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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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Alaska Attorneys Provide Free Legal Help on 2026 MLK Day

Events in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Bethel Give Alaskans Access to Free Legal Advice

Anchorage, AK— On Monday, January 19, 2026, the Alaska Bar Association, in partnership with the Alaska Court System, Alaska Legal Services Corporation, the ACLU of Alaska, and local bar associations, will host its 17th annual MLK Day Clinics, offering free legal help in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

“Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is an opportunity for our legal community to serve and uplift others,” said Lea McKenna, Pro Bono Director of the Alaska Bar Association. “By offering free legal assistance on this day, Alaska attorneys honor Dr. King’s legacy by helping remove barriers to justice and supporting Alaskans who need it most.” In 2025, 102 volunteers served 226 Alaskans in person and an additional 33 virtually at the MLK Day clinics statewide.

Free legal advice from volunteer attorneys will be available to low-income Alaskans seeking help with civil legal matters, including family law, landlord/tenant issues, public benefits, probate, and consumer/debt issues.

This year volunteer attorneys at the clinics in Bethel, Fairbanks, and Anchorage will also assist individuals impacted by ex-Typhoon Halong who need disaster-related legal help, such as help appealing FEMA or state decisions related to individual assistance. Attorneys can help draft client statements to explain why clients are unable to provide evidence of their damages or home ownership. They can also draft cover letters for applications and appeals, which helps explain how the documents and photos submitted prove that they need funds to repair and rebuild.

On December 16, 2025, volunteer attorneys helped 27 families who evacuated from Western Alaska to apply for and appeal decisions on FEMA and state individual assistance at a free legal clinic in

Anchorage. That clinic was also organized by the Alaska Bar Association and Alaska Legal Services Corporation, as well as the Alaska Institute for Justice.

During the Anchorage event, Catholic Social Services will provide free shuttle service, connecting the main event location with the Brother Francis Shelter and the 56th Ave. Cold Weather Shelter. In addition, the Alaska Court System will offer filing fee waivers to eligible individuals during the event.

This year the Juneau event will be held in two locations - one downtown and one in the Mendenhall Valley – to better serve clients residing in each neighborhood.

Full details on the MLK Day Free Legal Help events around the state can be found at <https://alaskabar.org/mlk/>.

“The need for help with civil legal problems far exceeds Alaska Legal Services Corporation’s capacity, leaving thousands of Alaskans with nowhere to turn for legal advice” said Maggie Humm, Executive Director of Alaska Legal Services Corporation. “The MLK Day clinics offer an opportunity to close that gap and provide immediate legal help to those most in need.”

In addition to the MLK Day clinics, Alaskans may access Alaska Free Legal Answers at [Alaska.FreeLegalAnswers.org](https://alaskabar.org/mlk/). This virtual legal clinic, hosted by the Alaska Bar Association, is an ongoing, free, and confidential service that allows Alaskans of modest means to receive answers to civil (non-criminal) legal questions—including disaster-related issues—from licensed Alaska attorneys.

“The Alaska Bar Association offers several free legal clinics throughout the year in partnership with nonprofit organizations,” McKenna added. “These include the annual Elizabeth Peratrovich Legal Clinic, held each October during the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, as well as other community-based legal clinics.”

More information about other upcoming clinics and additional legal resources for the community is available at <https://alaskabar.org/for-our-community/>.

Monday, January 19, 2026 MLK Day Free Legal Help Event Times and Locations:

Anchorage

Mountain View Girls and Boys Club – 315 Price Street

Noon to 4 PM

Shuttles will run between the event and the following two locations from noon to 4 PM:

- Shelter at 1111 E. 56th Avenue
- Brother Francis Shelter at 1021 E. Third Ave.

Fairbanks

UAF Community and Technical College – 604 Barnette Street (6th Avenue Doors)

10 AM to 4 PM

Bethel

Evangelical Covenant Church
2 PM to 5 PM

Juneau

Kuneix Hidi Northern Light United Church – 400 West 11th Street
10 AM to 1 PM

and

St. Paul's Catholic Church – 9055 Atlin Dr.
9 AM to 2 PM

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