



ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
of the  
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

One Prudential Plaza  
130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6219  
(312) 565-2600 (800) 826-8625  
Fax (312) 565-2320

3161 West White Oaks Drive, Suite 301  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
(217) 546-3523 (800) 252-8048  
Fax (217) 546-3785

Chicago  
April 22, 2025

To the Honorable Chief Justice  
and Justices of the Supreme Court  
of Illinois:

The annual report of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission for 2024 is submitted to the Court, to the members of the Bar of Illinois, and to the public in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 751.

The report is a statement of activities of the Commission for calendar year 2024 and an accounting and audit of the monies received and expended during the twelve-month period that ended December 31, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Simpson, Chairperson  
J. Nelson Wood, Vice Chairperson  
Emily J. Hampton  
Lashana T. Jackson  
Hon. Robert C. Marsaglia (Ret.)  
Kate L. McCracken  
Cedric D. Thurman, Commissioners

Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator  
Scott Renfroe, Deputy Administrator, Appeals  
Althea K. Welsh, Deputy Administrator, Intake & Administration

The background of the cover is a stylized, blue-tinted image of a city skyline, likely Chicago, with prominent skyscrapers. The image is overlaid with a grid of white lines and a bright, horizontal light flare in the center, creating a modern, digital aesthetic. The ARDC logo is positioned in the upper left, and the title 'ANNUAL 2024 REPORT' is at the bottom right.

# ARDC

ATTORNEY REGISTRATION &  
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

# ANNUAL<sup>2024</sup> REPORT

## Table of Contents

<b>Foreword .....</b>	<b>v.</b>
<b>Message from ARDC Administrator .....</b>	<b>vii.</b>
<b>Mission Statement, Vision and Organizational Values .....</b>	<b>viii.</b>
<b>Education Initiatives and Restorative Services .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ARDC Education Department.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ARDC Client Protection Program.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Registration.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2024 Master Roll Demographics .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Illinois Lawyer Population .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Age, Gender and Years in Practice .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Principal Business Location .....</b>	<b>13</b>
All Active and Inactive Lawyers.....	13
Active and Inactive Status Lawyers Located in Illinois By County .....	14
<b>Practice Demographics.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Practice Setting of Active Status Lawyers .....	14
Practice Size of Private Practice Lawyers.....	15
Succession Planning Reports .....	15
<i>Pro Bono</i> Hours and Monetary Contributions Reports.....	16
Trust Account Reports .....	17
Malpractice Insurance Reports.....	18
<b>Regulation.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2024 Investigations .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Investigations Initiated in 2024.....	19
Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations .....	20
Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations.....	20
Investigations Concluded in 2024.....	22
<b>2024 Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Hearing Board .....	23
Review Board .....	24
Illinois Supreme Court.....	25

<b>2024 Developments.....</b>	<b>28</b>
Rule Changes .....	28
Commission Board Changes .....	29
ARDC Organization Initiative .....	31
<b>2024 Financial Report .....</b>	<b>35</b>



<b>Appendix: Statistical Charts .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Registration Charts .....</b>	<b>38</b>
Chart 1: Registration Categories in 2024 .....	38
Chart 1A: Gender, Age and Years in Practice (2020-2024) .....	39
Chart 1B: Lawyers By Gender and Years in Practice (2024) .....	39
Chart 1C: Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Illinois Lawyers (2004-2024) .....	40
Chart 2A: Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By Judicial District (2020-2024) .....	41
Chart 2B: Judicial District Map (eff. Jan. 1, 2022) .....	42
Chart 3: Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By County (2022-2024) .....	43
Chart 3A: Map of Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By County (2024) .....	44
Chart 4: Attorneys Removals from the Master Roll (2015-2024) .....	45
Chart 5: Pro Hac Vice Admissions (2020-2024) .....	45
Chart 6A: Practice Setting: Active Status and Currently Practicing Law (2020-2024) .....	46
Chart 6A-1: Practice Size: Active Status, Currently Practicing and In Private Practice (2020-2024) ..	46
Charts 6B-1 and 6B-2: Practice Setting Demographics By Age (2023-2024) .....	47-48
Chart 7A: Succession Planning of Active Status Lawyers in Private Practice (2020-2024) .....	49
Chart 7B: Solos with No Succession Planning and No Malpractice Insurance (2024) .....	49
Chart 8A: Trust Account Disclosure Reports (2024) .....	50
Chart 8B: Trust Account Reports of Active Status Lawyers in Private Practice (2020-2024) .....	50
Chart 9A: Malpractice Insurance Disclosure Reports (2020-2024) .....	51
Chart 9B: Malpractice Insurance Disclosure Reports, Active Lawyers, Private Practice (2020-2024) 51	
<b>Investigations, Prosecutions and Sanctions .....</b>	<b>52</b>
Chart 10: Types of Investigations Docketed in 2015-2024 .....	52
Chart 11: Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations (2024) .....	53
Chart 12: Investigations By Complainant Type in 2024 .....	53
Chart 13: Classification of Charges Docketed By Allegations (2024) .....	54
Chart 14: Classification of Charges Docketed By Area of Law (2024) .....	55
Chart 15: Investigations Concluded in 2024 .....	56
Chart 16: Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2024 .....	57
Chart 17: Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations (2020-2024) .....	57
Chart 18A: Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (2020-2024) .....	58
Chart 18B: Area of Law Involved in Rule 779(b) UPL Investigations in 2024 .....	58

Chart 18C: Rule 779(b) UPL Actions Filed in the Circuit Court:2015-2024 .....	58
Chart 19: Proceedings Filed Directly with the Illinois Supreme Court (2020-2024) .....	59
Chart 20A: Matters Before the Hearing Board in 2024 .....	59
Chart 20B: Demographics of Lawyers Charged in Disciplinary Complaints (2024).....	60
Chart 20C: Types of Misconduct Alleged in Disciplinary Complaints in 2024 .....	61
Chart 20D: Area of Law Involved in Disciplinary Complaints in 2024.....	61
Chart 20E: Activity Before the Review Board in 2024 .....	62
Chart 21A: Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered by the Supreme Court in 2024 .....	63
Chart 21A-1: Disposition of 60 Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered in 2024 .....	63
Chart 21B: County of Practice of Lawyers Disciplined in 2024 .....	64
Chart 21C: Demographics of Lawyers Disciplined in 2024.....	64
Chart 21D: Practice Setting of Lawyers Disciplined in 2024 .....	65
Chart 21D-1: Representation of Lawyers Disciplined in 2024 .....	65
Chart 21E: Impairments Identified for Lawyers Disciplined in 2024 .....	65
Chart 21F: Demographics of Disciplined Lawyers with Identified Impairments in 2024.....	66
Chart 22: Orders Entered by the Supreme Court in Disciplinary Cases in 2024.....	66
Chart 23: ARDC-Appointed Receiverships: 2020-2024.....	67
Chart 24: Non-Disciplinary Actions by the Supreme Court in 2024.....	67
Chart 25A: Registration Growth and Disciplinary Investigations Trend (2010-2024) .....	68
Chart 25B: Admissions vs. Retirement Removals Trend (2010-2024) .....	68
Chart 25C: Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings Trend (2010-2024).....	69
Chart 26: Attorney Reports Trend (2010-2024).....	69
<b>Client Protection Program .....</b>	<b>70</b>
Chart 27A: Client Protection Program Claims Trend (2010-2024).....	70
Chart 27B: Classification of Approved Client Protection Claims in 2024.....	71
<b>2024 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report</b>	
<b>2024 Board Member Roster</b>	
<b>ARDC Commission Staff</b>	

## Foreword

---

To the Honorable Chief Justice  
and Justices of the Supreme Court  
of Illinois:



The Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission is pleased to submit the Commission's 2024 Annual Report.

We start by acknowledging and thanking Tim Bertschy, our immediate past Chair, who led the Commission extraordinarily effectively, with energy, creativity and grace, and Lea Gutierrez, who completed a very successful first full year as Administrator.

Lea's letter and the remainder of this Annual Report provide important information about our activities and highlight the Agency's accomplishments over the last year. As the body responsible for the Agency's oversight and strategic direction, we want to in this letter to more broadly address what we see as the mission of the ARDC.

There are over 96,000 lawyers registered in Illinois who every day represent literally millions of clients inside and outside our State. Our mission, as an instrumentality of the Illinois Supreme Court, is to serve lawyers, their clients and the public with the highest degree of integrity through education, outreach, restorative services and discipline. We seek to be recognized as far more than a disciplinary agency. A significant portion of our staff is devoted to services such as education, client protection, and registration. We believe that these services enhance the reputation and integrity of the profession and contribute to making lawyers' practices efficient and effective.

As to our disciplinary function, while there are certainly cases where significant discipline is required, we also address issues such as mental illness, substance abuse, and diminished capacity each year. In these cases, we strive to balance discipline with opportunities for rehabilitation.

We are also keenly aware that the changing legal landscape has a strong influence on our work. For example, ours is an aging profession, with more than 47% of registered Illinois lawyers over age 50. That presents its own unique challenges in areas such as succession and in some cases capacity. Ours is also a profession that is far more gender balanced than historically has been the case, but with women generally leaving the profession earlier than their male counterparts. We think hard about how to make the profession more attractive to all as they progress through their lives and careers. Finally, things like remote work and Artificial Intelligence present unique challenges to the practice and to our work, unimagined as recently

as five years ago. In short, we are tasked with responding thoughtfully and nimbly to a significantly changing legal landscape.

We extend our appreciation to the Supreme Court for its leadership and trust, to the ARDC staff for their diligence and professionalism, and to the legal community for engaging with us in this shared commitment to serving our profession, its clients and the public.

John H. Simpson, Chairperson  
J. Nelson Wood, Vice Chairperson  
Emily J. Hampton  
Lashana T. Jackson  
Robert C. Marsaglia  
Kate L. McCracken  
Cedric D. Thurman, Commissioners

## Message from ARDC Administrator Lea S. Gutierrez

---



I am honored to present the ARDC's 2024 Annual Report, which reflects a pivotal year of growth, transformation, and reaffirmation of our commitment to the legal profession and the public.

This past year, we made meaningful progress in advancing the ARDC's newly adopted mission: to preserve and enhance the integrity of the legal profession through attorney registration and education, public outreach, restorative services, and, when necessary, discipline. This shift underscores our focus on proactive and supportive measures to help lawyers navigate the complexities of legal practice while maintaining the highest ethical standards. Our vision—to shape a profession where all lawyers act with ethics and integrity—guides everything we do.

A major milestone in 2024 was the development of our five-year strategic plan, which charts a path forward in three key areas: evolving and enhancing the ARDC's programs, services, and reputation; elevating public confidence in the legal profession; and building an innovative and adaptive organization. The plan reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and ensures we remain a resource to both lawyers and the public in an ever-changing legal landscape. Among the highlights of this past year:

- **Education and Support Services:** We continued expanding our education and outreach initiatives, providing thousands of lawyers with free CLE programming, enhancing our Ethics Inquiry Program, and refining our probation and lawyer deferral services to address the root causes of lawyer misconduct.
- **Strengthening Registration and Regulation:** We improved the lawyer registration process, supported client protection efforts, and upheld our regulatory role with fairness and transparency.
- **Leveraging Technology and Innovation:** We introduced new resources on the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in legal practice and launched internal AI guidelines to support staff in adapting to evolving technologies responsibly.

As we move forward, our focus remains on balancing discipline with proactive support, ensuring that lawyers have the tools they need to practice ethically and effectively. The ARDC is not just a regulator—we are a resource for lawyers and a partner in upholding the integrity of the profession.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Illinois Supreme Court for its guidance, to the ARDC's Commissioners and dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment, and to the legal community for your engagement and shared commitment to ethical practice. I look forward to continuing our work together in shaping a profession that earns and sustains the public's trust.

Lea S. Gutierrez  
Administrator, ARDC



ARDC preserves and advances the integrity of the legal profession through attorney registration and education, public outreach, restorative services, and when necessary, attorney discipline.

# MISSION

ARDC'S vision is to shape a profession where all lawyers act ethically and with integrity.

# VISION

- 1. Own It, Be Accountable**—Taking ownership of our actions, decisions, and commitments, while holding ourselves to high performance and behavioral standards. We deliver on promises with integrity, transparency, and timeliness, ensuring consistency in both what we do and how we do it.
- 2. Show Empathy in Every Step**—Listening, understanding, and showing compassion in all interactions. We value the perspectives of others and foster a supportive and inclusive environment.
- 3. Stay Curious, Stay Open**—Asking questions and embracing new ideas and diverse perspectives in all we do. By remaining open-minded, we adapt to change and continuously improve.
- 4. Pioneer Excellence, Set the Standard**—Leading in innovation and excellence by implementing best practices and setting new standards. Together, we drive standards that others aspire to and we reach the highest levels of performance as individuals and as an organization.

# VALUES

**ARDC**  
ATTORNEY REGISTRATION &  
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

# Education Initiatives & Restorative Services



The ARDC's mission has evolved to place a stronger emphasis on education and restorative services, away from a primary focus on attorney discipline. While still dedicated to upholding the integrity of the legal profession, the adoption of the ARDC's new mission statement underscores the importance of proactive measures and a broader commitment to fostering a healthy and ethical legal community.

Emphasizing proactive education initiatives and restorative services helps prevent misconduct or mitigate its impact. Holistic programs and services support lawyers in addressing potential issues, provide remedial assistance when needed, and protect the public, fostering trust in the integrity of the legal profession.

The ARDC Education Department provides programs and services that equip lawyers with the necessary tools and knowledge for ethical and effective practice. The ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department utilizes practical and effective approaches to proactively address the underlying causes of lawyer misconduct, especially when it arises from mental health, addiction, or law office management issues. The ARDC Client Protection Program supports and serves consumers of legal services by reimbursing clients who suffer financial harm caused by a lawyer's dishonest conduct.

## ARDC Education Department

A significant part of the ARDC's mission is to provide high quality education and guidance to Illinois lawyers regarding their ethical duties. The ARDC Education Department plays a crucial role in ensuring that Illinois lawyers receive top-quality education and guidance related to their ethical responsibilities. By doing so, the ARDC equips lawyers with the necessary knowledge, skills, and ethical mindset to recognize and effectively address ethical challenges they may encounter in their legal practice.



This proactive approach empowers lawyers to avoid misconduct, maintain public trust, and uphold the integrity of the legal system. The ARDC Education Department also plays an integral role in the ARDC's efforts to provide educational tools and resources to disciplined lawyers needing remedial help to address the underlying reasons for misconduct.



Throughout the year, the ARDC Education Department produces instructional e-learning webcasts accessible through the ARDC Online Learning Portal, compiles the ARDC Annual Report, presents hundreds of hours of in-person and virtual Continuing Legal Education (CLE) presentations, manages the Ethics Inquiry Program, and develops various publications and training courses.

## E-Learning MCLE Accredited Seminars

The ARDC is a leading CLE provider in Illinois, producing recorded MCLE-accredited webcasts to meet the growing demand for easily accessible online programming and resources. ARDC webcasts are free of charge and available 24/7 on the ARDC website. In 2024, there were 45 on-demand, recorded webcasts available on the ARDC website, providing 32 hours of free professional responsibility CLE credit.

In 2024, the ARDC issued 94,233 certificates of CLE completion, over 40,000 more than issued in 2023. Much of the increase in the number of certificates issued in 2024 can be attributed to the release of the 2024-2025 PMBR self-assessment course that is required to be taken by lawyers without malpractice insurance every two years. See description of Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR) course on Page 4.



The chart below shows the activity in the number of CLE certificates issued each month in 2024. As expected, there was a significant increase in CLE certificates issued in June, the end of the CLE reporting period for lawyers in the A-M reporting group of the Illinois bar.



The charts below show the top five most watched ARDC webcasts in 2024 (excluding the 2024-2025 PMBR course modules), as well as the top five webcasts receiving an “Excellent” or “Very Good” rating from at least 85% of the viewers.

