together in western states and charging for it. Similar to college alumni events. Nothing fancy to keep overhead low: one night at a location with no-host bar: Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, LA - or just 1 or 2 with the most member residents, or only in Seattle. Someone with a law firm could probably provide venue at no-cost.

Our bar dues seem unreasonably expensive for what we get. And why on earth are we still paying to print paper copies of the Bar Rag rather than switching to a cheaper virtual format?

Our fees are very high. I'm a government attorney and receive CLEs through my work, so I don't need reduced CLE fees from the Bar. I only attend CLEs for networking purposes. I don't feel like I get very much value for the cost of bar fees under the circumstances.

Outreach and partnership with out-of-state bar associations and law schools to attract membership and awareness. This could also help expand educational offerings and services. I would love to see seminars on Alaska law and an expansion of internship offerings. The dues are far higher than other states, but I get it.

Reduce CLE requirements for active members over 70

Reduce or eliminate CLE requirements
Reduced bar dues.
Reduced bar fees.
Reduced membership fees
Report CLE credits to other states
Sandwiches during Ethics Committee meetings for remote participants.
Sections should be removed or made "inactive" if they have no meetings. I paid extra for more sections, hoping for more and different section meetings, but have heard nothing from two of the sections I signed up for.
Short (1-2) CPE; Pro bono sharing / matching opportunities.
Someone answering the phone every day of the week.
Sorry, I live in a foreign country presently, so my engagement with the bar is minimal and not typical.
Stay out of politics
Stop being so lenient with our members. Raise expectations for our conduct towards each other and the courts. Create more resources that make it easy to track legislative changes and recent Alaska supreme court decisions.
Stop operating like an old boys club
The ability to have more casual meet and greets and slightly more focused training.
The AK Bar Assoc. is too Anchorage-centric. It needs to open up more opportunities for job fairs and other events to be hosted in other parts of the state.
The Alaska Bar is Anchorage-centric, even more so than the percentage of lawyers practicing in Anchorage would warrant.
The Alaska Bar needs to stay out of politics completely. Do not force "woke" or liberal policies on bar members. Do not police our speech etc.
The bar as a whole feels less collegial than it did 18 years ago. It feels divided. More in-person 5:00 pm events/happy hours might help this? Or more opportunities to work on a committee/task force with attorneys you may not know.
The bar association offers few services or CLE topics for prosecutors. More often than not CLE topics and conference speakers focus on pro defense or civil law issues of little interest.
The Bar has done a poor job of monitoring lawyers who are not competent due to mental health issues, drugs, alcohol, or some other problem. During my career I became aware of several lawyers who were unethical or incompetent. Yes, the Bar knew, or easily could have know what was happening and yet it took no action.
The Bar is very "Anchorage" centric. I do not live in Anchorage where all events, CLE's everything happens. If the Bar would please leave Anchorage I would participate more.

The best thing about the Bar is the staff. Everyone I have every worked with there is kind, compassionate, supportive and caring. Keep hiring great staff members.
The number of CLE hours to decrease or at least have been increased slightly over a three year period to cushion the impact. The increase in CLE requirements will directly decrease number of pro bono hours I will be doing from now on. The Bar's belief that on top our demanding work/life that we are going to be doing all that number of CLEs plus 50 hours of pro bono work is not realistic for our demanding schedules and family commitments, and personal well being. We are not supper humans.
The sections don't all meet regularly, and their status is not always apparent in January, when we have to renew our section membership. The result is that we can be paying for membership in a section that is effectively defunct.
The website is terrible. The Bar Rag is an embarrassment.
The website re-design has made it hard to find the things I'm looking for; I don't find it intuitive.
There is nothing at this time that would increase my satisfaction with the Alaska Bar.
time
Unsure how
Very satisfied with present activities and services.
viewpoint diversity
We have an extremely large public bar. I would like to see more programs geared toward the public attorneys and offered at a rate that the public attorneys could pay. This would need to be coordinated with DOL and the DOA so that their attorneys could actually attend. It is really unfortunate that the bar doesn't offer more that could bring these groups of attorneys together for training. Many public attorneys rely upon the free ethics training - on demand - to meet the annual ethics requirements, but those trainings are often inapplicable to public practice or criminal defense or prosecution practice. It would be great to provide training geared toward many types of public practice since public attorneys are paying the same bar dues as the private attorneys.
We have huge dues that primarily support the disciplinary system. Those disciplined ought to pay much more. Better CLE. Less emphasis on big city private bar. A more functional user friendly online CLE registration system. Very bulky and convoluted. Hard to believe how many clicks of the button it takes to register for a free CLE even.
We should be able to switch to RETIRED status before age 65.

23. The primary purpose of this poll was to help the Alaska Bar better serve its members. In the future we may try to conduct surveys that could be provided as a benefit to Bar members by creating a legal trends and benchmarks within the Alaska legal community. It could include asking salary information, benefits offered, etc. Are there questions that we could ask that could help your legal practice?

