



### **Alaska Bar Association Statement on Commitment to Diversity**

The purposes of the Alaska Bar are to: (1) regulate the practice of law; (2) promote reform in the law and in judicial procedure; (3) facilitate the administration of justice; (4) encourage continuing legal education for the membership; and (5) increase the public service and efficiency of the Bar.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are vital to the administration of justice. With this in mind, the Alaska Bar Association strives to ensure the Bar is reflective of all Alaskans. While Alaska's population represents a rich diversity of backgrounds, this is not always proportionately represented among the Bar's membership demographics.

The Board of Governors has initiated steps to encourage racial and ethnic diversity in the Bar. The Board voted in May of 2021 to create a [Diversity Commission](#) with a goal of creating a more equitable, inclusive, and diverse organization and to increase the membership of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in the Alaska Bar Association. The Board remains dedicated to addressing the Commission's recommendations, following the Board evaluation of the Commission's final report.

The Board also recognizes that race and ethnicity is one aspect of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and principles of equality and fairness extend much further. The Board is committed to fostering inclusivity of all perspectives, ideas, and experiences in the practice of law and the administration of justice. In line with this, the Board of Governors' 2022 [strategic plan](#) aims to "advance efforts to ensure the Bar is more reflective of the people it serves." The Board also recognizes that Alaska faces a critical statewide justice gap, with countless Alaskans having unmet legal needs each year. Closing the access to justice gap and meeting Alaskans' legal needs necessarily includes fostering a Bar membership that is inclusive and more representative of our community, all of which is critical to facilitate the administration of justice in our state.

Through these ongoing efforts, the Board of Governors is committed to ensuring the fair and just application of the law, strengthening the public trust in the administration of justice, and better meeting the needs of all Alaskans.

*Adopted by the Board of Governors on May 4, 2023.*