Top Five Most Watched ARDC Webcasts in 2024	Total
#1 Diversity & Inclusion: A Blueprint for 2017 & Beyond	4,272
#2 Attorney Well-Being: The Intersection of Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Wellness	3,913
#3 Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct of 2023: A New Era	3,263
#4 ARDC Professionalism Seminar: Client Communication Issues	2,881
#5 Learning the Art of Mindfulness: A Wellness Approach for the Legal Profession	2,678

Top Five Rated ARDC Webcasts in 2024
#1 Social Media & the Practice of Law
#2 Attorney Well-Being: The Intersection of Physical, Spiritual and Emotional Wellness
#3 Time & Billing
#4 Diversity & Inclusion: A Blueprint for 2017 & Beyond
#4 Civility

New offerings added to the ARDC website in 2024 and early 2025 were:

- **Navigating the ARDC series** – A four-part series, offering 1.25 hours of professional responsibility credit, exploring the regulation of the legal profession in Illinois. The series covers:
  - Registration Functions & Status;
  - Responding to Investigations;
  - Post-Investigation Options & the Inquiry Board; and
  - Hearing Board Matters & Beyond.
- **2024-2025 Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR) course** - The fourth iteration of the PMBR course, since it was first launched in 2018 (see Page 4), the course provides 4.0 hours of PRCLE credit in law office management. The 2024-2025 course consists of the five following components:
  - Artificial Intelligence: Benefits, Risks, and Ethical Considerations;
  - Lawyer Mental Health and Self-Harm Struggles: Identifying Opportunities to Help & Heal;

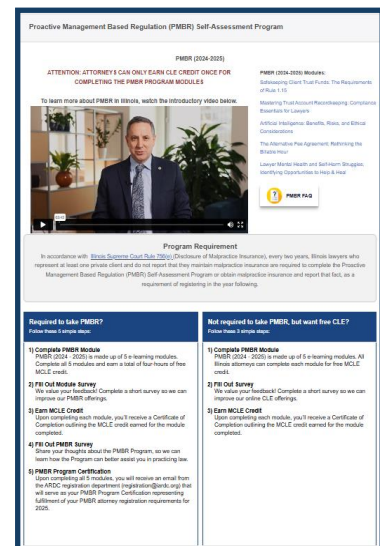
- Mastering Trust Account Recordkeeping: Compliance Essentials for Lawyers;
  - Safekeeping Client Trust Funds: The Requirements of Rule 1.15; and
  - The Alternative Fee Agreement: Rethinking the Billable Hour.
- **Beyond The Bench: ARDC Registration & MCLE Guidance For Past, Present & Future Members of the Judiciary** – A 0.5 hour professional responsibility CLE-accredited webcast that reviews the ARDC and MCLE requirements for lawyers while serving on the bench and in post judicial service.

## Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR) Course

One of the ARDC webcast offerings is the Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR) program, a four-hour interactive, law office management self-assessment course. Since 2018, lawyers in private practice who do not have malpractice insurance must complete the course every two years. See IL Supreme Court Rule 756(e)(2). Approximately 13% of Active status lawyers in private practice fall into this category. See Chart 9B Malpractice Disclosure Reports: Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice, Appendix. However, the course, and its components are available to all lawyers. Over 32,000 CLE certificates of completion were issued in 2024 from the aggregate of all five components of the 2024-2025 PMBR course.

For the 2024-2025 PMBR cycle, 6,964 lawyers were identified as being required to take the PMBR course to be registered for 2025. As of March 2024, 4,917 lawyers (70.6%) completed the course; 979 lawyers (14.1%) obtained malpractice insurance; 335 lawyers (4.8%) were no longer required to complete PMBR because they had either changed their practice setting to something other than private practice or were no longer currently practicing law; 197 lawyers (2.8%) were exempt from PMBR because of a change from Active status to either Retired or Inactive status; and 177 lawyers (2.5%) were removed from the Master Roll for failing to complete PMBR.

All ARDC CLE on-demand recorded webcasts, including the PMBR course, can be accessed from the ARDC website from the [ARDC Online Learning Portal](#).



## Speaking Engagements and ARDC CLE Collaborations

As an important part of the ARDC's outreach efforts and as a service to the Illinois bar, the ARDC offers experienced presenters to speak to lawyer and citizen groups at no charge. Each year ARDC Commissioners and staff members present to bar associations, law schools, government agencies, and other law-





related organizations throughout the state and country on a variety of subjects related to lawyer regulation. ARDC staff lawyers gave 140 speeches in-person and virtually in 2024.

The Education Department also facilitated collaborations with other agencies of the Illinois Supreme Court, bar associations, law schools, and other groups to present educational programming for the Illinois bar. Organizations with whom the ARDC collaborated with in 2024 included:

American Immigration Lawyers Assoc. (AILA)	Lawyers' Assistance Program of Illinois (LAP)
Central Illinois Paralegal Association	Lake County Bar Association
Chicago Bar Association (CBA)	Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin	Madison County Bar Association
Chicago-Kent College of Law	National Bar Association
DePaul University College of Law	National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC)
DuPage County Bar Association	National Institute of Trial Attorneys (NITA)
Illinois Creditors' Bar Association	North Suburban Bar Association
Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education (IICLE)	Northern Illinois University College of Law
Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association	Northwest Suburban Bar Association
Illinois MCLE Board	Peoria County Bar Association
Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA)	Practicing Law Institute (PLI)
Illinois State Bar Association Mutual Insurance Co.	Prosecutors' Bar Association of Illinois
Illinois Wealth Counsel Forum	Puerto Rican Bar Association
Illinois Township Attorneys Association	Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School
International Conference of Legal Regulators (ICLR)	Southwest Suburban Bar Association
Kane County Bar Association	Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association (WCLA)
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois	

## Ethics Inquiry Program

Top Ten Areas of Inquiry in 2024	Total
#1 Rule 8.3(a)-(b) & (d) Duty to report lawyer/judicial misconduct	207
#2 Rule 1.7(a)(1)-(2) Representation adverse to another client or other interests	205
#3 Rule 1.15 of seq. Safekeeping trust funds and property	177
#4 Rule 1.6(a)-(c) Client confidentiality	163
#5 Rule 5.5(a)-(b) Unauthorized practice; aiding unauthorized practice	137
#6 Rules 7.1-7.5 Improper commercial advertising or solicitation	111
#7 Rule 1.5 Fee agreements and reasonable fees/expense	122
#8 Rule 1.16 Termination or withdrawal from representation	105
#9 Rule 1.8 Self-dealing conflicts	79
#10 Rule 1.9(a)-(c) Representation adverse to former client	69

The ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program assists lawyers and the public with general questions about a lawyer's professional responsibilities. Since the Program began in October 1995, the Program has received over 80,000 inquiries from lawyers seeking guidance in resolving important issues in their practice.

In 2024, staff lawyers responded to 2,211 calls from lawyers, providing research assistance and guidance regarding ethics

issues and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, free of charge. The perennial top area of inquiry continues to be a lawyer's mandatory duty to report lawyer or judicial misconduct under Rule 8.3 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct. See Chart 26 Attorney Reports (2010-

2024), Appendix, which shows the trend of lawyer reports for the past fifteen years. However, this was closely followed by inquiries concerning concurrent client conflicts under Rule 1.7 and the safekeeping duties of trust funds and property under Rule 1.15 *et seq.* of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct. The questions posed by lawyers shed light on emerging trends and other issues of most concern to the Illinois bar. The Education Department takes into consideration the questions received by the Ethics Inquiry Program when creating CLE programming and developing other educational resources.

Lawyers with inquiries are requested to present their questions in the form of a hypothetical. Callers may remain anonymous if they so choose. An inquiry can be made by calling the Commission offices in Chicago (312-565-2600) or Springfield (217-546-3523). Additional information about the Program can be obtained on the ARDC website at [Ethics Inquiry Program](#).

## Publications

ARDC lawyers frequently write alerts, e-blasts, newsletters and articles on a wide range of legal ethics topics and emerging trends for publication. Resources, such as *The Client Trust Account Handbook*, along with practical law office management forms and checklists, are available on the Commission's website at [www.iardc.org](http://www.iardc.org). These resources offer valuable guidance and updates on the latest developments in the legal profession in Illinois.

## ARDC Website



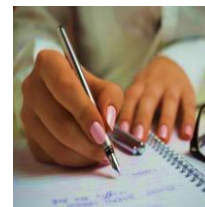
The ARDC website ([www.iardc.org](http://www.iardc.org)) is a vital tool in the ARDC's education and outreach efforts. The ARDC website is an important source of information regarding all aspects of the regulation of the legal profession in Illinois and recent developments

affecting Illinois lawyers. The website hosts the ARDC's online registration portal, through which more than 96,000 lawyers complete their annual ARDC registration, and connects the legal profession to important updates impacting Illinois lawyers, educational resources to assist lawyers in their practice, and CLE programming.

In 2024, the website garnered over 1.4 million visits, averaging 121,000 visits per month. The most popular feature is the Lawyer Search function, which received over 2 million page views last year. This feature allows visitors to search the Master Roll for basic public registration information about lawyers, including their principal address and public disciplinary records. The website also includes information about the ARDC investigative process and how to file a complaint, a schedule of public hearings and arguments on public disciplinary matters pending before the Hearing and Review Boards, and a searchable database of disciplinary decisions issued by the Supreme Court and reports filed by the disciplinary boards. Also available on the website is information about the Client Protection Program and claim forms as well as information about the Ethics Inquiry Program, and links to other legal ethics research sites.

## ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department

The ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department oversees lawyers who must fulfill specific conditions in order to continue in the practice of law. The ARDC employs practical and innovative strategies to proactively tackle the root causes of lawyer misconduct, particularly when it stems from mental health, addiction, or law office management issues.



The ARDC is committed to fostering ethical law practice by providing targeted support to lawyers in situations where intervention can help prevent or mitigate risks to clients. In addition to disciplinary measures for serious misconduct, the ARDC utilizes structured alternatives to discipline, such as probation and lawyer deferral programs, to address underlying issues that may impact a lawyer's ability to practice effectively. These programs emphasize professional accountability while offering lawyers the necessary tools and resources to meet their ethical obligations. By integrating these structured interventions, the ARDC strengthens its role in protecting the public while promoting sustainable, ethical law practice.

Diversion programs are designed to address minor misconduct through education and rehabilitation rather than disciplinary measures. These programs aim to correct behavior by helping lawyers understand and rectify their mistakes, thereby preventing future issues. For example, if a lawyer's misconduct is due to poor office management, a diversion agreement might include conditions like law office management education or the appointment of a practice monitor.

These remedial efforts often involve mandatory continuing legal education classes, participation in mentoring or law office management programs, testing, evaluation, and/or treatment facilitated by the Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP), as well as audits of the lawyer's financial accounts. By addressing these issues early on, the ARDC aims to promote ethical and effective legal practice.

In 2024, the ARDC Probation Department monitored 202 lawyers for substance or mental illness impairments, law office management issues and restitution conditions. As the chart shows below, 75 lawyers had probationary conditions imposed by a jurisdiction other than Illinois as the result of discipline ordered on a reciprocal basis by the Illinois Supreme Court. Another 43 lawyers had been suspended by the Illinois Supreme Court in the past with their reinstatement contingent upon fulfilling Court-ordered restitution.

2024 Monitoring						
Probation Conditions Imposed by Reciprocal Jurisdiction	Suspension Pending Restitution	Probation Conditions Imposed by Court	Conditional Admission	Conditional Reinstatement	Com. R. 108 Supervision	Com. R. 56 Diversion
75	43	25	1	4	24	30

Additionally, 84 lawyers in 2024 were required to complete one or more activities, services, or programs to address issues imposed by the Illinois Supreme Court or conditions set by the ARDC under Commission Rule 108 or Rule 56 following an investigation. As shown in the following chart, 31 lawyers were being monitored for substance abuse or mental conditions, 23 lawyers for law office management issues, and 23 lawyers with conditions for both. Seven lawyers were monitored for other requirements such as making restitution or issuing a letter of apology and 32 lawyers were subject to random drug and alcohol testing.

Type of Matter	Substance Abuse or Mental Illness Conditions	Both Substance Abuse and Law Office Management Conditions	Law Office Management Conditions	Other	Total
Probation/conditional admission/conditional reinstatement	12	11	5	2	30
Commission Rule 108 Supervision	17	5	1	1	24
Commission Rule 56 Diversion of Investigation	2	7	17	4	30
				<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>

*Probation/Conditional Admission/Conditional Reinstatement* – In 2024, the ARDC Probation Department monitored 25 lawyers placed on probation as the result of a disciplinary sanction as well as one lawyer under conditional admission to the Illinois bar, and four lawyers under conditional reinstatement to the practice of law – 12 with substance abuse and/or mental health conditions; 11 subject to both mental health and law office management monitoring conditions; five for law office management training; and two with conditions falling into the “other” category.

*Commission Rule 108 Deferral of Investigation* – The Inquiry Board, in agreement with the Administrator and the lawyer under investigation, has the authority to defer investigations that do not involve trust fund misappropriation or criminal conduct. This deferral is contingent upon the lawyer’s compliance with conditions set by the Inquiry Board for up to one year. In 2024, a total of 24 lawyers were monitored under Commission Rule 108 conditions – 17 with substance abuse and/or mental health conditions; five subject to both mental health and law office management monitoring conditions; one for law office management training; and one with conditions falling into the “other” category.

*Diversion Program under Commission Rules 54 and 56* – The ARDC and respondent lawyer may opt for diversion, allowing the lawyer to participate in a program addressing identified concerns. This approach benefits the public, the legal profession, and the courts. Diversion is considered when the investigation does not involve trust fund misappropriation, criminal conduct, financial harm, or dishonesty. In 2024, a total of 30 lawyers were monitored pursuant to a diversion agreement – two with substance abuse and/or mental health conditions; seven subject to both mental health and law office management monitoring conditions; 17 for law office management training; and four with conditions falling into the “other” category, which

typically involves taking legal ethics courses. In 2024, only one lawyer did not comply with the terms of the agreement and an investigative file was reopened as a result.

*Permanent Retirement under Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8)* – Lawyers facing minor misconduct charges or who suffer from cognitive impairment issues can petition the Court for permanent retirement status, which prohibits reinstatement. This non-disciplinary option allows lawyers to retire from the practice of law while maintaining their dignity and reputation. In 2024, two lawyers were transferred to permanent retirement status in lieu of disciplinary prosecution.

*Intermediary Program* – The intermediary program helps ensure that lawyers under investigation actively participate in the process and avoid default judgments. The intermediaries also assist the Commission with lawyers who face cognitive impairment issues in facilitating their transfer to permanent retirement or another inactive status. Three lawyers with experience supporting lawyers with impairment issues reach out to those who have not responded to repeated ARDC requests, encouraging their participation, and facilitating their ability to address the issues raised in an investigation or proceeding. These intermediaries work independently of the ARDC and maintain privileged communications with the subject lawyer, as protected by Rules 1.6(d) and 8.3(c). In 2024, the intermediaries were assigned to contact 15 lawyers who were either under disciplinary investigation, facing prosecution, or with cognitive impairment concerns. Since the program began in mid-2019, the intermediaries have been assigned 63 lawyers and have successfully made contact in over 85% of cases.

*Referrals to Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP)* - Supreme Court Rule 766(b)(3) allows the ARDC to make referrals to LAP during an otherwise confidential stage of a matter, when an investigation has revealed reasonable cause to believe that a lawyer may be addicted to or abusing drugs or alcohol, experiencing a mental health condition or is otherwise struggling with something that is impairing the lawyer's ability to practice law. LAP operates independently of the ARDC and maintains confidentiality in its communications with lawyers, as protected by Rules 1.6(d) and 8.3(c). These rules ensure that lawyers can seek help from LAP without fear that their confidential information will be disclosed to the ARDC. Additionally, a lawyer's involvement in such a program may serve as a mitigating factor in disciplinary proceedings. The ARDC made 28 referrals to LAP in 2024. ARDC's referrals were the source of 11% of all LAP's referrals according to LAP's latest annual report.<sup>1</sup>

*Receivership of a Lawyer's Practice under Supreme Court Rule 776* - Supreme Court Rule 776 allows for appointing a receiver to manage a lawyer's files and close their practice if the lawyer dies, becomes disabled, or disappears, and no responsible party is available. The ARDC offers support to family members, friends, and professional colleagues who take on the task of closing a lawyer's practice, in most cases due to the death of the lawyer. Additionally, the ARDC assists court-appointed receivers. If no one else can take on this role, the ARDC seeks appointment to protect clients' interests. In 2024, there were seven pending receiverships; the ARDC served as

---

<sup>1</sup> See LAP 2022-2023 Annual Report at <https://illinoislap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2022-2023-annual-report.pdf>.



the receiver in three cases and assisted in the others. See Chart 23, ARDC-Appointed Receiverships: 2020-2024, Appendix.

