

Alaska Bar Association

2025 Annual Report



Active in Alaska by Judicial District:

District 1	243
District 2	24
District 3	1,787
District 4.....	204

Bar members by the numbers

The Alaska Bar Association has 4,950 members in the following categories:

By Status:

Active in Alaska.....	2,258	Inactive Outside	634
Active Outside:.....	944	Retired.....	925
Inactive in Alaska	189		

Active in Alaska by Gender:

Female Attorneys	1,013
Male Attorneys	1,239
Other	6

Active in Alaska by Race/Ethnicity:

Alaska Native	52	Hawaiian Native or other		Native American.....	15
Asian.....	44	Pacific Islander	1	White.....	1,025
Black or African American.....	22	Hispanic or Latino.....	37	Other	10
		India Subcontinent	7	Not reported.....	1,045

2025 Board of Governors

- Rebecca Patterson, President
- Nicholas Ostrovsky, President-Elect
- Meghan “Sig” Tapqaq, Vice President
- Bill Granger, Treasurer (Public Member)
- Patrick Roach, Secretary
- Rachel Espejo
- Donald Handeland (Public Member)
- Steven Hansen
- Andrew Juneau
- Grace Lee
- Jeffrey Robinson
- Vacant (Public Member)
- Chanel Simon, New Lawyer Liaison

Admissions/Licensing

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

2025 BAR EXAM RESULTS		
Date	Applicants	Passed
Feb. 2025	25	12
1st time takers	12	9
July 2025	85	58
1st time takers	68	52

Applicants Approved for Admission:

- Bar Exam: 62
- UBE Score Transfer: 46
- Admission on Motion: 49

Temporary Waivers to Practice Issued:

- Rule 43 ALSC Waivers: 1
- Rule 43.4 Waiver for Military Spouses: 2
- Rule 43.6 Waiver to Engage in Pro Bono Practice: 6
- Rule 44 Supervised Practitioner Permits: 27
- Rule 44 Legal Intern Permits: 36
- Rule 81 Pro Hac Vice Waivers: 256
- A.S. 08.08.210. Statute Waivers (10 Month Rule): 39

Member Services

- **The Alaska Bar Rag:** The Bar’s newspaper is published and sent to Bar members quarterly.
- **The Alaska Law Review:** A scholarly publication that examines legal issues affecting the state of Alaska. 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 **8amLawPay** (payment solution for attorneys).
- **Insurance programs:** Bar-sponsored group disability and life insurance programs for Bar members.

Continuing Legal Education

In 2025, the Alaska Bar Continuing Legal Education (CLE) department presented a total of 56 programs, comprising 39 virtual sessions, 11 in-person events, and 6 hybrid programs combining in-person and virtual elements. Among these offerings, 41 programs (73%) were provided free of charge. The 2025 Alaska Bar Convention took place in-person in Anchorage, drawing participation from 441 individuals who attended at least one CLE or social event.

The Alaska Bar offered 83.25 general CLE credits and 10.5 ethics credits through the facilitation of 108 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 Alaska Bar CLEs (virtual & in-person)	1,405+
Section Meeting CLEs	2,371+
SharedED Programs	50
Video-On-Demand Purchases	8,749

Awards

Board of Governor

Distinguished Service – Michael McLaughlin
Professionalism – Katherine Demarest
Layperson Service – Deborah Engles
Robert Hickerson Public Service – Heather Kendall-Miller

Judge Nora Guinn Award

Nicole Borromeo

Bryan P. Timbers Pro Bono

Lifetime Achievement – Stephanie Rhoades
Individual – Eric Glatt
Law Firm – Ashburn & Mason

Alaska Bar Foundation Jay Rabinowitz Public Service

Doug Baily

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

In 2025, Bar members report their MCLE compliance for 2024. Active Bar members were required to:

- earn at least 3 CLE ethics credits and report MCLE compliance annually
- encouraged to earn an additional 9 credits

98.85% reported compliance.

34 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 CLE.

Public Service

Alaska Bar Foundation: The Alaska Bar Foundation distributed IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) grants to Alaska Legal Services Corporation (\$48,750), Alaska Institute for Justice (\$16,250), Alaska Innocence Project (\$20,000) and Borealis Legal Services (\$15,000).

Lawyer Referral Service: The Lawyer Referral Service is made up of 41 attorneys in 28 practice areas and provided referrals to 4,484 callers. The most frequently requested areas were divorce/custody; negligence; and labor relations.

Employment & Bulletin Board: The Alaska Bar Association’s employment & bulletin board advertises attorney jobs, non-attorney jobs, clerkships and internships, pro bono opportunities, board opportunities, and allows members to post on a general bulletin board.

