



**ALASKA BAR
ASSOCIATION**



**MENTORSHIP
PACKET**

www.alaskabar.org

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Dear Mentors and Mentees:

The Lawyers' Assistance Committee and Law Related Education Committee of the Alaska Bar Association established the Mentorship Program to help build connections and support within the Alaska Bar. The initial mentorship period is 6 months, but the mentor and mentee may agree to continue their relationship.

The relationship between mentor and mentee can be whatever you want it to be but we hope that you will meet at least once a month during the initial six-month mentorship period.

The enclosed packet has suggested activities, items for discussion, and resources for newer attorneys and those changing their practice areas. However, there are no requirements other than meeting over the initial six-month mentorship period. We will ask you to complete a brief survey to give us feedback at the end of the initial mentorship period.

The program is not over at the end of the initial mentorship period unless you both want it to be. It is the hope of the committees that you will form an ongoing professional relationship with each other and that the mentees may serve as mentors in the future.

Please contact info@alaskabar.org if you have questions.

Best regards,

ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION



Danielle Bailey
Executive Director

WHAT DOES A MENTOR DO?

Mentoring creates an opportunity for an experienced attorney to provide professional guidance and share practical knowledge and skills with another attorney. The mentoring relationship is intended to:

- provide career guidance and goal setting;
- assist with ethical guidance and professional development;
- help build connections and networking;
- improve legal ability and professional judgment; and
- provide feedback and support.

While some legal education and guidance may be available, a mentor is not meant to:

- Be a mentee's supervisor or be required to review their work product
- Be a substitute for CLE or legal education for the mentee
- Be on call 24/7 to answer mentee questions

Things to do with your mentee:

- Mentors can tell highs/lows of your career path. What were the barriers to overcome and the pitfalls along the way about learning from failures as well as successes, etc.;
- Mentees can share short and long-range career plans and ask mentors for thoughts.. Identify how the mentor can help with those goals, and ask specifically for help;
- Complete actual pro bono projects or cases together (e.g. discussing actual case strategy and/or the legal implications of a management decision);
- Work together at a legal clinic to provide advice to clinic clients;
- Help coach High School Mock Trial teams together;
- Attend bar association meetings or other legal/civic organization activities together; and
- Find activities for integrating personal/family life with career objectives.

General resources for mentor/mentee relationships and best practices

Article – Take Mentoring to the Next Level

- The Colorado Bar Association's mentorship website also has some great resources:
 - [Mentoring Resource Library](#)
 - [Model Mentoring Plans](#)
- [NV Bar Mentor Resources](#)

ETHICS GUIDANCE

Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct: The first place to look when trying to resolve an ethics question.

Ethics Opinions: As a service to members of the bar, the ethics committee researches and writes opinions on the ethical considerations of the practice of law. Click the corresponding link below to view Alaska Bar Association Ethics Opinions which have been adopted by the Board of Governors. You can view adopted ethics opinions by date or by topic.

- [Adopted Ethics Opinions: Chronological](#)
- [Adopted Ethics Opinions: Topical](#)

Bar Counsel: As a service to members of the bar, informal guidance on active and pending ethics issues may be provided by bar counsel or counsel's designees. Such guidance is generally based on unverified information under informal circumstances and assumes that the facts as related are all true and accurate. Informal guidance has no binding legal effect on Courts, the Ethics Committee, the Disciplinary Board or the Board of Governors and cannot be used as evidence in any legal or administrative proceeding. It is intended to provide practical, real-time guidance to practitioners faced with ethics issues. It is not a substitute for an attorney's duty to be aware of the Rules of Professional Conduct requirements. However, it may be used as a defense or in mitigation of any subsequent ethical action involving the same facts.

Call Bar Counsel Phil Shanahan at [\(907\) 272-7469](tel:907-272-7469) (fax: (907) 272-2932) for informal ethics guidance — get some direction the minute you suspect a problem! Callers may remain anonymous if they desire. You may also call Kevin Cuddy, Chair, Bar Ethics Committee at (907) 272-3538, or ask your mentor your ethics questions. More details on ethics guidance is [here](#).

Ethics CLEs: Check the Alaska Bar [Video on Demand Library](#) and search under "ethics"

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE Requirements: Alaska Bar Rule 65 (MCLE Rule) provides that active members of the Alaska Bar Association shall complete at least twelve credit hours per year of approved MCLE. Three of those twelve MCLE credit hours must be in approved ethics CLE (MECLE) annually.