## ARDC Client Protection Program

The Supreme Court of Illinois created the Client Protection Program<sup>2</sup> under Supreme Court Rule 780 to reimburse clients for losses caused by dishonest conduct of disciplined Illinois lawyers or involving unearned, unrefunded fees paid to Illinois lawyers who later died or were transferred to disability inactive status. Funded by a \$25 annual assessment paid by most Active-status lawyers and remitted to the Client Protection Program Trust Fund, the maximum per-award limit is \$100,000 and the per-lawyer limit is \$1 million. The Program does not cover losses resulting from professional negligence or malpractice and does not consider claims involving fee or contract disputes. 2024 was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Client Protection Program. To date the Program has reimbursed more than \$30,000,000 in claimant loss.

In 2024, 134 new claims were filed, and the Commission approved payment of \$1,422,273 on 65 claims involving 22 different lawyers. Forty-seven claims were denied. Four approvals were for the \$100,000 maximum, and sixteen were for \$2,500 or less. See Chart 27A, Appendix.

Misappropriation of client funds made up 54% of the approved claims, with tort-related claims being the largest category overall. Of the 65 claims approved in 2024, the Commission awarded over \$389,066 across 17 claims involving one lawyer who was disbarred in 2024 for conversion of clients' settlement funds. Among the affected clients were a disabled adult and minor children. The average amount paid per year from 2015 to 2024 was \$1,597,000. See Charts 27A and B, Appendix.

Type of Misconduct	
Misappropriation of client funds	35
Failure to refund unearned fees	29
Improper loan to lawyer	1
Area of Law	
Tort	19
Labor/Workers' Comp	9
Criminal	8
Domestic Relations	7
Real Estate	7
Contract	6
Probate/Trusts	6
Adoption	3
Corporate	2
Bankruptcy	1

<sup>2</sup> Commission Rules 501 through 512 govern the administration of the Program. More information about the Client Protection Program is [available online](#) on the ARDC website.

# Registration



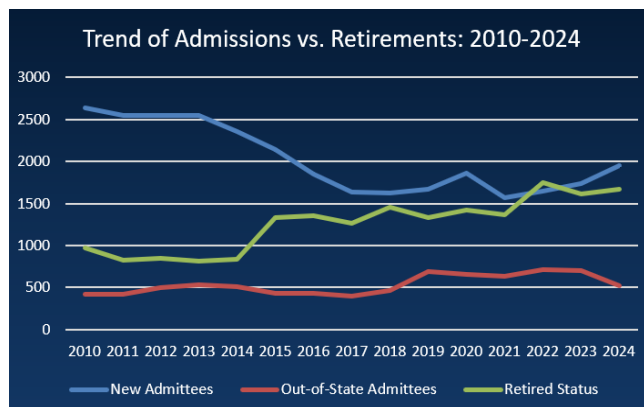
## 2024 Master Roll Demographics

### Attorney Population in 2024<sup>3</sup>

The 2024 Master Roll of Attorneys for the state of Illinois listed a total of 96,821 lawyers, a 0.4% increase from the previous year. In recent years, the growth in the number of registered lawyers in Illinois has been modest. Since 2015, the annual net increase in the Illinois' legal population has consistently remained below 1%. For detailed data from 2010 to 2024, see Chart 25A, Appendix.

Year	Lawyer Population	% Change Over Prior Year
2024	96,821	0.4%
2023	96,440	0.8%
2022	95,711	0.2%
2021	95,480	0.6%
2020	94,907	0.3%

This trend reflects, to a certain extent, the static growth observed in the legal profession nationwide. According to the ABA Profile of the Legal Profession 2024,<sup>4</sup> while the number of lawyers nationwide has risen by 3.2% from 2014 to 2024, the annual growth rate has been approximately 1% since 2000. The survey reported that nearly half the states (24) reported declines in the number of lawyers over the past decade.



The net growth of Illinois' legal population has remained relatively unchanged likely due to two primary factors: a decline in new lawyer admissions to the Illinois bar and an increase in the number of lawyers transitioning to Retired status.

According to data admissions provided by the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar from 2010 to 2024, there were 1,949 new admittees to the Illinois bar in 2024, marking

a 12% increase from 2023 and the highest number since 2015. However, this is still 26% lower than the 2,637 new lawyers that were admitted in 2010. In contrast, the number of retiring lawyers has risen significantly since 2010. In 2010, 970 lawyers moved to retired status. By 2024, this number had increased to 1,673, representing a 72% rise. The average number of

<sup>3</sup> Registration data for 2024 is based on the fiscal registration year that ended on August 31, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> [ABA Profile of the Legal Profession 2024](#). The sixth annual Profile of the Legal Profession compiles statistics and trends concerning lawyers, judges, and law students, sourced from the ABA, federal government, and nonprofit organizations including statistics on the Illinois legal population.

retirements between 2010 and 2014 was 859 lawyers per year. Between 2015 and 2021 (pre-pandemic), the average had risen to 1,361 lawyers per year. From 2022 to 2024, the average increased to 1,678 lawyers per year. However, the 2024 figure is only 64 more than the 1,609 retirements in 2023, indicating a slight leveling off from the peak of 1,753 retirements in 2022, the first full year of the pandemic.

The Illinois legal population would likely have declined if not for the increase over the past fifteen years of lawyers admitted in other jurisdictions. The number of out-of-state lawyers admitted to the Illinois bar is 24% higher than what it was fifteen years ago, in despite of the fact that the number of out-of-state admittees decreased from 705 in 2023 to 520 in 2024. See Chart 25B Historical Bar Admissions v. Retirement Removals (2010-2024), Appendix.

## Age, Gender and Years in Practice

### Registered Lawyers By Age and Years in Practice

In 2024, the largest age group among lawyers was those aged 40-49, making up 26.4% of all registered lawyers. Additionally, the legal profession was evenly split, with half of registered lawyers being 49 years old or younger and the other half being over 50. See Chart 1A Gender, Age and Years in Practice (2020-2024), Appendix.

According to the ABA Profile of the Legal Profession 2024,<sup>5</sup> which references data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the legal profession in the U.S. generally has an older demographic compared to many other fields. In Illinois, a notable number of lawyers continue to work beyond the age of 65. Over 17% of all registered Illinois lawyers, about 1 out of every 5 lawyers, are 65 or older, compared to only about 7% of the overall U.S. workforce in that age range. This is also reflected in years in practice - 12.5% of registered Illinois lawyers are 40 or more years in practice. See Chart 1A.

Age of All Registered Illinois Lawyers (2024)						
21-29 Yrs.	30-39 Yrs.	40-49 Yrs.	50-59 Yrs.	60-69 Yrs.	70-79 Yrs.	80+ Yrs.
3.6%	20.6%	26.4%	22.0%	17.0%	8.7%	1.7%

### Registered Lawyers By Gender

The number of women lawyers is steadily increasing each year. In 2024, the percentage of female lawyers rose by 0.5% over 2023, reaching 40.9%. This is consistent with the 2024 ABA Profile of the Legal Profession, which reports that 41% of all U.S. lawyers are women. Although men still outnumber women in the legal profession overall, women have been the majority of law school students since 2016.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See ABA Profile of the Legal Profession, fn. 3.

<sup>6</sup> A survey conducted by the National Association for Law Placement found that 50.3% of U.S. associates in 2023 were women, marking the first time women outnumbered men. Since 2016, women have outnumbered men in U.S. law schools. According to the ABA Profile of the Legal Profession 2023, 56.25% of law students are female, compared to 42.85% who are male. Additionally, 86.29% of law schools reported having more female than male students.

As a result, the number of lawyers with less than five years of practice has shifted from a male majority to a female majority. In Illinois, women lawyers in this category now make up 51.5% of the legal population, which is 3.4% more than their male counterparts. See Chart 1B Lawyers By Gender and Years in Practice (2023-2024).

However, the gender balance changes as women tend to leave the profession earlier in their careers compared to men.<sup>7</sup> After five years in practice, male lawyers outnumber female lawyers by over 5%. This gap increases to more than 13% after 20 years and widens further to over 30% after 30 years in practice. See Chart 1B Lawyers By Gender and Years in Practice (2024), Appendix.

2024 YEARS IN PRACTICE	FEMALE	MALE	%MORE MALE THAN FEMALE
Less than five years	51.5%	48.1%	-3.4%
Between 5 and 10 years	47.3%	52.4%	5.1%
Between 11 and 20 years	46.6%	53.3%	6.7%
Between 21 and 30 years	43.4%	56.5%	13.1%
Between 31 and 40 years	34.8%	65.1%	30.3%
Between 41 and 50 years	20.3%	79.7%	59.4%
51+ years	3.5%	96.5%	93.0%

## Principal Business Location

### All Active and Inactive Registered Lawyers

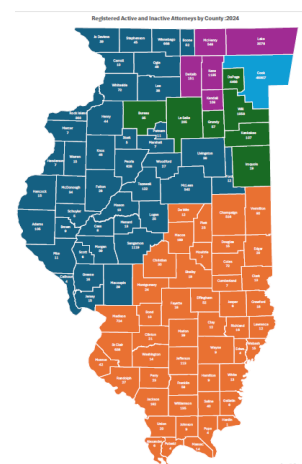
In 2024, out of the 96,821 registered lawyers, 65,456 or 67.6% reported their principal business address in Illinois. This marks a 0.3% decrease from 2023, and a more than 2% decrease since 2021 when the number was 69.7%. Meanwhile, the number of lawyers with a principal business address outside of Illinois increased to 31,365 (32.4%). Twenty years ago, only 23.4% of registered lawyers were located in Illinois. See Chart 1C Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Lawyers 2004-2024, Appendix.

Out of the lawyers based outside Illinois, 21,933 (or 70%) hold licenses in jurisdictions other than Illinois. The top five jurisdictions for these out-of-state lawyers are Missouri, the District of Columbia, California, New York, and Wisconsin. Meanwhile, 9,432 (or 30%) of lawyers with their main business location outside Illinois hold only an Illinois license. These lawyers are primarily located in California, the District of Columbia, Texas, Florida, and New York. See Chart 1C, Appendix.

<sup>7</sup> *Walking Out the Door*, Leibenberg, Roberta D. and Scharf, Stephanie A. (2019). An ABA study which found that 58% of women left the legal profession due to "caretaking commitments." Other contributing factors identified included stress levels and the pressure to meet billable hours.  
[https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/women/walkoutdoor\\_online\\_042320.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/women/walkoutdoor_online_042320.pdf)

## Active and Inactive Registered Lawyers Located in Illinois: By County

Of the 65,456 Active and Inactive lawyers located in Illinois in 2024, 57,194 or 87.4% of lawyers practice within the six most populous counties in the state, commonly referred to as metropolitan Chicago (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will). 71.7% (46,907) of all lawyers with a principal business address in Illinois are located in Cook County.



Outside of the metropolitan Chicago area, 8,262 or 12.6% lawyers are located in the remaining 96 counties of the state, a 0.2% decrease over 2023 and the third consecutive year of decline. See Charts 3 and 3A, Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By County (2022-2024), Appendix.

Overall, the lawyer population located in Illinois has remained stable since 2022. Among the five judicial districts, only the First District (Cook County) saw a slight increase of 0.4% in 2024. The other four districts experienced decreases in 2024: Second District (-1.1%), Third District (-2.1%), Fourth District (-0.4%), and Fifth District (-1.8%). See Chart 2A, Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by Judicial Districts: Five-Year Trend 2020-2024, Appendix.

## Practice Demographics

Lawyers on Active status must report *pro bono* work, trust account details, malpractice insurance information, and other practice-related data during the annual registration process, as mandated by Supreme Court Rule 756(c) through (g). Except for a lawyer's contact information and whether a lawyer maintains malpractice insurance, the data collected is confidential and is reported in the aggregate and does not appear in a lawyer's listing on the Master Roll.

### Practice Setting: Active Status

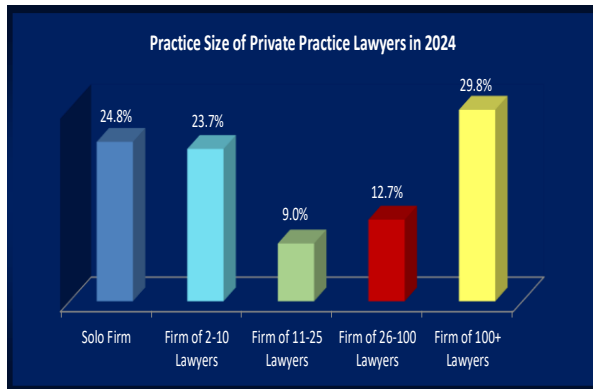
There were 84,694 lawyers or 87.5% of all registered lawyers with an Active status license in 2024. 75,681 or 89.4% reported that they are currently practicing law.<sup>8</sup> Of those lawyers reporting that they are currently practicing law, 49,579 lawyers or 65.5% are employed in a private practice setting. See Chart 6A 2020-2024 Practice Setting, Appendix.

Practice Setting	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Private Practice	66.7%	66.1%	66.5%	66.0%	65.5%
Corporate In-House	15.4%	15.5%	15.5%	16.1%	16.1%
Government/Judicial	12.1%	12.4%	11.9%	11.9%	12.2%
Other	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
Not-for-Profit	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%
Academic	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

<sup>8</sup> Not included in the practice setting demographics are the 9,013 lawyers (or 10.6%) who reported that they are not currently practicing law. These lawyers are not required to provide practice setting information under IL S.Ct.R. 756(g)(4). This represents a 0.7% decrease compared to 2023.



## Practice Size: Private Practice



Of the 49,579 lawyers in private practice, the number of lawyers at law firms of ten lawyers or less has been steadily declining. Over the past five years, solo practitioners have decreased from 27.4% in 2020 to 24.8% in 2024. Similarly, law firms with 2 to 10 lawyers have seen a reduction from 25.6% to 23.7% during that same time period. Starting in 2023, law firms with ten lawyers or fewer lawyers no longer constitute the majority in private practice size.

In contrast, law firms with over 100 lawyers have increased nearly 4% since 2020, rising from 26.0% in 2020 to 29.8% in 2024, becoming the predominant private practice size. See Chart 6A-1 2020-2024 Practice Size: Active Status, Currently Practicing, and in Private Practice, Appendix.

The decrease in the number of lawyers in solo practice can be at least partially attributed to the fact that 57% of all solos in private practice are over the age of 60 as compared to 31% in firms of 2 to 10 lawyers, 24% in firms between 11 and 25 lawyers, 20% of firms of 26 to 100 lawyers, and 16% of lawyers in firms of 100+. See Charts 6B-1 and 6B-2, 2023-2024 Practice Setting Demographics By Age, Appendix.

## Succession Planning

Active status lawyers engaged in the practice of law are required to disclose whether their law firm has implemented a written succession plan. A succession plan, in the context of registration, means a written plan that outlines how the firm will operate in case of the lawyer's death, disability, or other circumstances preventing them from continuing their legal practice. At a minimum, the plan should designate another individual - preferably a lawyer - to take responsibility for notifying clients and managing client-related materials and property. This is especially critical for solo practitioners who work independently.

Of the 12,264 Active status lawyers that identify as solo practitioners engaged in the private practice of law, only 2,822 or 23% reported that they have a written succession plan. 71% reported that they do not have a written succession plan and 6% indicated that they are not sure of whether they have a plan in place. See Chart 7A 2020-2024 Succession Planning: Active Status, Currently Practicing, and in Private Practice, Appendix.