Law Guides: The Alaska Bar Association maintains and updates legal guides for the community. **The Alaska Youth Law Guide** helps young Alaskans understand the law and how it may affect them. **Seniors and the Law** includes information on wellness, health care, estate planning, finances, and other legal rights and resources.

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 \$98,280 and has awarded 109 scholarships ranging from \$100-\$5,000.

Pro Bono Services

- **Alaska Free Legal Answers:** A free web-based legal clinic where clients can ask up to three civil legal questions in one year.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Free Legal Clinics:** The Bar hosted the 16th annual MLK Day Free Legal Clinics on January 20, 2025 in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, and Juneau.
- **May Legal Clinic:** The Bar hosted a new Legal Clinic on May 3, 2025, in Anchorage.
- **Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic:** The Bar hosted its 12th annual Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic on October 16, 2025, during the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage.
- **Elder Appreciation and Wills Clinic:** The Bar hosted a new Elder Appreciation and Wills Clinic on October 17, 2025, during the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage.
- **Disaster Legal Clinic:** The Bar hosted a legal clinic on December 16, 2025, to assist Western Alaskan evacuees in Anchorage who were impacted by Typhoon Halong.

Summary of 2025 Free Legal Clinics Hosted by the Bar

Clinic	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Clients Served
Alaska Free Legal Answers	29	855	312
MLK Day Free Legal Clinics	95	340	226
May Legal Clinic	29	113	53
Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic	23	94	44
Elder Appreciation & Wills Clinic	27	170	25
Disaster Legal Clinic	30	180	25
TOTALS:	233	1752	685

Committees and Sections

In 2025, there were 28 active substantive law sections, with a total individual membership of 2,716 for all sections. The total, including members with multiple sections (and non-Bar members) was 3,110. The Alaska Bar Association held 108 section meetings with over 2,370 attendees.

There are **ten standing Bar committees** and **five Bar Rule committees**.



Financial & Administration

2025 Bar Dues Breakdown for Active Members

Bar Dues: \$660			
Discipline	\$267	Vlex/FastCase	\$7
Administration	\$220	Bar Rag	\$7
CLE	\$41	Succession Planning	\$5
Pro Bono	\$38	Marketing/ Communications	\$4
BOG	\$20	Litigation	\$4
Fee Arbitration	\$16	MLK Day	\$1
Lawyer Referral	\$12	Committees	\$1
LFCP	\$10		
MCLE	\$7		
Total general fund revenue: \$3,399,330			
Total expenses: \$3,149,215			
Net Gain: \$250,115			

Attorney Discipline

The Discipline Section processed 274 new grievances against lawyers in 2025 compared to 179 grievances in 2024, a 53% increase.

Of the 274 new grievances, 109 were thoroughly reviewed but did not warrant investigation; 20 were opened for formal investigation.

Caseload:	Grievances	Lawyers
Open for Investigation on January 1, 2025	65	
Files Opened for Investigation*	+47	
Closed by Disbarment	-5	4
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	-7	5
Open for Investigation on December 31, 2025	98	

*Includes matters filed prior to 2025

The change in open caseload increased by 50% in 2025.

The Discipline Section tracked 237 contacts with the public in 2025.

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, 2025 Pending	44
New Matters Opened	+51
Closed Matters	-38
December 31, 2025 Pending	57

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 13 claims in 2025 totaling \$269,669.85. 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 2025, \$49,720.64 was paid to reimburse 3 trustee counsels' fees.

Bar Bylaws, Regulations, and Court Rules Acted On in 2025

The Board of Governors:

Amended Article II, Section 2(b) of the Bylaws of the Alaska Bar Association to require status transfers to be submitted by December 31 and to add a provision allowing acceptance of status transfers for good cause until February 1.

Alaska Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court signed SCO 2044 amending Bar Rule 65(e) to allow general Continuing Legal Education credit hours for certain pro bono legal service.

The Supreme Court signed SCO 2040 amending Alaska Professional Conduct Rules 1.2 and 1.16 and Comments concerning the scope of representation and mandatory grounds for declining and terminating representation.

The Supreme Court signed SCO 2037 amending Alaska Bar Rule 53(d) to change the limits on payments from the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

ETHICS GUIDANCE

The Board of Governors adopted 2 formal ethics opinions proposed by the Bar's standing Ethics Committee in 2025. Formal ethics opinions provide the Bar Association's official position on ethics issues.

In addition, Bar Counsel's office responded to 877 requests from lawyers for informal ethics guidance in the course of the year.