New Admittees are exempt from the requirements during their year of admission. New Admittees must meet the MCLE requirements during the year following their admission and must file a report by February 1 of the next year.

- View the [Event Calendar](#) for upcoming CLE programs or watch past programs [On Demand](#).
- [How to Find and purchase a Video-on-demand](#)

Activities that count for general CLE credit, including certain pro bono work, mentoring an attorney on a pro bono case, and certain committee service, can be found [here](#) in Bar Rule 65(e) or on the [MCLE FAQ page](#).

[Instructions on how to report MCLE](#)

[Download a CLE Tracking Sheet](#)

National Business Institute: **NBI** is a trusted national provider of Continuing Legal Education. NBI has served the legal community for over 40 years, offering high-quality, practical CLE courses across a wide range of practice areas. With thousands of live and on-demand programs taught by experienced attorneys and legal professionals, NBI empowers lawyers and paralegals to stay current, sharpen their skills, and meet their CLE requirements with confidence.

As part of our partnership, Alaska Bar members will receive an exclusive 15% discount on all NBI courses. [Redeem your discount](#).

ATTORNEY WELL-BEING

The Lawyers' Assistance Committee promotes the well-being of the legal profession and protects the public by providing education, respectful confidential assistance and referrals for members of the Bar, their families, colleagues, and clients affected by a member's mental health and substance abuse issues. If you or someone you know is struggling with a substance or mental health related issue, you can contact the Lawyers' Assistance Committee for confidential support. Contact information for committee members can be found [here](#) or by calling (907) 272-7469. **The committee's services are free and confidential!**

- **Provider List** – Mental health providers who have indicated that they can help attorneys with substance abuse and wellness issues.
- **LAC FAQs** – For more information on the LAC and how to seek assistance.
- **Institute for Well-Being in Law** – Dedicated to the betterment of the legal profession by focusing on well-being. They have many resources to help lawyers.

NITA Podcast, "The Resilient Lawyer" - on stress management and trial practice.

American Bar Association, "Innovative Strategies to Address Attorney Burnout"

ALPS Insurance has many lawyer wellness resources, including:

- Lawyer Well-Being Podcast available [here](#).
- Solo Attorney Well-Being Report [here](#).

WELL-BEING CLES

Check the Alaska Bar Video on Demand Library and search under “ethics”:

- Overcoming Burnout: How to Build Resilience (2023)
- Dealing with Difficult People (2022)
- Lawyer Like an Athlete (2023)
- Time Management for Lawyers, Part I: Getting and Staying Organized (2022)
- Part II: Lawyers' Top Law Practice/Client Services Problems (2022)
- Strategies for Wellness: Avoiding The Traps of Substance Abuse and Depression (2020)
- Overcoming Pandemic Procrastination (2020)
- Navigating Anxiety for Lawyers: What to do When Professional Anxiety Strikes (2025)
- Set Your Mind to Success: 10 Essential Ways of Thinking to Catapult Your Career and Well-Being (2024)



INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Navigating Interpersonal Relationships

- [ABA Strategic Guide to Navigating Relationships in a Law Firm.](#)
- USC Gould School of Law, [The Transformative Power of a Meaningful Apology.](#)
- [Alaska Bar Video on Demand Library](#) search: Dealing with Difficult People (2022)

Building Your Community

Local & Affinity Bar Associations: There are many community-specific bar associations in Alaska that can help you build your legal community. See [here](#).

Sections: Section membership is open to both members of the Alaska Bar Association and the public, offering numerous benefits to support your professional growth and development. By joining, you'll gain access to resources such as continuing legal education (CLE) opportunities, networking with peers who share similar legal interests, updates on legislative and court actions, and participation in forums that address community and professional needs. All Bar members get to join one section for free. Click [here](#) for more information or to join a section.

Committees: The Alaska Bar Association maintains several standing committees established by the Board of Governors to support the regulation of the practice of law and the work of the Bar. See the [Committee Descriptions](#) page. Committee solicitations are open February 1–April 30 and are submitted through the member dashboard.

Pro Bono: Working on pro bono matters as a mentor/mentee team is a meaningful way to build skills while giving back. Mentors can share practical insight and guidance, while mentees gain hands-on experience and confidence in a supportive setting. Just as importantly, collaborating on pro bono work helps build lasting relationships within the legal community, fostering connections that can support both professional growth. See below for more information on Pro Bono.

LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Resources

- Check the Alaska Bar [Video on Demand Library](#) and search under topics: “Law Practice Management” or “Legal Writing”, such as:
 - 60 Practice Management Tips and Apps in 60 Minutes
 - vLex FastCase Benefit Introduction
 - 23 Mistakes Contract Drafters USUALLY Make
 - Effective Communication and Legal Writing - the Goal of Persuasion
- [ALPS Insurance Law Practice Management Resources](#)

Insurance

ALPS (professional liability insurance: ALPS is legal insurance made easy! Founded by lawyers for lawyers in 1988, ALPS offers comprehensive malpractice and business insurance solutions making it easy for you to protect your entire firm. As the Alaska Bar Association’s endorsed carrier, they understand how valuable your time is. That’s why the ALPS insurance application is flexible, easy, and 100% online. Apply, review your quote, accept and pay in as little as 10 minutes.

[Apply now.](#)

To learn more about what ALPS can do for Alaska attorneys, call (800) 367-2577 or visit alpsinsurance.com/alaska.

DEWAR Insurance Agency (disability insurance): Met Life Insurance Company offers Association-discounted pricing to Alaska Bar members on Disability coverage notable for its comprehensive, liberal contract language specific to protecting attorney income. View the benefits flyer [here](#). Contact [Dewar Insurance](#) by phone (907) 258-8888 or email nancyv@dewaragency.com.

LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Research/Software

Free Legal Research: vLex/Fastcase is a legal research tool that is available for free to all members of the Alaska Bar Association. [Log in to your membership portal](#) to access vLex/Fastcase. From the [vLex/Fastcase Resource Library page](#) you can access tutorial videos, register for training webinars, and find answers to your questions. You can also contact vLex/Fastcase at 866-773-2782 or support@fastcase.com.

Law Libraries: You may email, call, or visit law librarians in person and they will help you do legal research. They are especially skilled at assisting with legislative and rule history.

- [Alaska Court Law Libraries](#)
- [U.S. Federal Court Law Library in Alaska](#)
- Search “library” in [Video on Demand](#) for these CLEs:
 - Alaska Court System Law Library Resources (2025)
 - LexisNexis Digital Library Training

Clio: A cloud-based legal practice management software that helps law firms manage cases, clients, documents, billing, and daily operations, integrating AI to automate tasks and research for efficiency. *Clio is a legal technology solution recommended by the Alaska State Bar. Members of Alaska State Bar receive a 15% discount on Clio products, excluding Clio Draft. Clio resources (articles, guides, upcoming CLEs and on-demand webinars)

Solo and Small Firm Resources

The Alaska Bar Association has a Solo and Small Firm Section of the Alaska Bar Association. Information available [here](#).

[ALPS Insurance Solo and Small Firm Resources](#)

[Clio Solo Lawyer Handbook](#)

Succession Planning

[ALPS Insurance Succession Planning for Lawyers](#)

FINDING ATTORNEYS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Alaska Bar Association Member Directory](#) allows you to search for members' contact information.

[Alaska Bar Association Employment & Bulletin Board](#) has

- Employment opportunities
- Clerkship and internship opportunities
- Pro bono opportunities
- A bulletin board where you can list and look for office space, office equipment, and other legal items to lease, buy, or sell.

[U.S. District Court Careers](#)

JUDICIAL RESOURCES

[Alaska Judicial Council](#) screens and nominates judicial applicants and evaluates judges and provides information and recommendations to voters on candidates for judicial retention.

[Current Alaska Court System Judicial Vacancies](#)

[Alaska Court System Judicial Applications, Comments, and Survey Help](#)

[Alaska Federal Judiciary Council](#) was convened by Senator Dan Sullivan to make recommendations for nominations to Alaska's open federal judiciary seats and has a link to the application packet.