The top five practice areas identified by solo practitioners who responded "No" to the succession planning question were real estate, estate planning, criminal, corporate and tort. 30% of solo practitioners reported that they have no succession plan and no malpractice insurance. 65% are over the age of 60. See Chart 7B, Appendix.

## Report on *Pro Bono* Activities

All registered lawyers must report their voluntary *pro bono* service and monetary contributions during their annual registration, despite the voluntary nature of these activities. See IL Supreme Court Rule 756(f)). The details provided by individual lawyers about their voluntary *pro bono* service and trust accounts are kept confidential under Supreme Court Rule 766. This information is not included in a lawyer's individual listing on the Master Roll and is not displayed on the ARDC website ([www.iardc.org](http://www.iardc.org)).

In 2024, 29,193 lawyers provided a total of 1,710,673 *pro bono* legal service hours during the year. This represents an average of 59 hours per lawyer engaged in *pro bono* service – exceeding the 50 hours of annual work that the American Bar Association recommends as a minimum. See ABA Model Rule 6.1, Comment [1]. Over the past five years, the percentage of lawyers providing *pro bono* legal services has decreased from 33% in 2020 to 30.2% in 2024. Additionally, the total number of *pro bono* service hours performed by lawyers has dropped by 172,940 hours, or 9.2%, compared to the hours reported in 2020.

### Report on *Pro Bono* Hours (2020-2024)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Type of <i>Pro Bono</i> Services	Service Hours	Service Hours	Service Hours	Service Hours	Service Hours
<i>Legal services to persons of limited means</i>	1,076,943	991,862	1,011,596	1,012,095	944,218
<i>Legal services to enumerated organizations designed to address needs of persons of limited means</i>	316,254	281,117	281,389	279,890	280,510
<i>Legal services to enumerated organizations in furtherance of their purposes</i>	439,032	402,939	390,508	394,114	395,098
<i>Training intended to benefit legal service organizations or lawyers providing pro bono services</i>	51,384	39,885	37,506	41,527	40,847
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,883,613</b>	<b>1,715,803</b>	<b>1,720,999</b>	<b>1,726,626</b>	<b>1,710,673</b>
<b>Number of Lawyers &amp; % Total of Lawyer Population:</b>	<b>31,325 33.0%</b>	<b>30,646 32.1%</b>	<b>29,594 30.9%</b>	<b>29,389 30.5%</b>	<b>29,193 30.2%</b>

In 2024, 67,628 lawyers reported not providing *pro bono* legal services. Among them, 9,436 (or 14.0%) reported that their employment prohibited them from offering such services.

A total of 15,557 lawyers reported contributing \$17,874,012 to *pro bono* service organizations, which is over \$1.3 million more than the amount reported in 2023. This averages out to \$1,149

per contributing lawyer. However, the number of lawyers making contributions has decreased by 2.8% since 2020.

### Monetary Contributions to *Pro Bono* Service Organizations (2020-2024)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Amount Contributed</i>	\$17,116,265	\$17,550,990	\$18,105,801	\$16,550,706	\$17,874,012
<i>Number of lawyers who made contributions</i>	17,936	18,096	16,858	16,263	15,557
<i>% of lawyers who made contributions</i>	18.9%	19.0%	17.6%	16.9%	16.1%

Not reflected in the above chart is the fact that most Illinois lawyers contribute to the funding of legal aid through the \$95 portion of the full annual registration fee paid by Active status lawyers that is remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, as well as the contributions lawyers have made to other charitable and not-for-profit organizations. For the 2024 registration year, \$6,876,480 was remitted through registration fees to the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois in 2024, a little over \$100,000 less than the previous year. A total of \$109,486,264 has been remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund since the 2003 registration year, the first year the ARDC began the collection and remittance of this fee as provided in Supreme Court Rules 751(e)(6) and 756(a)(1).

### Trust Accounts

Under Supreme Court Rule 756(d), both Active and Inactive status lawyers must disclose in their registration whether they or their law firm maintained a trust account during the previous year. They also need to specify if the trust account was an IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Account) account, as defined in Rule 1.15(f) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

Most private practice lawyers are required to maintain a trust account because they handle client or third-party funds at some point in their practice. If no trust account was maintained in the past 12 months, the lawyer must provide a reason for its absence. In 2024, 47,277 (or 48.9%) of the 96,821 registered lawyers reported that they or their law firm maintained a trust account during the preceding 12 months. Of these trust accounts, 82% were IOLTA accounts, while 18% were non-IOLTA accounts. See Chart 8A, 2024 Trust Account Disclosure Reports, Appendix.

Of the 49,544 lawyers who reported that they or their law firm did not maintain a trust account, 25,936 (or 52%) indicated that they had no outside practice due to full-time employment in a corporation or governmental agency. Among sole practitioners in private practice, 3,911 (or

31.9%) reported not maintaining a trust account, compared to about 10% of private practice law firms with two or more lawyers that reported not maintaining a trust account. See Chart 8B, 2020-2024 Trust Account Reports of Active Status and in Private Practice, Appendix.

## **Malpractice Insurance**

Supreme Court Rule 756(e) requires that most Illinois lawyers disclose whether they have malpractice insurance coverage and, if so, provide details about the dates of coverage. However, the Rule does not compel Illinois lawyers to carry malpractice insurance as a prerequisite for practicing law under their Illinois license. Clients may assume that their lawyer has malpractice insurance but the disclosure of malpractice coverage in a lawyer's registration report is publicly available information on the ARDC website. It should be noted that lawyers not actively practicing law, as well as in-house counsel and government lawyers typically do not carry malpractice insurance.

In 2024, 53.5% of all 96,440 registered lawyers reported that they have malpractice insurance, a 1% decline over the past five years. See Chart 9A Malpractice Disclosure: 2020-2024, Appendix. However, of the 49,579 lawyers with an Active status license and engaged in private practice (a group more likely to require malpractice coverage), this percentage rises significantly. 43,247 or 87.3% of lawyers in private practice reported that they carried malpractice insurance, a slight overall decrease of 1.3% over 2023 but 0.6% more than five years ago. In terms of practice size, 7,748 or 63.2% of sole practitioners reported that they carried malpractice insurance in contrast to the 10,910 lawyers or 92.9% in 2-10 law firms who carry malpractice coverage. See Chart 9B Malpractice Disclosure: Active Status, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice: 2020-2024, Appendix.

The overwhelming reason given by solo practitioners who responded "No" to the malpractice question is the belief that the lawyer has a minimal risk of incurring malpractice liability because of the nature of the lawyer's practice.

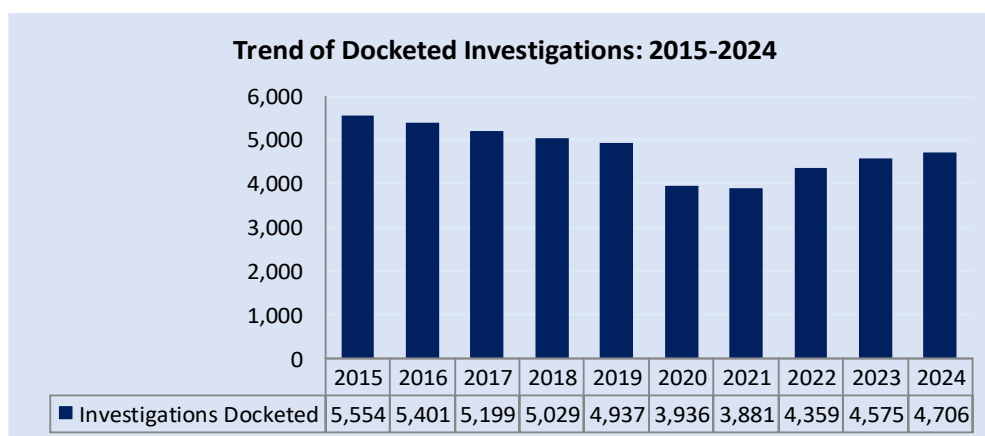


# Regulation

## 2024 Investigations

### Investigations Initiated in 2024

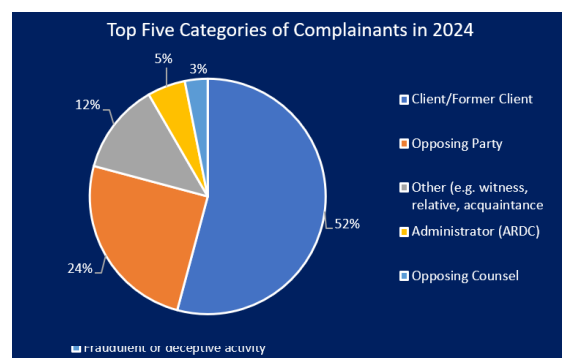
In 2024, the Commission initiated 4,706 investigations, marking a 2.9% rise from 2023. This continues the annual growth trend seen since the number of investigations docketed between 2020 and 2021 fell by over 20% compared to the pre-pandemic activity level of 2019. See Chart 10 Ten-Year Trend of Types of Investigations: 2015-2024, Appendix.



These investigations involved charges against 3,352 different lawyers, representing approximately 3.5% of all 96,821 registered lawyers. Notably, 652 lawyers were the subject of multiple investigations docketed in 2024. See Chart 11, Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations Docketed in 2024, Appendix.

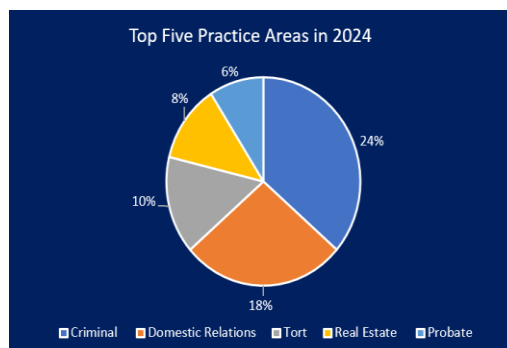
### Disciplinary Investigations

Fifty-two percent of disciplinary investigations were initiated by clients or former clients, often due to a breakdown in the attorney-client relationship. Common grievances include neglect of the client's case, incompetence in representation, poor communication, billing and fee disputes, and mishandling of trust funds. See Chart 12 Investigations by Complainant Type in 2024 and Chart 13 Classification of Charges By Allegations in 2024, Appendix.



Neglect allegations consistently top the list of grievances, accounting for 25% of all complaints in 2024. See Chart 13 Classification of Charges By Allegations in 2024, Appendix.

As in previous years, the areas of practice most prone to complaints of attorney misconduct include criminal law, family law, tort law, real estate law, and probate law. See Chart 14 Classification of Charges By Area of Law, Appendix.



### Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (UPL)

Since 2011 the ARDC has been authorized under Supreme Court Rule 779 to investigate allegations of the unauthorized practice of law (UPL) made against suspended and disbarred Illinois lawyers, out-of-state lawyers licensed in another jurisdiction, and persons not licensed in any jurisdiction. This includes instances where non-attorneys represent others in court, prepare pleadings and legal documents for others, or falsely present themselves as licensed attorneys.

In 2024, 69 investigations were opened involving UPL charges against 48 unlicensed individuals or entities, 17 out-of-state lawyers, and four Illinois lawyers practicing after suspension or disbarment of their license to practice law. In 2024, immigration law was the leading area of law involved in UPL investigations, accounting for 35% of the 69 investigations. See Chart 18A Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (2020-2024) and Chart 18B Area of Law in 779 Investigations in 2024, Appendix.

Additionally, ARDC staff collaborates with other regulators and conducts outreach on UPL matters. Staff lawyers serve as liaisons with the Illinois State Bar Association's Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law and the Chicago Bar Association's Unauthorized Practice & Multidisciplinary Practice Committee. The ARDC also maintains regular communication with the Illinois Attorney General's Office and various state's attorneys' offices regarding UPL cases and consults with the Federal Trade Commission on these issues. Furthermore, since investigations and formal actions involving out-of-state attorneys may require coordination with other states' attorney regulators, the ARDC frequently works with these authorities on unauthorized practice investigations.

### Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations

Rule 1.15B (formerly Rule 1.15(h)) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct requires that an overdraft of an IOLTA or non-IOLTA client trust account be reported by the financial institution to the ARDC.

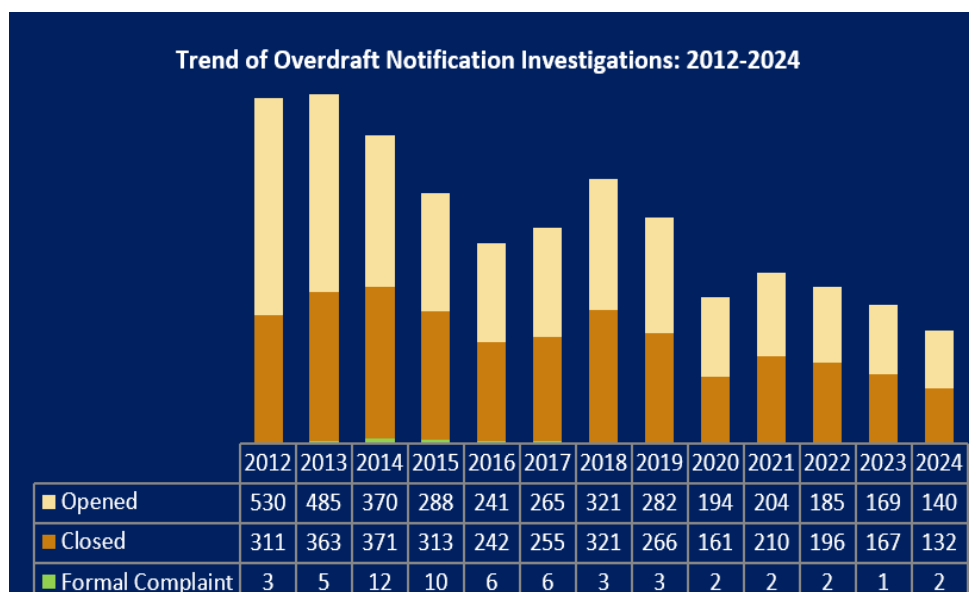
While most overdrafts occur due to mathematical, clerical, or accounting errors rather than intentional misuse of client funds, to address any deficiencies in a lawyer's handling of trust



funds or recordkeeping practices, an overdraft investigation will remain open until the lawyer meets specific conditions to ensure necessary practice corrections are made. These remedial measures may include requiring the lawyer to review sections of the ARDC's Client Trust Account Handbook or to watch one of the ARDC's webinars on the requirements of Rule 1.15 *et seq.*

In 2024, 140 overdraft notification investigations were opened. See Chart 17 Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations (2020-2024), Appendix. The number of overdraft grievances received in a year has been steadily declining since at least 2021, and the chart below shows the historical trend of automatic overdraft notification investigations opened since the rule was first adopted in September 2011.

Fewer automatic overdraft notifications for lawyer's trust accounts in recent years may be attributed to such factors as improved financial managements by lawyers and law firms, the increase in use of accounting software and automated systems to help lawyers more effectively monitor their trust accounts, increased efforts at training and educating lawyers on the importance of proper trust account practices, and, due to economic factors, lawyers may be handling fewer transactions requiring them to maintain client or third party funds.



When evidence shows that client funds have been misappropriated, it often leads to a formal complaint against the lawyer involved. In 2024, two investigations led to formal charges. Since 2012, there have been 3,674 investigations into trust account overdrafts, but only 57 cases, or 1.6%, have resulted in formal disciplinary action.

## Investigations Concluded in 2024

In 2024, a total of 4,528 investigations were closed of which 4,366 were concluded by the Administrator's staff. See Chart 15 Investigations Concluded in 2024. A total of 1,944 cases were closed after it was determined that the grievance did not warrant a disciplinary or unauthorized practice investigation. 95% of these grievances were resolved within 60 days of being docketed. In many instances, complainants were given the chance to provide additional information. 1,828 grievances, requiring a more thorough investigation, were closed because either there was insufficient evidence of misconduct or the concerns raised by the complainant were resolved or addressed by the respondent-lawyer. Approximately 72% were concluded within 180 days after the investigation was opened. See Chart 16 Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2024, Appendix.