Ask about why people are satisfied with their job and if they are
ask lawyers when they stopped reading emails and when they stopped reading generally do they think they are better lawyers now?
Can't think of anything right now.
Disability survey to see which bar members have disabilities and what, if any, accommodations and accessibility needs they have for CLEs and other events, publications, venues, etc.
For some questions I did not have an opinions so having that option would help. Also, four people in gov't jobs it would be REALLY nice to have an option for people who practice in all 4 districts equally, rather than having to pick an option. A
Having surveys on income, benefits, and hours work would be very informative.
On the Job Board: Increase the transparency of salary, benefit, and most importantly the expected work hours for that compensation by requiring disclosure of such. Only minimal value is added by salary if you do not know how much work is expected for that pay.
How do other solos go about answering office phone calls? It's overwhelming without a receptionist.
How do we keep the cost of access to justice lower?
I appreciate this survey, and the work the Bar does. Salary information is HUGE (thank you for requiring that on job postings). I think the method of asking questions could be a little more nuanced on the poll (agree, strong agree, etc.), as there were a few I answered "I don't know" merely because my answer was not an absolute yes or no.
Thx!
I don't think so.
I would be interested to know how many attorneys actively practice in certain areas: intellectual property, white collar crime, bankruptcy, oil and gas, public v private entities, etc. Basically, demographics but also specific to areas of practice.
I would like more part-time opportunities to work. So getting info about that out would be helpful.
I'd like to know what percentage of government lawyers are receiving student loan forgiveness and at which government agencies. What percentage of lawyers have applied to new jobs in the last year? How many jobs? How many interviews? Did they change jobs? Why? How many lawyers know about how to get cases from OPA, PDs, Rule 12, Federal Defense, etc? Then offer to send them the information through collecting their emails. I'd love to also see data about legal support staff (paralegals, LOAs, investigators, etc) and what retention of these professionals has been in the past year.
Importance to new recruits of work-life balance, choice of benefits, unionization

Information relevant to the determination of a reasonable legal fee would be helpful to the attorneys who rely on awards of attorney fees to serve lower income populations.
Is a lawyer allowed to call a pro se client a liar in written communication. Is a lawyer allowed to litigate until the pro se client is homeless and scared and bankrupt? These unethical behaviors and biases follow your lawyers when they become judges. Your organization, your lawyers and then judges are all Part of the systemic issue that makes Alaska the most dangerous state for women. In Alaska men MURDER women at the highest rates around the nation because you're lawyers victim blame. Believe survivors and hold violent men ACCOUNTABLE even in civil divorce and custody cases.
More questions about the actual management of the business of a law office.
My retiree is pro bono work in alternative dispute resolution...need boundaries for Ombuds, Mediation & Arbitration when conflicts involve misrepresentation and incitement vs freedom of speech.
No I'm pretty set with fishing summers and winter work helping tribes and others deal with natural resource issues.
No. But it would be helpful to have had a 1-5 scale on many of these questions. For example there is some value in the Bar Rag but maybe in electronic format. Not sure how much paper printing costs.
None that I can think of at this time.
None that I can think of in the moment
not at this point as I am phasing out my practice
Not especially but I agree that tracking legal trends and compensation in the Alaska legal community would lead to better service of members.
Not sure
Not that I can think of.
Questions related to working parents, and work-flexibility, would be quite helpful.
Rate Study
Salaries and other market intelligence are always welcome, separate by placement type (firms, in-house, government, etc.). Data about clients' costs per case (divided between arbitration and state/federal court) would be useful for helping clients maintain reasonable expectations. Asking about current job satisfaction among bar members AND THEIR STAFF would be a very helpful resource for job seekers, and may provide needed feedback for the bar members in charge of the worst places to work.
Salary and benefits info would be helpful, not just for lawyers but also for paralegals and legal assistants.
Salary and benefits information would be helpful (to discern the reasonableness of fees).
salary and benefits surveys - private sector/corporate, state, federal
Salary information could be useful.
Salary information for legal staff so I know what rates to offer my staff
Salary trends by year of experience and benefits packages would be helpful. Also payment structure, i.e. is it by billable hour, number of clients, hours in the office etc. % of income driven by paralegals (many of whom are practicing law) would be helpful. Fee structures and percentage of flat fees and how they are calculated. Typical client contract would be helpful. % of female attorneys to male attorneys and payment schedule for each. Number of clients per

attorney/ paralegal. Number of attorney hours spent on average per case type from start to finish. Number of average hours worked per non-trial week for attorneys by year of practice. Number of average trials per attorney per case type per year. Number of average hours in court per case type for contested hearing trial or otherwise.
See answer #20, above.
See my insurance for pro bono comment, above. Feel free to reach out regarding me feedback if you think that would be helpful. Chelsea@foleypearson.com. Chelsea Riekkola
Technologies and digital tools used by Alaska firms, beyond Westlaw. Difficulties in access to Alaska-specific legal materials.
This survey asked if the Bar did services well - I have not interacted with a lot of these aspects, but I was required to answer y/n.
What practice management software people use/recommend by firm size and subject matter, billing software, etc.
Whether or not bar polls are useful in the judicial selection process particularly with respect to federal positions.
Why is Alaska Legal Services unable to take on new matters or have attorneys take on pro bono matters through their office? After communications with ALS summer 2024, this is what I was told. Very disappointing, especially seeing as myself and many others fund that program.
yes
Yes
Yes, thanks.
you have to remember started 1962 (us army) City 1965 I think