COURT INFORMATION

Forms and Checklists

- [Alaska Court System form library](#) with 2,000 forms
- [ALPS Insurance library of forms and checklists](#)
- [Ninth Circuit Forms](#)
- [U.S. District Court Forms](#)

Rules and Regulations

Current rules and regulations are available through these links:

- [Alaska Bar Rules](#)
- [Alaska Bar Association Bylaws](#)
- [Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct](#)
- [Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Ninth Circuit Rules, and Circuit Advisory Committee Notes](#)
- [U.S. District Court Local Rules and Orders](#)

E-Filing

- [Alaska Court System eFile/TrueFiling](#)
- [FAQs about ACS Filings of New Cases or Motions by Email or FAX](#)
- [PACER/U.S. District Court E-Filing System](#)
- [PACER/EM/CMF 9th Circuit E-Filing](#)
- [U.S. District Court Digital Evidence Presentation System and Technology](#)

Courthouse Contacts

- [Alaska Court System Court Directory](#)
- [Steps to participate in a State court hearing by Phone or Zoom](#)
- [U.S. District Court Alaska Contacts](#)

PRO BONO

Pro Bono Service Makes a Difference

Rule 6.1 of the Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct directs an attorney towards an aspirational goal of 50 hours of pro bono service each year. We know it makes a difference in the lives of clients and is often found to be rewarding by volunteer attorneys. You can also earn CLE credit for pro bono service under Alaska Bar Rule 65.

How will you make a difference?

Answer a question online. Spend 20 minutes answering a civil legal question posted by an Alaskan at a virtual legal clinic. Register at [Alaska Free Legal Answers](#).

Protect a life. Representing a survivor of domestic violence at a protective order hearing could do just that. Contact [Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault \(ANDVSA\)](#).

Help disaster survivors rebuild. Do a brief training on disaster assistance and answer questions at an in-person or virtual legal clinic. Contact the [Alaska Bar Association](#).

Feed the hungry. Represent someone facing delays or denials of their SNAP (food stamps) benefits by sending emails and attending hearings. Contact [Alaska Legal Services Corporation \(ALSC\)](#).

Answer the phone. The Information & Referral Hotline for [ANDVSA](#) and the Landlord-Tenant Helpline at [ALSC](#) require just two hours once a month, and calls can be forwarded to your cell phone, making it easy to volunteer from anywhere.

Keep a family off the street. An eviction hearing could be all that keeps them from becoming homeless. Alaska's homeless population is growing—[be part of the solution](#).

Impact Alaska's youth. Teaching at Anchorage Youth Court encourages civic engagement, youth leadership and respect for the law. Email [AYC](#).

Be a writer. Develop law-related literature and curriculum for the public and other volunteer attorneys. Contact the [Alaska Bar Association](#).

Customize a custody agreement. A custody agreement that makes sense for a family unit benefits everyone in our community. Contact [ALSC](#).

Qualified Legal Services Providers Offering Pro Bono Opportunities

For a list of opportunities from qualified legal services providers that is updated every 60 days, visit the [Pro Bono Opportunities for Attorneys](#) page. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about the opportunities below, please contact the organization. If you would like to be added to a list to be emailed about volunteering at free legal clinics, please join the Alaska Bar's pro bono mailing list [here](#).

ALASKA FREE LEGAL ANSWERS

[Alaska Free Legal Answers](#) is a virtual legal advice clinic in which qualifying low-income users post civil legal questions at no cost to be answered by pro bono attorneys licensed in Alaska. Volunteer attorneys will be emailed when a question is posted in a subject area to which they subscribe and may preview questions before committing to answering them. Questions generally take about 20 minutes to answer, and may include links to court forms or self-help resources. The most common questions involve family law, housing, employment, probate, and disaster assistance.

Sign up to volunteer by clicking [this link](#).

ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

[Alaska Legal Services Corporation](#) (ALSC) is the statewide provider of free, comprehensive civil legal aid. Established in 1967, ALSC serves over 200 communities through 11 offices around the state. ALSC's work impacts children and families, veterans, elders, those with a disability, domestic violence survivors, and more.

ALSC's pro bono program is a strong network of volunteer attorneys, community justice workers, and other legal professionals. Additional volunteers are needed to meet the needs of low-income Alaskans and their communities – volunteer through direct client representation, one-time advice and counsel appointments, participation in legal clinics, or by serving as a mentor or resource for other volunteers or ALSC staff.

Your participation in ALSC's pro bono program includes malpractice insurance, co-counsel and/or mentoring opportunities, sample briefs and reasonable reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

Alaskans across the state who meet ALSC's income guidelines are depending on your service to access justice, meet their basic needs, preserve their families, and thrive in their communities.

All volunteers must register [here](#). Learn more about ALSC and sign up to become a volunteer at www.alsc-law.org or call (907) 272-9431.



ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

[Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#) (ANDVSA) provides legal help to low-income victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Alaska ranks among the top 5 states in the U.S. for per capita rates of domestic violence and ANDVSA's statistics mirror that. Serving an average of 110 clients per year, ANDVSA supports volunteer attorneys willing to take a wide variety of civil cases.