In alignment with the ARDC's updated mission, vision, and values, the ARDC focuses on a balanced regulatory approach. This approach prioritizes proactive and restorative services while maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct. Discipline remains a necessary tool but is used when necessary to protect the public and uphold the profession's integrity. In 2024, the Administrator closed 29 grievances after lawyers agreed to enter diversionary conditions under the ARDC Diversion Program. Additionally, the Inquiry Board closed 41 grievances after review, and another 15 grievances were closed following lawyers' successful completion of conditions addressing identified concerns under Commission Rule 108. For more details on Rule 108 and the ARDC Diversion Program, see ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department at p. 8-9.

If an investigation reveals evidence of misconduct warranting prosecution, the case is referred to the Inquiry Board, unless it is directly filed with the Supreme Court under Rules 757, 761, 762(a), or 763. The Inquiry Board is comprised of attorneys and members of the public who have been appointed by the Commission. They meet in panels of three (two attorneys and one public member) and have the authority to vote a formal complaint, if the panel finds sufficient evidence to support a charge, close an investigation if the panel finds there is insufficient evidence, or to place an attorney on supervision under the direction of the Inquiry Board panel pursuant to Commission Rule 108. The Administrator cannot pursue formal charges without authorization by an Inquiry Board panel.

In 2024, 1.7% (77 out of 4,528) of concluded grievances led to formal disciplinary charges. Of these, nine grievances resulted in a petition for discipline filed directly with the Supreme Court, and 68 grievances were voted as disciplinary complaints by the Inquiry Board against 42 lawyers (see Chart 15, Investigations Concluded in 2024, Appendix).

## 2024 Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings

### Hearing Board Filings

Most disciplinary prosecutions start with a formal complaint. This complaint is filed against an attorney when an Inquiry Board panel approves the filing of a formal disciplinary complaint. The case then moves to a Hearing Board panel, which includes two lawyers and one nonlawyer appointed by the Commission. All proceedings are public, except for hearings under Supreme Court Rule 758, which involve petitions to transfer a lawyer to disability inactive status.

Hearing Board Caseload	Pending January 1st	Filed During Year	Concluded During Year	Pending December 31st
2024	43	50	39	54
2023	53	43	53	43
2022	53	56	56	53
2021	55	53	55	53
2020	61	40	46	55

The Hearing Board hears complaints alleging misconduct filed pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 753, as well as complaints alleging conviction of a criminal offense under Supreme Court Rule 761. Additionally, the Hearing Board hears petitions for reinstatement filed pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767, petitions for transfer to disability Inactive status under Supreme Court Rule 758, and petitions for restoration to Active status pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 759.

In 2024, the Hearing Board's docket saw an addition of 50 cases, marking a 16.3% increase from the previous year. See Chart 25C Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings Trend from 2010-2024, Appendix. Of these, 46 cases were initiated through the filing of disciplinary complaints. Among the 46 lawyers charged with misconduct, the most overrepresented demographic groups compared to their presence in the profession were: those aged 60-69 (26.1% of cases, but 17.0% of the legal population), those with 41-50 years of practice (19.6% of cases as compared with 9.1% of the legal population), and males (73.9% of cases, despite making up 58.9% of all Illinois lawyers). See Chart 20B Demographics of Lawyers Charged in 2024, Appendix.

A complaint may have multiple allegations. The most common misconduct cited in formal disciplinary complaints is fraudulent or deceptive activity, accounting for 70% of cases. This often involves misrepresentations made to clients, tribunals, or other parties, or the misuse of trust funds. Additionally, 33% of formal disciplinary complaints pertain to the lawyer's criminal conduct or conviction. See Chart 20C Types of Misconduct Alleged in 2024, Appendix.

In 2024, the top areas of complaint involved real estate practice and lawyers' criminal conduct or convictions, each making up 19.6% of the total complaints. Close behind was personal misconduct by lawyers, which involved fraudulent or deceitful behavior unrelated to legal representation, accounting for 17.4% of the complaints. See Chart 20D Subject Area (2024), Appendix.

## Hearing Board Dispositions

The Hearing Board resolved 39 cases in 2024. Of these, 13 cases (33%) went through contested hearings, requiring a comprehensive report and recommendation. The other 26 cases (67%) were concluded without a contested hearing. Specifically, 18 cases were settled through discipline on consent, four proceeded as default hearings, three were voluntarily dismissed before a hearing, and one lawyer was reprimanded by the Hearing Board.

## Review Board Filings and Dispositions

After the Hearing Board submits its report on a case, either party can file a notice of exceptions with the Review Board, which serves as an appellate tribunal. The Review Board consists of nine lawyer members appointed by the Supreme Court for three-year terms, with one member designated as the Chair. It operates independently, with its own legal staff separate from the Administrator's office and the Hearing Board's adjudication staff.

2024 Disciplinary Cases: Rules 753 & 761(d)	
Case closed by filing of petition for discipline on consent other than disbarment	15
Recommendation of discipline after contested hearing	13
Recommendation of discipline after default hearing	4
Case closed by filing of motion for disbarment on consent	3
Complaint voluntarily dismissed before hearing	3
Reprimand administered by the Hearing Board	1
<b>Total Matters Terminated</b>	<b>39</b>

<b>Cases Filed Before the Review Board in 2024</b>	<b>7</b>
Exceptions filed by Respondent	7
Exceptions filed by Administrator	0
Exceptions filed by both	0
<b>Cases Concluded by the Review Board in 2024</b>	<b>8</b>
Hearing Board affirmed	4
Hearing Board reversal on findings or sanction	4
Notice of Exceptions withdrawn or stricken	0

In 2024, seven cases were appealed to the Review Board, with the respondent lawyer requesting a review in each instance.

Eight cases were concluded in 2024. The Review Board upheld the Hearing Board's findings and disciplinary recommendations in four of these cases. However, in the other four cases, the Review Board reversed the findings or sanctions recommended by the Hearing Board. In all four of these cases, the ARDC filed a petition for leave to file exceptions to the Illinois Supreme Court. See IL S.Ct Rule 753(e). The Illinois Supreme Court affirmed the Review Board's report and recommendation in two of these cases and imposed a different sanction than what was recommended by the Hearing and Review Boards in one case. The remaining case was under advisement in 2025. See Chart 20E, Appendix.

## Supreme Court Matters

### Disciplinary Cases – Filings in the Supreme Court

Disciplinary cases come before the Court in several different ways. The chart below shows filings in the Supreme Court in disciplinary matters between 2020 and 2024. Certain disciplinary matters are filed directly with the Court via petitions, while others originate before the Hearing Board. Voluntary disbarments and petitions for reciprocal discipline are filed directly in the Supreme Court. In 2024, there were 23 direct filings, including seven petitions for voluntary disbarment and 16 petitions for reciprocal discipline.

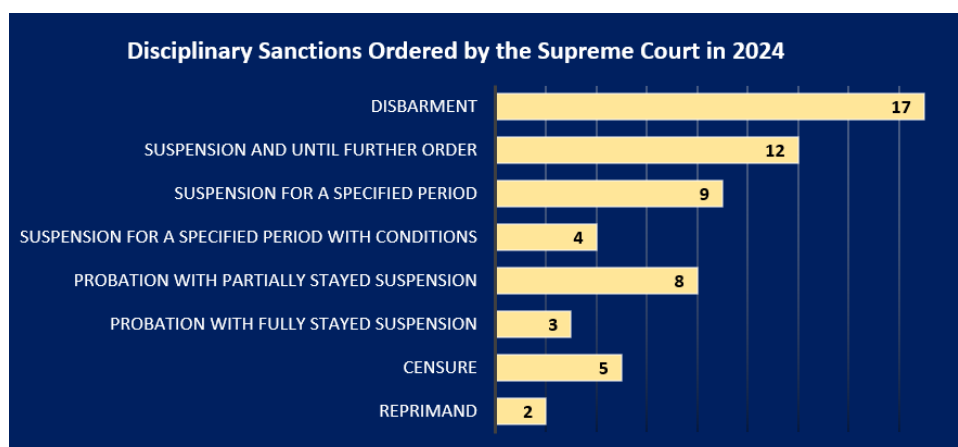
Filings in the Supreme Court	Direct Filings in the Court: Rules 762(a), 763 & 757	Petition for Interim Suspension: Rules 761 & 774	Disciplinary Proceedings Disposition Filings	Permanent Retirement Petitions Disposition Filings	Petitions for Reinstatement Disposition Filings
2024	23	8	40	2	1
2023	18	5	48	1	0
2022	16	5	58	3	8
2021	41	6	37	3	4
2020	32	5	55	4	4

Additionally, eight petitions for interim suspension were filed in the Supreme Court in 2024. Interim suspension can be sought during the pendency of a criminal indictment, criminal information, disciplinary proceeding, or investigation. Petitions can be initiated either by the Court itself or by the Administrator when a lawyer is formally charged with a crime involving moral turpitude or conduct that adversely affects their fitness to practice law. An interim suspension can also be sought if the Inquiry Board authorizes a formal complaint involving fraud, moral turpitude, or conduct that threatens irreparable harm to the public, the lawyer's clients, or the administration of justice, provided there is persuasive evidence to support the charge (IL S.Ct. Rule 774). If a lawyer is convicted of a crime involving fraud or moral turpitude, filing a petition for interim suspension is mandatory (IL S.Ct. Rule 761).

Finally, 40 cases were filed with the Supreme Court in 2024 for disposition after the issuance of a report and recommendation by the Hearing or Review Boards. If the Hearing or Review Board recommends disciplinary action and no exceptions are filed, the report is submitted to the Supreme Court as an agreed matter. Supreme Court Rule 753(e) allows the Court to review these reports upon leave or its own motion. Both the Administrator and the respondent can petition for exceptions. The Court may issue a final order, request briefs, oral arguments, or remand the matter.

## Disciplinary Cases – Dispositions in the Supreme Court

In 2024, the Court imposed 60 sanctions on 60 lawyers. Additionally, the Hearing Board reprimanded one lawyer in 2024. In approximately 48% of the sanction cases, lawyers were either disbarred or suspended until further order of the Court. An additional 22% of lawyers were suspended, 18% were placed on probation, and 12% received either a censure or a reprimand. See Chart 21A Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered by the Supreme Court in 2024, Appendix.

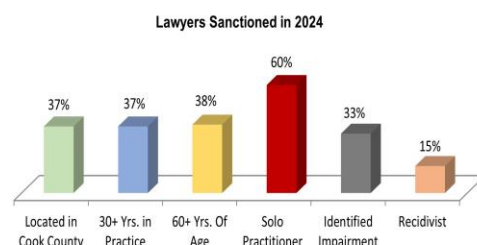


In 72% of the cases, sanctions were entered by the Supreme Court in 2024 without the need for a formal hearing before the Hearing Board. Only 17 cases or 28% reached the Supreme Court after a contested hearing before the Hearing Board. See Chart 21A-1 Disposition of 60 Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered in 2024, Appendix.

**Reimbursement of Costs** - Under Supreme Court Rule 773, a respondent lawyer is required to reimburse the Commission for costs incurred in the disciplinary proceeding up to \$1,500, and any additional amounts as ordered by the Court. Following the Court's imposition of discipline, the Administrator prepares an itemized cost statement which will be included in the record and served on the respondent lawyer. If the respondent lawyer disputes the costs or fails to pay within 30 days of receiving the statement or order for excess costs, the Administrator can petition the Court for payment. In 2024, 26 lawyers reimbursed the Commission approximately \$43,000 in costs.

### *Demographics of Lawyers Sanctioned in 2024*

Most of the lawyers disciplined in 2024 were 30+ years in practice (37%) and over the age of 60 (38%). Sole practitioners accounted for 60% of the lawyers disciplined by the Court in 2024. 15% of the 60 lawyers disciplined were recidivists having been disciplined by the Court in the past. Also, 37% were lawyers principally located in Cook County. See Charts 21B-21D, Appendix.





28 lawyers or 47% of the 60 lawyers disciplined in 2024 were *pro se* in the proceedings. See Chart 21D, Appendix. Legal representation is vital in ensuring fairness during attorney investigative and disciplinary proceedings. Among the 28 lawyers who represented themselves, 68% (19 lawyers) faced serious misconduct charges, resulting in either disbarment (9) or suspension until further notice from the Court (10). The ARDC has established protocols for its staff counsel to encourage *pro se* respondents to obtain counsel at the investigative and hearing stages. Additionally, respondent lawyers are advised to promptly contact their malpractice insurance carrier, as many carriers offer coverage for legal representation in ARDC proceedings.

In disciplinary cases, it is not uncommon to encounter lawyers impaired by addiction to alcohol or other substances or struggling with mental health issues. In 2024, 20 lawyers, making up 33.3% of the 60 disciplined lawyers, faced known issues related to substance abuse or mental impairment. This rate is consistent with the previous year but highlights a notable increase over the past decade from the 25.3% reported in 2013. While some of this rise may be due to the ongoing increase in mental and substance impairments, it also reflects the heightened awareness among ARDC staff counsel about the importance of early identification of impairment issues.<sup>9</sup>

In 2024, there were 37 impairments identified for the 20 lawyers known to be facing a mental or substance impairment, half of which (10) had more than one impairment. Mental disorders identified (20) outnumbered chemical dependency issues (17). Depression continues to be the leading identified impairment (12), followed by alcoholism (9). See Chart 21E Impairments Identified for Lawyers Disciplined in 2024, Appendix. This shift from impaired lawyers suffering the effects of alcohol and drug abuse to lawyers impaired by psychological problems is consistent with the findings in the Lawyers' Assistance Program's latest annual report.<sup>10</sup>

Of the 20 lawyers identified, 85% (17) were in private practice, and 60% (12) were sole practitioners. Additionally, 60% (12) were under 50 years old. Among solo practitioners, depression was the most common impairment, affecting 7 out of 12. It is important to note that these statistics only include cases where impairments were self-reported or known by staff counsel. See Charts 21E and 21F, Appendix.

---

<sup>9</sup> Lawyers identified in an investigation with substance or mental illness impairments can be required to comply with certain conditions addressing those identified concerns either through Commission Rule 108 Deferral of Investigation or Commission Rule 56 Diversion. See ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department, at p. 7. In 2024, a total of 54 lawyers were monitored under either remedial measure, of which 31 lawyers were monitored for compliance with substance abuse or mental health conditions. *Id.* at p. 8.

<sup>10</sup> 48% of LAP's caseload involved mental health issues versus substance dependency problems (23%). See LAP 2022-2023 Annual Report at <https://illinoislap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2022-2023-annual-report.pdf>.

# 2024 Developments



## Amendments to the Rules Regulating the Legal Profession

---

### Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct

#### **Amended RPC Rule 8.4(j) Adds New Rules on Harassment, Bias (Eff. 7/1/24)**

Effective July 1, 2024, Rule 8.4(j) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct was amended to make it “professional misconduct” for a lawyer to “engage in conduct that the lawyer knows or reasonably should know is harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or socioeconomic status in conduct related to the practice of law.” The amended rule makes clear that paragraph (j) does not limit the lawyer’s ability to “accept, decline or withdraw from a representation” nor does it preclude “legitimate advice or advocacy consistent with these Rules.”

“Conduct in the “practice of law,” as defined in amended Comment [3], “includes representing clients; interacting with witnesses, coworkers, court personnel, lawyers, and others when representing clients; operating or managing a law firm or law practice; and participating in law-related professional activities or events, including law firm or bar association educational or social events. Conduct protected by the Constitutions of the United States or the State of Illinois, including a lawyer’s expression of views on matters of public concern in the context of teaching, public speaking, or other forms of public advocacy, does not violate this paragraph.”

“Discrimination” is defined in newly added Comment [3A] to Rule 8.4(j) as “harmful verbal or physical conduct directed at another person or group that manifests bias or prejudice” on the basis of characteristics identified in paragraph (j). “Harassment” is also defined in Comment [3A] as “conduct directed at another person or group that is invasive, pressuring or intimidating” in relation to any of those same characteristics.

The amendment aims at reducing discrimination and harassment in the legal profession.<sup>11</sup> The amendment removed the requirement in prior Rule 8.4(j) that made it professional misconduct when a lawyer violated a federal, state, or local statute or ordinance related to discrimination, and there was a final adjudication that the lawyer had engaged in discrimination. Illinois joins a handful of states that have adopted some version of the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Model Rule 8.4(g).

