



## INFORMATION RELEASE WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2013

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# ANNUAL ILLINOIS LAWYER REPORT RELEASED ON LAW DAY

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The Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC), the administrative agency that regulates licensed Illinois lawyers, has filed its year 2012 Annual Report with the Supreme Court of Illinois. The report was released to the public this morning when a copy was posted on the ARDC website: [www.iardc.org](http://www.iardc.org).

A summary of the annual report entitled *Highlights from the Annual Report* is attached to this information release.

The ARDC annually evaluates the effectiveness of the disciplinary system. Complete and comprehensive statistics concerning the disciplinary caseload are submitted to the Illinois Supreme Court and are published in the Annual Report. Few professions account for their regulatory activity in such detail. In addition, the Annual Report also includes the findings of an independent auditor that the agency's financial statements were accurate and that the ARDC employs appropriate accounting procedures.

In its Annual Report, the ARDC accounts to the Supreme Court for money received and spent. No tax money is used to fund the agency. All operating funds are taken from an annual registration fee paid by Illinois attorneys. Most lawyers now pay an annual fee of \$342. Of that amount, \$200 is used by the ARDC to pay for lawyer regulation; \$95 is remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund to fund legal services for the indigent; \$7 is sent to the Lawyers' Assistance Program, an organization that helps lawyers, judges, law students, and their families with alcohol abuse, drug dependency, or mental health problems; \$15 is submitted to the Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism; and \$25 funds the Client Protection Program. The Supreme Court of

Illinois created the Client Protection Program in 1994 to reimburse clients who lose money because of the dishonest conduct of a lawyer.

Annual reports for the prior twelve reporting years are published at the ARDC website under the tab marked: **ARDC Organizational Information**. The website also includes the Master Roll of Attorneys in Illinois and permits a user to search for certain basic public registration information, including the business address and public disciplinary record, of Illinois lawyers. The site attracts up to 108,000 visits each month and, in 2012, visitors totaled more than 1.3 million. It has a searchable database of disciplinary decisions.

The ARDC consists of four members of the Illinois Bar and three non-lawyers appointed by the Supreme Court. The ARDC Chairman is Joan Myers Eagle of Chicago. The Vice Chair is James R. Mendillo of Belleville. The Commissioners receive no compensation for their services. The Commissioners create ARDC policies, establish an operating budget, appoint members of the Inquiry and Hearing Boards, and manage the Client Protection Program. Subject to the approval of the Supreme Court, the Commissioners appoint the ARDC's chief executive officer, the Administrator. The Administrator is Jerome Larkin.

There are two ARDC offices: One Prudential Plaza in Chicago and 3161 White Oaks Drive in Springfield.

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