Serving on a statewide basis, ANDVSA's volunteers are put to work taking full cases, serving as mentors, doing legal research and answering the Information and Referral Hotline. The Information and Referral Hotline is offered 18 times per year for two hours each rotation by volunteer attorneys around Alaska.

ANDVSA is renowned for its critical on-call mentoring assistance, extensive written resources (including an Alaska-specific Volunteer Family Law Manual, American Bar Association Family Law practice manuals, and sample pleadings), and live and prerecorded training opportunities. Additional benefits to volunteers include malpractice insurance, case cost coverage, and the assistance of paralegals and shelter advocates.

For more information about ANDVSA or for questions and/or interest in volunteering, please contact Katy Soden at (907) 297-2791, email ksoden@andvsa.org, or fill out ANDVSA's [volunteer attorney application form](#).

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF ALASKA

The ACLU of Alaska defends the civil rights and liberties of all Alaskans through litigation, advocacy, and community engagement. We strive to create a more equitable state by partnering with a diverse network of Alaskans dedicated to preserving the rights guaranteed by the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions. Learn more about our work and get involved at our website: <https://www.aclu.org/action>.

For more information about how to get involved in the legal community or how to get started with volunteering, contact the Pro Bono Director at info@alaskabar.org or call (907) 272-7469. We can also help your employer develop a pro bono policy!

ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION



Lawyer Referral Service



The need for Lawyer Referral

The Alaska Bar Association offers our Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) as a resource to our community. It is made up of Alaska lawyers who have signed up to be listed under areas of law on the Lawyer Referral Service and each attorney that participates is an active member in good standing of the Alaska Bar Association. The LRS averages about 3,500 calls annually, with most of those callers referred to a panel attorney in their community. Others are guided to appropriate agencies.

The Alaska LRS is beneficial to everyone who uses it. The public benefits when legal services are made available. The individual attorney benefits from a new source of clients. The legal profession benefits through the improvement of its public image and by increasing its accessibility to the public.

If you are a member of the Alaska Bar Association and are covered by professional liability insurance, Alaska LRS needs you as a panel member. See page 2 for the LRS Enrollment Agreement.

Who calls LRS?

Most callers find they have a legal problem but have never used the services of a lawyer or are new to the community.

Callers requesting the service are informed that they will be referred to a lawyer who is in good standing, and who will provide them with an initial consultation at a reasonable fee.

How LRS works

The Alaska LRS is organized by areas of law and geographic location. Complete the application for membership on the following page and mail it, along with payment to the Alaska Bar Association.

Potential clients call the Bar office from anywhere in the state. The general nature of their problem is discussed, and if they have a legal problem, they are referred to up to three attorneys in their area. The client is responsible for making the appointment.

Clients are informed by the Bar that the attorney will charge no more than \$125 for a ½ hour consultation. After that, the arrangements for any further legal services and fees for those services should be discussed with the attorney.

Areas of LRS

- Administrative
- Admiralty
- Adoption
- Alaska Native Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Arts
- Bankruptcy
- Commercial
- Construction
- Consumer
- Criminal - Felony
- Criminal - Misdemeanor
- Debt Collection/Judgment Enforcement
- Discrimination
- Divorce/Dissolution /Custody
- Eminent Domain
- Environmental
- Foreign Language
- Guardianship/Conservator
- Immigration
- Insurance
- Juvenile Delinquency Law
- Labor Relations
- Landlord/Tenant
- Malpractice
- Military Law
- Mining
- Negligence
- Patent/Copyright/Intellectual Property
- Public Interest
- Real Estate
- Social Security Disability
- Tax
- Trust/Wills/Estates
- Workers' Comp



ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION

Lawyer Referral Service

840 K Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501-3353

Phone: (907) 272-7469

Fax: (907) 272-2932

E-mail: LRS@alaskabar.org

Website: www.alaskabar.org



Lawyer Referral Service Enrollment Agreement

- 1. I am an active member, in good standing, of the Alaska Bar Association.
2. I have read the Charter of the Statewide Lawyer Referral Service.
3. I wish to be a member of the Statewide Lawyer Referral Service and agree to pay \$50 for each panel (category) selected. Panels may be timely renewed for \$20.
4. I agree to pay a \$4 surcharge for each referral made to me during a calendar quarter, and understand that this assessment will be made whether the caller referred actually appeared for the appointment made or even contacted me as a result of the referral. I further understand that failure to pay, within 20 days, the invoiced amount resulting from this quarterly assessment will result in a suspension of referrals until the amount due is received.
5. In the event that I am suspended from the LRS for nonpayment of the invoiced amount, I agree that in order to be reinstated to the LRS, I will pay the balance owed, plus a 10% reinstatement fee with a \$10 minimum fee.
6. My practice is covered by Errors and Omissions Insurance totaling at least \$50,000 (policy issued by: _____), and shall maintain such insurance at all times while participating in the Lawyer Referral Service.