---

<sup>11</sup> In October 2024, the Illinois Commission on Professionalism published a study titled “[Bullying in the Legal Profession: A Study of Illinois Lawyers’ Experiences and Recommendations for Change](#).” The study is based on the responses from over 6,000 Active-status lawyers located in Illinois to a survey about workplace bullying incidents they experienced in 2022 and 2023.

In conjunction with the amendment, the Court also amended Comment [2] under Rule 5.1 Responsibilities of Partners, Managers, and Supervisory Lawyers to require lawyers who hold leadership roles at law firms to "promote a firm environment free of the harassment and discrimination prohibited by Rule 8.4(j)..."

## Illinois Supreme Court Rules

### **Amended IL S.Ct Rule 756(a)(1), Registration and Fees Eliminates Discounted New Lawyer Registration Fee (Eff. 10/1/24)**

Effective October 1, 2024, the Illinois Supreme Court amended Illinois Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(1) to eliminate the discounted \$121 registration fee for lawyers admitted less than three full years. Prior to the amendment, a lawyer admitted in 2024 would pay no registration fee for 2024 and 2025, would pay \$121 per year for 2026 and 2027, and would pay the full registration fee, \$385, for 2028. Under the amendment, a lawyer admitted in 2024 will pay no registration fee for 2024 and 2025, and will pay the full fee of \$385 for 2026.

The amendment was enacted because the prior rule, which was based on the assumption that the discounted \$121 fee would provide some economic relief to early career lawyers, was generally unnecessary as most new lawyers have their fees covered by employers. For those who cannot afford the \$385 fee, there is an economic hardship waiver available under Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(4). The increased revenue resulting from elimination of the discounted fee will increase funding for such important Supreme Court entities as the Lawyers Trust Fund, the Lawyers' Assistance Program, which did not receive any of the discounted fee. Also, the amendment will work to forestall any across-the-board registration fee increases.

## Commission Board Changes

---

### ARDC Commissioners



#### **Emily J. Hampton Appointment as Non-Lawyer Member**

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed Emily J. Hampton of Peoria to serve as a Commissioner of the ARDC for a term beginning June 5, 2024, and expiring on December 31, 2026. Ms. Hampton is the Director of Human Resources at Illinois CancerCare, P.C. in Peoria. She attended the University of Northern Iowa and has a certification in finance from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Ms. Hampton succeeds former Commissioner Drinda L. OConnor.

## **Hon. Robert C. Marsaglia (Ret.) Appointment as Lawyer Member**

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed retired Judge Robert C. Marsaglia, of Morris, to serve as a Commissioner on the ARDC for a term beginning January 1, 2025, and expiring on December 31, 2027. Judge Marsaglia is of counsel to the law firm Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, which has offices in Joliet, Oswego and Morris. Prior to joining the firm, he was a Grundy County circuit court judge from 1996 until his retirement in 2020. Before joining the bench, Judge Marsaglia was an Assistant State's Attorney in Grundy County and in private practice.



He has served on several Illinois Supreme Court committees, including the Judicial Mentor Committee and the Special Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health, along with the Court's Judicial College. He has spoken at many judicial continuing legal education seminars, and he's a board member of the Community Foundation of Grundy County. Marsaglia received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and his law degree from DePaul University College of Law. He succeeds former ARDC Commissioner Timothy L. Bertschy, whose term expired at the end of 2024.

## **Review Board**

### **Juan R. Thomas Appointment as Lawyer-Member**



The Illinois Supreme Court appointed attorney Juan R. Thomas of Aurora to serve as a member of the ARDC Review Board for a term beginning January 1, 2025, and expiring on December 31, 2027.

Dr. Thomas is of counsel to the law firm of Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A., in Chicago and is the founder and principal of The Thomas Law Group in Aurora. He practices in the areas of real estate, estate planning, civil litigation, labor relations, and family law.

He is listed as one of the National Black Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers for his exceptional work in family law. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois College of Law in Urbana-Champaign where he teaches a course on the history of the African American lawyer in America. In August 2023, Dr. Thomas was elected Secretary of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, a national association of lawyers/leaders whose mission it is to provide high-quality programming and leadership development training for members of the legal community. He is in line to serve as President of that organization in the 2026-2027 bar year.

Dr. Thomas is currently a member of the American Bar Association's Board of Governors and serves as the Second Vice President of the Illinois Bar Foundation. He received the American Bar Association's 2024 Sprit of Excellence Award for his efforts to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse legal profession.

Dr. Thomas obtained his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. He also holds degrees from the University of Illinois College of Education, the University of Chicago Divinity School, and the Chicago Theological Seminary.

He replaces ARDC Review Board member Michael T. Reagan, whose term expired on December 31, 2024.



### **Ashley Greer Shambley Appointment as Lawyer-Member**

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed Ashley N. Shambley of Chicago to serve as a member of the ARDC Review Board for a term beginning January 1, 2025, and expiring on December 31, 2027.

Ms. Shambley is an Assistant Public Defender in the Multiple Defendant Unit of the Cook County Public Defender's Office in Markham, where she represents persons charged with murder and other serious felonies. She has been with that office since 2012. Prior to joining the Public Defender's office, Ms. Shambley worked in private practice.

She serves on the boards of the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Chicago Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and a not-for-profit community organization entitled "Imagine Englewood if." She is active in the Cook County Bar Association, the Black Women Lawyers' Association, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Ms. Shambley received her bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* from Howard University and her law degree from DePaul University School of Law.

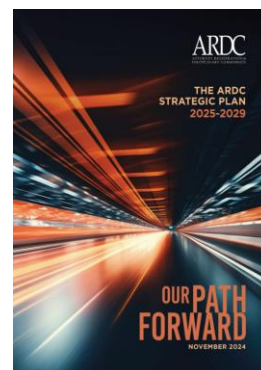
Ms. Shambley replaces ARDC Review Board member Leslie D. Davis, whose term expired on December 31, 2024.

## **ARDC Organization Initiative**

### **ARDC Adoption of Five-Year Strategic Plan**

On November 25, 2024, the ARDC announced the Illinois Supreme Court's approval of the ARDC's new strategic plan. Titled *The ARDC Strategic Plan, 2025-2029*, the plan includes an updated ARDC mission statement, and newly added vision statement and set of organizational values.

The new strategic plan underscores the Commission's commitment to evolving as an organization during these dynamic times, ensuring it remains a vital resource for both lawyers and the public. The plan outlines a path forward that is grounded in three key areas of focus: evolving and enhancing the ARDC's programs, services, and reputation; elevating confidence in the legal profession; and building an innovative and adaptive organization.






The ARDC's new mission statement shifts the ARDC's focus from primarily discipline to a more balanced approach designed to assist lawyers in practicing more effectively and ethically, while still protecting the public, and to restorative justice efforts. Complementing the new mission statement is the ARDC's vision statement - "To shape a profession where all lawyers act ethically and with integrity." The ARDC also is implementing four core values to guide its work: accountability, empathy, open-mindedness, and pioneering excellence. These are the mindsets that the ARDC believes are essential to achieving its mission and vision in the years ahead.

The strategic plan can be found on the ARDC website under ([www.iardc.org](http://www.iardc.org)) under the "About ARDC" tab.

## ARDC Adoption of AI Use Policy

At the end of 2023, ARDC adopted an initial office policy on the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for all ARDC employees and others in the performance of their work on behalf of the ARDC. The policy applies to all ARDC employees, as well as certain independent contractors, interns, volunteers, and other individuals who are appointed or engaged to provide services or create work product on ARDC's behalf, otherwise referred to as the ARDC Workforce.

POLICY Use of Generative AI Tools	
Policy ID: AI-100.1	References:
Approved By:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <a href="https://openai.com">https://openai.com</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="https://blog.google/technology/ai/iamda">https://blog.google/technology/ai/iamda</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="https://ai.meta.com">https://ai.meta.com</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/ai">https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/ai</a></li> </ul>
 Lea S. Gutierrez, Administrator	

1. **Purpose.** This Policy addresses the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (as defined below) at Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission ("ARDC"). Generative Artificial Intelligence is a rapidly evolving technology that can bring great value to our efforts. However, its legal and technical risks are not well-known, and its potential for unintentional misuse merits a consistent policy-based approach to using this technology within our environment.

Only approved AI tools or extensions are allowed by the ARDC Workforce and training will be provided on the ethical and responsible application of AI. ARDC Workforce members who use AI tools may do so solely as supplementary tools, meant to generate preliminary ideas, suggestions, drafts, or code. The policy recognizes that while AI can serve as a valuable aid in the initial stages of work, ultimate responsibility for the accuracy, relevance, and appropriateness of any final work product rests solely with the ARDC Workforce member. Policy updates are expected to be issued periodically in light of the evolving technology.



## ARDC Office Security

The ARDC continues to implement security protocols as recommended by security consultants and the Court's Marshal to ensure the safety of the public, lawyers, Board members and staff who access ARDC offices. In early 2025, the ARDC installed walk-through metal detectors for its Chicago and Springfield offices. All outside visitors who come to the ARDC offices for sworn statements, depositions, hearings, and Review Board arguments will be required to go through the metal detectors upon arrival.



## 2024 ARDC Events



L. to R.: Tim Bertschy, ARDC Commission Chair, retiring Review Board Members Charles Pinkston, R. Michael "Mick" Henderson; and current Review Board Chairperson J. Timothy Eaton.

### ARDC Review Board Appreciation Luncheon - Chicago, May 10, 2024

An appreciation luncheon was held on May 10, 2024, for retiring Review Board members Charles E. Pinkston, Jr., Member of the Review Board, 2014-2023, and R. Michael Henderson, Member of the Review Board, 2013-2023, and Chairperson of the Review Board, 2020-2023.

### 2024 National Organization of Bar Counsel Annual Meeting - Chicago, August 5-8, 2024

The National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC) held its annual meeting in Chicago attended by ARDC Commissioners and staff counsel. The NOBC is a non-profit formed in 1965. It supports lawyer disciplinary counsel in the U.S. and other countries, focusing on legal ethics and professional conduct. NOBC has over 400 members from more than 60 jurisdictions, including the ARDC.



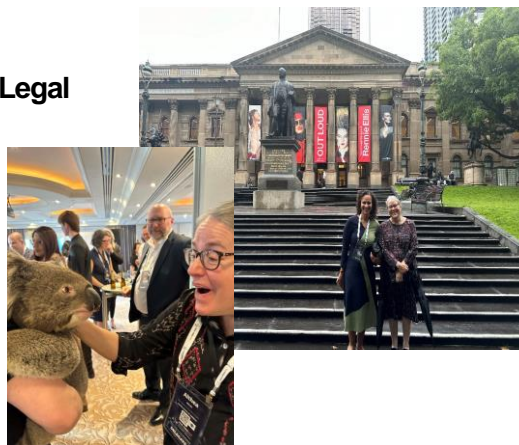
## Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) - 2024 Race Judicata 5K - Chicago, August 29, 2024



ARDC staff and Commissioner J. Nelson Wood participated in the 2024 Race Judicata, an annual 5K run/walk event organized by the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) to raise funds to support CVLS's mission of providing free legal services to those in need.

## 2024 Annual Meeting of the International Conference of Legal Regulators - Melbourne, Australia, October 16-18, 2024

ARDC lawyers attended the annual 2024 International Conference of Legal Regulators (ICLR) in Melbourne, Australia. The ICLR ([www.iclr.net](http://www.iclr.net)) seeks to bring together legal regulators from around the globe to share knowledge and best practices and to find solutions to common challenges. The ARDC has hosted the ICLR in Chicago in the past.



## ARDC Board Seminar and Reception - University Club, Chicago, October 24, 2024



The ARDC hosted its annual CLE seminar and reception for over 100 volunteer ARDC Board members, Respondents' counsel, and ARDC staff lawyers.

## First District Bar Admissions Ceremony - UIC Forum, Chicago, November 6, 2024



Throughout the years, the ARDC has provided administrative assistance, in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, for the induction of new Illinois bar admittees. The ARDC provided administrative support for the First District ceremonies in May and November 2024.

# 2024 Financial Report



The ARDC recently engaged the services of Sikich CPA LLC (Sikich) to conduct an independent financial audit as required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 751(e)(6). The audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024, including comparative data from the 2023 audited statements, are attached. In addition, a five-year summary of revenues and expenditures as reported in the audited statements appears after the text in this section.

ARDC's previous auditor was Legacy Professionals LLP (Legacy). ARDC transitioned to Sikich for the 2024 audit after reassessing its auditing needs. Prior to retention, ARDC conducted a formal security assessment of Sikich to ensure alignment with its security standards.

The ARDC generates most of its revenues from the registration fees paid by active and inactive Illinois attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 756. The largest revenue component is ARDC's share of the \$385 full fee paid by active attorneys admitted to the Illinois bar for more than one year ("385 full fee"). ARDC's share of the \$385 full fee is currently \$210.

The Supreme Court reallocated \$10 from ARDC's share of the \$385 full fee to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program effective July 1, 2021, and another \$10 to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice as of the same date. Prior to this effective date, ARDC's share of the \$385 full fee was \$230.

The combined impact of these two fee reallocations is an ARDC revenue reduction of approximately \$1.5 million/year.

The number of fee-paying attorneys did not change materially from 2023 to 2024.

The last registration fee increase was a \$3 increase in the full fee effective with the 2017 registration year, with the entire \$3 amount being allocated to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program. Prior to this fee increase, the full fee was \$382.

The last increase in the overall fee structure was made effective with the 2015 registration year. This increase affected active attorneys, inactive attorneys and out of state attorneys subject to Rule 707.

The \$385 full fee is currently allocated as follows:

- ARDC - \$210;
- Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois - \$95;
- Illinois Commission on Professionalism - \$25;
- Client Protection Program - \$25;
- Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program - \$20; and
- Illinois Commission on Access to Justice - \$10.

The fee paid to the ARDC by inactive attorneys and Rule 707 attorneys is currently \$121 (“\$121 discounted fee”).

The Supreme Court amended Rule 756 effective October 1, 2024. This amendment eliminated the fee discount applicable to attorneys admitted to the Illinois Bar for more than 1 year but less than 3 years as of the January 1 due date. Such attorneys are now subject to the \$385 full fee instead of the former \$121 discounted fee.

Since 2007, funding for Client Protection Program (CPP) award payments comes from the \$25 allocation referenced above. During 2009, the ARDC determined that CPP expenses should also be paid from that separate Client Protection Fund instead of the ARDC Disciplinary Fund. For 2024 and 2023, the Client Protection Fund reimbursed the Disciplinary Fund \$400,087 and \$378,058 respectively for CPP’s administrative expenses.

In 2024 and 2023, the Commission transferred \$549,193 and \$360,345 respectively to its Rule 756(a)(1) sibling entities per direction from the Supreme Court as a result of a revenue shortfall associated with the October 24, 2022 amendment to Rule 756. This amendment eliminated certain prior year fees and penalties and changed the billing schedule for out-of-state attorneys admitted in Illinois. No additional transfer payments are anticipated.



*of the Supreme Court of Illinois*

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Investment income (loss) - net	\$ 3,491,669	\$ 2,639,293	\$ (629,597)	\$ 287,153	\$ 1,234,207
Registration and program fees	19,892,406	19,982,761	20,354,610	21,781,609	21,716,237
Cost reimbursements collected	35,658	42,558	59,094	36,852	40,547
Client Protection Program expense reimbursement	400,087	378,058	352,688	367,778	341,150
Transfer from Registration and Discipline	80,475	53,952	-	-	-
Client Protection Program reimbursements	142,771	6,569	627,730	10,864	53,621
Miscellaneous income	8,914	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	24,051,980	23,103,191	20,764,525	22,484,256	23,385,762
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 13,592,791	\$ 12,387,753	\$ 11,461,985	\$ 11,759,924	\$ 11,942,876
Travel	121,828	169,280	171,033	89,551	72,515
Continuing education	226,939	210,752	148,620	87,080	137,014
General expenses and office support	2,437,051	1,453,970	3,340,040	3,135,976	2,652,280
Computer	1,352,517	1,234,972	1,032,813	985,325	1,225,495
Other professional and case-related expenses	705,838	712,269	580,206	536,845	512,827
Client Protection program direct expenses	1,742,370	943,190	1,458,312	1,083,830	1,437,706
Transfers to sibling entities	549,193	360,345	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortization	567,633	333,722	404,261	267,012	215,045
Total expenses	21,296,160	17,806,253	18,597,270	17,945,543	18,195,758
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	2,755,820	5,296,938	2,167,255	4,538,713	5,190,004
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	61,564,026	56,267,088	54,099,833	49,561,120	44,371,116
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 64,319,846	\$ 61,564,026	\$ 56,267,088	\$ 54,099,833	\$ 49,561,120
<b>OTHER INFORMATION AT YEAR END</b>					
Number of active registered attorneys	97,718	97,064	96,952	96,689	96,114
Registration fees					
More than one year and less than three years	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121
More than three years	210	210	210	230/210	230
Inactive/out of state	121	121	121	121	121



# Appendix – 2024 Statistical Charts



# REGISTRATION

Registration data for 2024 is based on the fiscal registration year which ended on August 31, 2024.

**Chart 1**

## Registration Categories for 2024

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of Attorneys</i>
Admitted between January 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024 .....	2,771
Admitted between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2022.....	5,545
Admitted before January 1, 2021.....	71,196
Serving active military duty.....	307
Spouse of active military attorney under Rule 719.....	1
Serving as judge or judicial clerk .....	1,841
In-House Counsel under Rule 716.....	525
Foreign Legal Consultant under Rule 713 .....	11
Legal Service Program Counsel under Rule 717 .....	9
<i>Pro Bono</i> Authorization under Rule 756(k).....	143
<i>Pro Hac Vice</i> under Rule 707 .....	2,345
Inactive status .....	12,127
<b>Total Active and Inactive Attorneys Currently Registered .....</b>	<b>96,821</b>

Chart 1A

Gender, Age and Years in Practice (2020-2024)

	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY
2019	61.3%	38.7%	0.02%
2020	60.7%	39.3%	0.06%
2021	60.3%	39.7%	0.07%
2022	59.9%	40.0%	0.09%
2023	59.5%	40.4%	0.12%
2024	59.0%	40.9%	0.14%

AGE	21-29 YRS.	30-39 YRS.	40-49 YRS.	50-59 YRS.	60-69 YRS.	70-79 YRS.	80-89 YRS.	90+ YRS.
2020	3.4%	23.9%	24.5%	22.2%	17.5%	7.3%	1.1%	0.1%
2021	3.5%	23.0%	24.9%	22.3%	17.4%	7.7%	1.1%	0.1%
2022	3.5%	22.0%	25.5%	22.2%	17.2%	8.2%	1.3%	0.1%
2023	3.6%	21.3%	26.0%	22.0%	17.2%	8.3%	1.5%	0.1%
2024	3.6%	20.6%	26.4%	22.0%	17.0%	8.7%	1.6%	0.1%

YRS. IN PRACTICE	<5 YRS.	5-10 YRS.	11-20 YRS.	21-30 YRS.	31-40 YRS.	41-50 YRS.	51+ YRS.
2020	9.9%	16.4%	26.4%	20.8%	16.2%	8.5%	1.8%
2021	9.9%	16.4%	26.4%	20.8%	16.2%	8.5%	1.8%
2022	9.8%	15.8%	26.6%	20.7%	16.3%	8.9%	1.9%
2023	10.2%	14.9%	26.9%	20.5%	16.4%	9.1%	2.0%
2024	10.3%	14.1%	27.4%	20.5%	16.4%	9.1%	2.2%

Chart 1B

Lawyers By Gender and Years in Practice (2023-2024)

YEARS IN PRACTICE	TOTAL	%FEMALE BY YRS. IN PRACTICE		%MALE BY YRS. IN PRACTICE		%NON-BINARY BY YRS. IN PRACTICE		%MORE MALE THAN FEMALE BY YRS. IN PRACTICE	
		2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Less than 5 years	9,747	50.8%	51.5%	49.2%	48.1%	0.50%	0.50%	-1.6%	-3.4%
Between 5 and 10 years	13,221	46.6%	47.3%	53.4%	52.4%	0.20%	0.30%	6.8%	5.1%
Between 11 and 20 years	25,905	46.9%	46.6%	53.1%	53.3%	0.10%	0.14%	6.2%	6.7%
Between 21 and 30 years	19,361	42.7%	43.4%	57.3%	56.5%	0.03%	0.04%	14.6%	13.1%
Between 31 and 40 years	15,531	34.1%	34.8%	65.9%	65.1%	0.03%	0.03%	31.8%	30.3%
Between 41 and 50 years	8,607	18.5%	20.3%	81.5%	79.7%	0.01%	0.00%	63.0%	59.4%
51+ years	2,106	3.1%	3.5%	96.9%	96.5%	0.00%	0.00%	93.8%	93.0%

## Chart 1C

### Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Lawyers 2004-2024

Year	Out-of-State Lawyers		In-State Illinois Lawyers		Total # of Registered Lawyers
2024	31,365	32.4%	65,456	67.6%	96,821
2023	30,925	32.1%	65,515	67.9%	96,440
2022	29,872	31.2%	65,839	68.8%	95,711
2021	28,964	30.3%	66,516	69.7%	95,480
2020	29,184	30.7%	65,723	69.3%	94,907
2019	29,555	31.2%	65,107	68.8%	94,662
2018	29,929	31.6%	64,679	68.4%	94,608
2017	30,603	32.2%	64,175	67.8%	94,778
2016	30,315	32.0%	64,295	68.0%	94,610
2015	29,379	31.2%	64,749	68.8%	94,128
2014	28,317	30.5%	64,439	69.5%	92,756
2013	26,373	29.0%	64,710	71.0%	91,083
2012	24,095	27.0%	65,235	73.0%	89,330
2011	23,667	26.9%	64,276	73.1%	87,943
2010	23,019	26.6%	63,638	73.4%	86,657
2009	22,303	26.3%	62,474	73.7%	84,777
2008	21,466	25.6%	62,442	74.4%	83,908
2007	20,914	25.4%	61,466	74.6%	82,380
2006	20,776	25.6%	60,370	74.4%	81,146
2005	18,911	23.6%	61,130	76.4%	80,041
2004	18,274	23.4%	59,827	76.6%	78,101

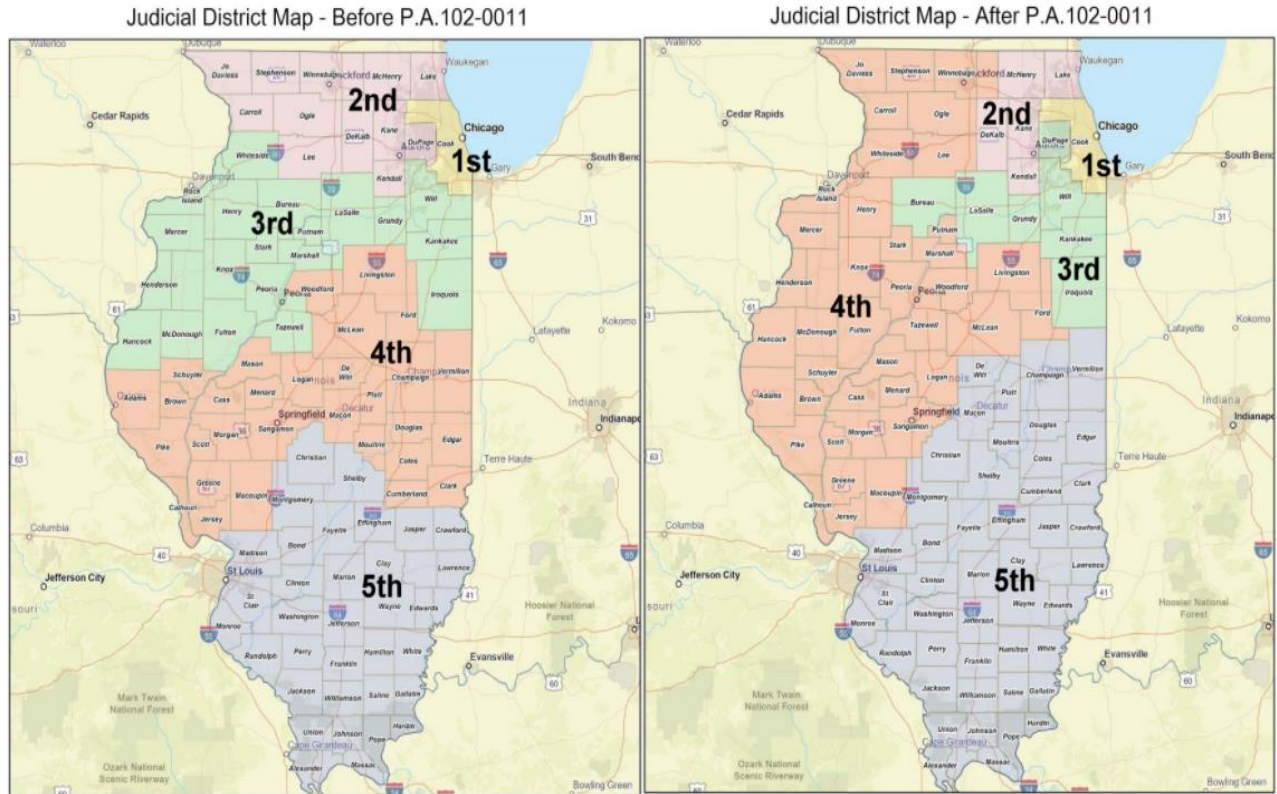
Chart 2A

Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by Judicial Districts: Five-Year Trend 2020-2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>First District</b>											
Cook County .....	46,951	47,210	46,812	46,733	46,907						
<b>Second District</b>						<b>Fourth District</b>					
15 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	191	189	187	179	180	5 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	220	217	197	190	192
16 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	1,135	1,158	1,154	1,131	1,135	6 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	802	810	799	764	744
17 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	768	791	761	725	720	7 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	1,245	1,266	1,212	1,201	1,224
18 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	4,331	4,505	4,482	4,513	4,468	8 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	172	180	174	173	165
19 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	3,032	3,186	3,157	3,127	3,078	11 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	<u>648</u>	<u>668</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>642</u>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Circuit .....	562	572	571	562	548	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,087</b>	<b>3,141</b>	<b>3,043</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>2,967</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit+ .....	<u>270</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>259</u>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,289</b>	<b>10,676</b>	<b>10,573</b>	<b>10,507</b>	<b>10,388</b>						
+circuit eff. 12/3/12											
<b>Third District</b>						<b>Fifth District</b>					
9 <sup>th</sup> Circuit .....	159	159	153	155	145	1 <sup>st</sup> Circuit.....	442	441	423	411	394
10 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	856	845	815	790	773	2 <sup>nd</sup> Circuit .....	277	288	285	277	276
12 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	996	1,074	1,089	1,063	1,058	3 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit .....	737	748	729	726	734
13 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	305	306	310	300	297	4 <sup>th</sup> Circuit .....	240	243	238	231	221
14 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	454	466	452	448	426	20 <sup>th</sup> Circuit.....	<u>800</u>	<u>778</u>	<u>784</u>	<u>767</u>	<u>744</u>
21 <sup>st</sup> Circuit .....	130	138	133	<u>129</u>	<u>126</u>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>2,498</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>2,369</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,988</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>2,885</b>	<b>2,825</b>						
						<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>65,723</b>	<b>66,516</b>	<b>65,839</b>	<b>65,515</b>	<b>65,456</b>

## Chart 2B

### Judicial District Map (eff. Jan. 1, 2022)



Illinois Courts, <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Public/Illinois-Judicial-Redistricting/> / Illinois Courts

Old Illinois judicial map boundaries (L), new judicial map boundaries (R)

#### 2022 Map, eff. Jan. 1, 2022

1st District – contains only Cook County and not included in the judicial redistricting process.

2nd District – DeKalb, Kendall, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties. It was previously made up of 13 counties, spanning Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, including DuPage County.

3rd District – DuPage, Bureau, LaSalle, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee and Will counties. It previously included 21 counties, covering Kankakee County to the Metro East.

4th District – Peoria County, the Quad City region, for total of 22 counties in western Illinois along the Mississippi River and up to the Wisconsin border from Jerseyville to Rockford.

5th District – gained 11 of the counties that were previously in the 4th District and stretches from Cairo to Champaign, a distance of close to 250 miles.