7. Enclosed is the total amount of \$_____, to cover the registration fee for the following panels:

Blank lines for listing registration panels.

- 8. I agree to a maximum charge of \$125 for the initial 1/2 hour consultation.
9. I will promptly inform the Alaska Bar Association of any change in my address or phone number.
10. In the event that a petition is filed for removal to inactive status for disability and/or if formal disciplinary proceedings are initiated against me, or if a criminal complaint is filed or an indictment returned alleging a serious crime [as defined in Alaska Bar Rule 26(b)], I hereby agree to a suspension of referrals until final resolution of the matter.

I have read the foregoing and hereby certify that the answers are complete and true to the best of my knowledge.

Name: _____ (Signature) _____ (Print or Type)

Date: _____ Member No.: _____



What is IOLTA

IOLTA – Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts – is a method of raising money to provide funds for civil legal services to the underserved. The IOLTA program allows members of the Alaska Bar Association to place client funds, which are nominal in amount or held for a short period of time, into pooled interest-bearing accounts. Interest earned is remitted to the Alaska Bar Foundation (ABF) Board of Trustees, which distributes these funds through the IOLTA grant process to programs that meet our funding requirements. The Alaska Supreme Court adopted the first rules establishing the Alaska IOLTA program, in November of 1986 and it is administered by the ABF Board of Trustees. Currently, Alaska Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15(f) and (g) and Alaska Bar Rule 15.1 govern the IOLTA program.

How Does IOLTA Work

Attorneys routinely receive client funds, securities or other properties to be held in trust for future use. If the trust amount is larger or if it will be held for a long period of time, the attorney has a fiduciary obligation to place these trust properties in an interest-bearing account for the benefit of the client. However, in the case of trust properties that are small or are to be held for a short period of time, it is impractical to establish separate interest-bearing accounts for individual clients. By joining IOLTA, however, attorneys' unsegregated trust accounts can generate interest income, which is sent to the ABF to be used for grants to programs that provide civil legal services to the underserved.

Although IOLTA creates income, nothing else is changed: lawyers satisfy their ethical and fiduciary duty to place client funds in a secure account; there is on-demand access to the client's money; and, as in the past, the client realizes no interest income because the nominal or short-term client funds that are pooled in IOLTA accounts are funds that cannot earn net interest for the client.

The Positive Impacts of IOLTA

The Alaska IOLTA program is similar to programs developed in 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and the Canadian provinces. Since 1981, IOLTA has generated over \$4 billion in revenue throughout the United States. In 2020, IOLTA grants nationwide totaled over \$175 million. IOLTA is a significant source of funding for programs that provide civil legal services to those living in poverty, with over 90 percent of grants awarded by IOLTA programs (~\$168 million in 2020) supporting legal aid offices and pro bono programs.

The ABF IOLTA program funds have been designated to be used solely for the following purposes: Support of legal services to the economically disadvantaged and programs to improve the administration of justice. For information on recent grant recipients, the ABF, or IOLTA you can visit our website:

<https://alaskabar.org/ethics-discipline/interest-on-lawyers-trust-accounts/>

Why You Should be Involved

Other than the positive impacts listed above, the Alaska Bar Association Rules of Professional Conduct charges attorneys with the responsibility of ensuring access to justice to those unable to afford it, promoting improvements in the efficient and fair administration of justice and assisting in the understanding of our legal system by the public at large. Attorneys have a professional obligation to contribute to the delivery of legal services to the underserved. Participation in the IOLTA program is a convenient, ethical and efficient mechanism to render part of this responsibility.

How to Set Up an IOLTA Account

If you are a new attorney, have changed firms, or are simply changing banks, you will need to open up a new IOLTA account.

Follow these steps to set up your account:

1. Complete Waiver of Confidentiality
2. Look up Alaska IOLTA participating financial institutions
3. Take Notice of Financial Institution form to an Alaska IOLTA participation institution