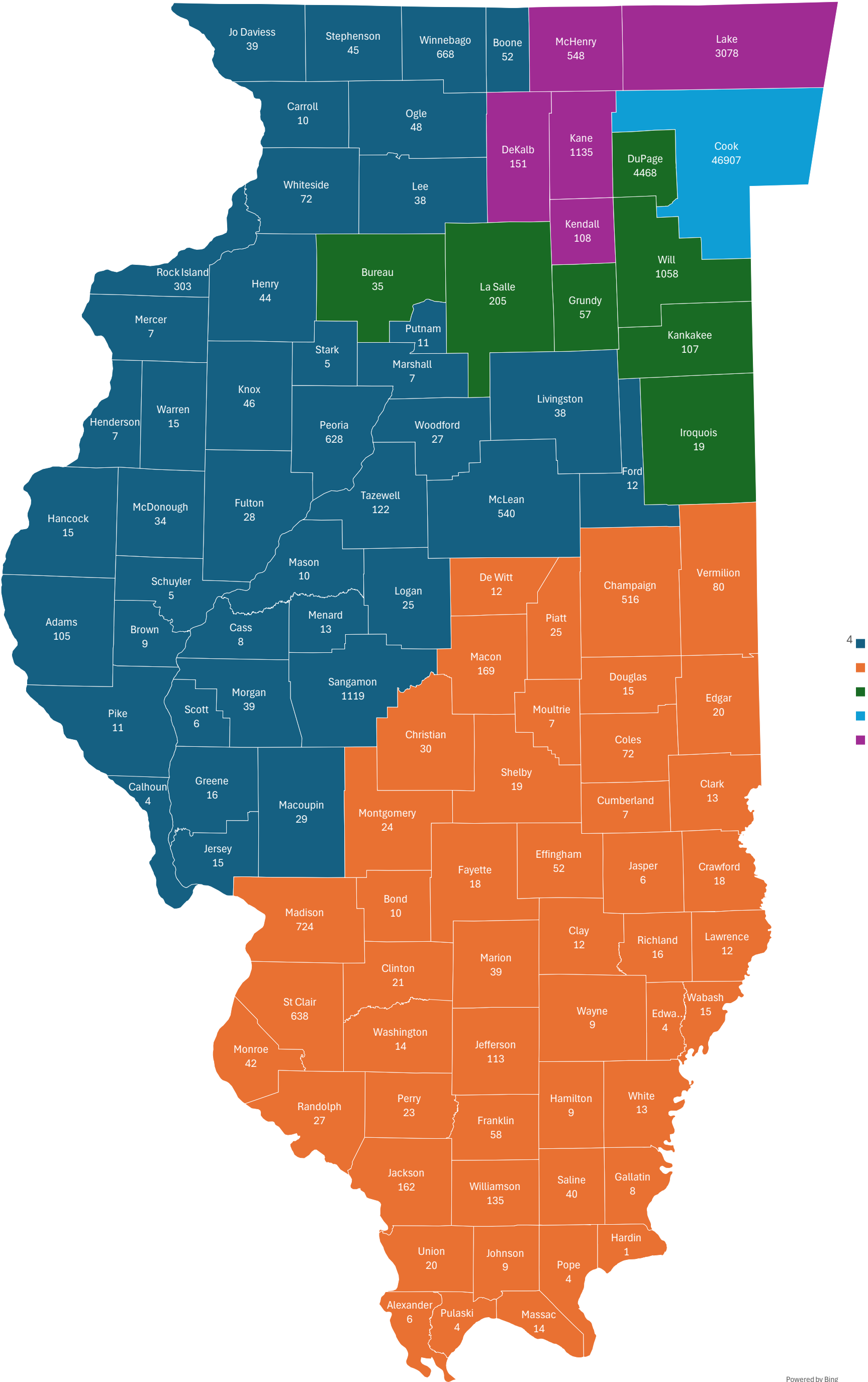
Chart 3

Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by County: 2022-2024

Principal Office	2022	2023	2024	Principal Office	2022	2023	2024	Principal Office	2022	2023	2024
Adams	108	110	105	Hardin	2	2	1	Morgan	41	39	39
Alexander	5	5	6	Henderson	7	7	7	Moultrie	10	9	7
Bond	12	11	10	Henry	41	45	44	Ogle	46	48	48
Boone	51	53	52	Iroquois	21	20	19	Peoria	664	638	628
Brown	10	10	9	Jackson	180	173	162	Perry	22	23	23
Bureau	33	32	35	Jasper	8	8	6	Piatt	26	25	25
Calhoun	5	4	4	Jefferson	118	113	113	Pike	11	11	11
Carroll	12	12	10	Jersey	17	19	15	Pope	4	5	4
Cass	8	7	8	Jo Daviess	41	40	39	Pulaski	4	4	4
Champaign	529	518	516	Johnson	9	9	9	Putnam	12	10	11
Christian	36	35	30	Kane	1,152	1,131	1,135	Randolph	25	26	27
Clark	14	14	13	Kankakee	112	109	107	Richland	19	20	16
Clay	11	12	12	Kendall	101	110	108	Rock Island	324	319	303
Clinton	21	21	21	Knox	49	49	46	Saline	41	38	40
Coles	72	71	72	Lake	3,157	3,127	3,078	Sangamon	1,105	1,094	1,119
Cook	46,812	46,733	46,907	LaSalle	206	203	205	Schuyler	10	9	5
Crawford	18	18	18	Lawrence	13	13	12	Scott	6	6	6
Cumberland	9	9	7	Lee	38	34	38	Shelby	17	17	19
DeKalb	161	160	151	Livingston	38	37	38	St. Clair	677	658	638
DeWitt	15	15	12	Logan	25	24	25	Stark	7	7	5
Douglas	20	17	15	Macon	200	180	169	Stephenson	50	45	45
DuPage	4,485	4,513	4,468	Macoupin	29	27	29	Tazewell	122	127	122
Edgar	18	18	20	Madison	717	715	724	Union	25	21	20
Edwards	4	4	4	Marion	42	38	39	Vermilion	84	78	80
Effingham	56	58	52	Marshall	8	8	7	Wabash	14	16	15
Fayette	23	19	18	Mason	10	10	10	Warren	18	17	15
Ford	13	12	12	Massac	14	14	14	Washington	17	14	14
Franklin	55	54	58	McDonough	36	36	34	Wayne	11	9	9
Fulton	29	29	28	McHenry	570	562	548	White	13	11	13
Gallatin	8	8	8	McLean	559	550	540	Whiteside	81	78	72
Greene	15	16	16	Menard	12	12	13	Will	1,089	1,063	1,058
Grundy	72	65	57	Mercer	6	6	7	Williamson	141	142	135
Hamilton	10	9	9	Monroe	43	46	42	Winnebago	711	672	668
Hancock	14	17	15	Montgomery	24	23	24	Woodford	26	27	27
									65,839	65,515	65,456



Chart 3A:  
Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by County: 2024



**Chart 4**

**Attorney Removals from the Master Roll: 2015 – 2024 Registration Years**

<i>Reason for Removal</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Registration non-compliance	1,155	1,135	1,644	1,286	981	946	1,009	1,103	987	708
Deceased	475	288	223	287	238	237	245	240	277	266
Retired	1,334	1,354	1,262	1,458	1,331	1,419	1,369	1,753	1,609	1,673
Disciplined	57	52	52	61	62	46	47	36	36	42
MCLE General non-compliance	109	111	128	120	148	197	292	160	69	85
MCLE Basic Skills non-compliance	33	24	22	16	14	0	27	51	22	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,163</b>	<b>2,964</b>	<b>3,331</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,789</b>

**Chart 5**

**Pro Hac Vice Admission\*: 2020-2024**

	<i>Number of Lawyer Pro Hac Vice Submissions</i>	<i>Number of Lawyers Registered</i>	<i>Number of Proceedings</i>	<i>Total AJC Per-Proceeding Fees</i>	<i>Total ARDC Per-Proceeding Fees</i>
<b>2020</b>	899	1,640	1,109	\$196,000	\$83,925
<b>2021</b>	1,172	2,065	1,489	\$259,666	\$111,012
<b>2022</b>	1,300	2,235	1,662	\$282,172	\$121,000
<b>2023</b>	1,288	2,514	1,580	\$274,976	\$118,349
<b>2024</b>	1,499	2,416	1,888	\$338,694	\$145,725

\* Supreme Court Rule 707 permits an eligible out-of-state attorney to appear *pro hac vice* in an Illinois proceeding if the out-of-state lawyer meets certain licensure and other eligibility requirements, registers annually with the ARDC, and pays a one-time, nonrefundable \$250 per-proceeding fee and an annual \$121 registration fee. \$175 of this per-proceeding fee is remitted to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice (AJC) and \$75 is retained by the ARDC. The chart above shows *pro hac vice* activity for 2020-2024, including the total AJC and ARDC per-proceeding fees collected.

**Chart 6A**

**2020-2024 Practice Setting: Active Status Lawyers and Currently Practicing Law**

Practice Setting	Practice Size % of Total Active Status and Currently Practicing				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Private Practice	66.7% 48,798	66.1% 48,650	66.5% 49,108	66.0% 49,361	65.5% 49,579
Corporate In-House	15.4% 11,231	15.5% 11,379	15.5% 11,464	16.0% 12,011	16.1% 12,215
Government/Judge	12.1% 8,874	12.4% 9,164	11.9% 8,802	11.9% 8,923	12.2% 9,255
Other	3.0% 2,177	3.1% 2,271	3.2% 2,317	3.1% 2,305	3.1% 2,319
Not-for-profit	2.2% 1,628	2.3% 1,728	2.4% 1,737	2.4% 1,796	2.5% 1,877
Academia	0.6% 448	0.6% 434	0.6% 433	0.6% 428	0.6% 436
Total	73,787	73,156	73,626	73,861	75,681

**Chart 6A-1**

**2020-2024 Practice Size: Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice**

Practice Size of Lawyers in Private Practice	Practice Size % of Total Engaged in Private Practice				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Solo Firm	27.4% 13,356	27.2% 13,244	25.8% 12,692	25.1% 12,395	24.8% 12,264
Firm of 2-10 Attys.	25.6% 12,513	25.4% 12,376	24.7% 12,129	24.2% 11,923	23.7% 11,742
Firm of 11-25 Attys.	9.4% 4,575	9.4% 4,555	9.4% 4,615	9.2% 4,537	9.0% 4,476
Firm of 26-100 Attys.	11.6% 5,662	11.7% 5,668	12.3% 6,025	12.5% 6,187	12.7% 6,299
Firm of 100 + Attys.	26.0% 12,692	26.3% 12,807	27.8% 13,647	29.0% 14,319	29.8% 14,798
Total	49,996	48,798	48,650	49,108	49,579

Chart 6B-1

**2023-2024 Practice Setting: Active Status Lawyers and  
Currently Practicing Law By Age**

PRACTICE SETTING	21-29 YRS.		30-39 YRS.		40-49 YRS.		50-59 YRS.	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
<b>Private Practice</b> % of Private Practice Total	4.5%	4.6%	22.2%	21.9%	22.4%	22.8%	20.0%	19.8%
<b>Corporate In-House</b> % of Corp. In-House Total	1.4%	1.1%	22.0%	21.1%	34.6%	35.2%	26.9%	26.9%
<b>Government/Judge</b> % of Govt/Judge Total	5.4%	5.5%	28.9%	28.0%	30.1%	30.6%	21.0%	21.0%
<b>Other</b> % of Other Total	3.3%	4.1%	25.0%	23.1%	26.7%	27.7%	19.6%	19.9%
<b>Not-for-profit</b> % of Not-for-Profit Total	7.5%	7.9%	31.1%	30.0%	26.6%	26.1%	15.4%	16.2%
<b>Academia</b> % of Academia Total	1.4%	1.6%	12.2%	10.8%	25.2%	24.5%	24.5%	26.2%

PRACTICE SETTING	60-69 YRS		70-79 YRS.		80-89 YRS.		90+ YRS.	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
<b>Private Practice</b> % of Private Practice Total	18.0%	17.6%	10.6%	11.0%	2.1%	2.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Corporate In-House</b> % of Corp. In-House Total	12.9%	13.4%	1.9%	2.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.04%	0.02%
<b>Government/Judge</b> % of Govt/Judge Total	11.9%	12.0%	2.5%	2.8%	0.2%	0.2%	0.01%	0.01%
<b>Other</b> % of Other Total	16.5%	16.1%	7.3%	8.0%	1.4%	1.3%	0.1%	0.04%
<b>Not-for-profit</b> % of Not-for-Profit Total	13.4%	13.1%	5.5%	5.9%	0.5%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Academia</b> % of Academia Total	23.8%	22.7%	10.5%	11.2%	2.3%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%

## Chart 6B-2

### 2023-2024 Practice Size: Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice By Age

PRACTICE SETTING	21-29 YRS.		30-39 YRS.		40-49 YRS.		50-59 YRS.	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
<b>Solo Firm</b> % of Total 12,264	0.3%	0.3%	6.9%	6.3%	15.8%	16.2%	21.1%	20.3%
<b>Firm of 2-10 Attys.</b> % of Total 11,742	3.7%	3.9%	19.4%	18.6%	24.4%	24.8%	21.4%	21.4%
<b>Firm of 11-25 Attys.</b> % of Total 4,476	5.7%	5.9%	25.5%	24.8%	24.6%	25.2%	19.6%	19.7%
<b>Firm of 26-100 Attys.</b> % of Total 6,299	6.4%	6.2%	28.3%	27.7%	25.6%	26.0%	19.6%	19.8%
<b>Firm of 100 + Attys.</b> % of Total 14,798	7.8%	7.5%	34.2%	34.1%	24.5%	24.7%	18.0%	18.2%

PRACTICE SETTING	60-69 YRS.		70-79 YRS.		80-89 YRS.		90+ YRS.	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
<b>Solo Firm</b> % of Total 12,264	28.2%	27.7%	22.8%	24.1%	4.6%	4.9%	0.3%	0.3%
<b>Firm of 2-10 Attys.</b> % of Total 11,742	18.3%	18.0%	10.6%	10.9%	2.1%	2.2%	0.1%	0.2%
<b>Firm of 11-25 Attys.</b> % of Total 4,476	15.8%	15.5%	7.3%	7.3%	1.4%	1.4%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Firm of 26-100 Attys.</b> % of Total 6,299	13.5%	13.6%	5.4%	5.5%	1.1%	1.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Firm of 100 + Attys.</b> % of Total 14,798	11.6%	11.4%	3.4%	3.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.01%	0.01%

**Chart 7A**

**Succession Planning of Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice (2024)**

PRACTICE SETTING	YES	NO	NOT SURE
<b>Solo Firm</b> % of Total 12,264	23.1% 2,830	70.9% 8,696	6.0% 738
<b>Firm of 2-10 Attys.</b> % of Total 11,742	32.1% 3,768	33.2% 3,897	34.7% 4,077
<b>Firm of 11-25 Attys.</b> % of Total 4,476	33.9% 1,516	16.6% 741	49.6% 2,219
<b>Firm of 26-100 Attys.</b> % of Total 6,299	41.7% 2,626	13.5% 848	44.8% 2,825
<b>Firm of 100 + Attys.</b> % of Total 14,798	59.9% 8,869	7.3% 1,079	32.8% 4,850

**Chart 7B**

**Solo Practitioners, Active Status, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice with No Succession Planning and No Malpractice Insurance (2024)**

% OF 3,691 TOTAL BY AGE	
<b>21-29 YRS..</b>	7 0.2%
<b>30-39 YRS.</b>	179 4.9%
<b>40-49 YRS.</b>	481 13.0%
<b>50-59 YRS.</b>	629 17.0%
<b>60-69 YRS.</b>	1,038 28.1%
<b>70-79 YRS.</b>	1,098 29.8%
<b>80+ YRS.</b>	259 7.0%



## Chart 8A

### 2024 Trust Account Disclosure Reports

<b>A. Lawyers with Trust Accounts: .....47,277</b>	
% with IOLTA trust accounts .....	82%
% with non-IOLTA trust accounts .....	18%
<b>B. Lawyers without Trust Accounts: .....49,544</b>	
Full-time employee of corporation or governmental agency (including courts) with no outside practice .....	
	25,936
Not engaged in the practice of law .....	
	12,773
Engaged in private practice of law (to any extent), but firm handles no client or third-party funds.....	
	8,244
Other explanation.....	
	2,591

## Chart 8B

### 2024 Trust Account Reports: Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice

Practice Size	“Yes” Trust Account Responses		“No” Trust Account Responses
	IOLTA Trust Account* * Lawyers may report multiple trust accounts but only one is counted.	Non-IOLTA Trust Account** ** Lawyers who reported maintaining only a non-IOLTA trust account.	
Solo Firm	7,683	670	3,911
Firm of 2-10 Attys.	9,760	638	1,344
Firm of 11-25 Attys.	3,859	242	375
Firm of 26-100 Attys.	5,339	373	587
Firm of 100 + Attys.	12,977	826	991
Total	39,618	2,749	7,208

### Chart 9A

#### Malpractice Disclosure Reports: 2020-2024

Lawyer Malpractice Insurance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Yes	54.5% 51,748	54.5% 52,030	54.8% 52,483	54.9% 52,906	53.5% 51,714
No	45.5% 43,159	45.5% 43,450	45.2% 43,228	45.1% 43,534	46.5% 45,107

### Chart 9B

#### Malpractice Disclosure Reports: 2020-2024 Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice

Practice Size	% Malpractice Responses By Practice Size									
	Yes					No				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Solo Firm</b> % of Total 12,264	8,138 60.9%	8,249 62.3%	7,979 62.9%	7,894 63.7%	7,748 63.2%	5,218 39.1%	4,995 37.7%	4,713 37.1%	4,501 36.3%	4,516 36.8%
<b>Firm of 2-10 Attys.</b> % of Total 11,742	11,730 93.8%	11,596 93.7%	11,411 94.1%	11,248 94.5%	10,910 92.9%	783 6.2%	780 6.3%	718 5.9%	659 5.5%	832 7.1%
<b>Firm of 11-25 Attys.</b> % of Total 4,476	4,477 97.9%	4,451 97.7%	4,526 98.1%	4,435 97.8%	4,308 96.2%	98 2.2%	104 2.3%	89 1.9%	101 2.2%	168 3.8%
<b>Firm of 26-100 Attys.</b> % of Total 6,299	5,532 97.7%	5,515 97.3%	5,896 97.9%	6,045 97.7%	6,053 96.1%	130 2.4%	153 2.7%	129 2.1%	142 2.3%	246 3.9%
<b>Firm of 100 + Attys.</b> % of Total 14,798	12,463 98.2%	12,476 97.4%	13,384 98.1%	14,097 98.3%	14,253 96.3%	229 1.8%	331 2.6%	263 1.9%	239 1.7%	545 3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,340</b> <b>86.7%</b>	<b>42,287</b> <b>86.9%</b>	<b>43,196</b> <b>88.0%</b>	<b>43,719</b> <b>88.6%</b>	<b>43,272</b> <b>87.3%</b>	<b>6,458</b> <b>13.3%</b>	<b>6,364</b> <b>13.1%</b>	<b>5,912</b> <b>12.0%</b>	<b>5,642</b> <b>11.4%</b>	<b>6,307</b> <b>12.7%</b>

# INVESTIGATIONS, PROSECUTIONS and SUPREME COURT ORDERS

**Chart 10**

**Types of Investigations Docketed (2015-2024)**

Type of Investigation	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Disciplinary charge against Illinois lawyer	4,925	4,788	4,592	4,419	4,195	3,375	3,344	3,951	4,197	4,353
Overdraft notification of client trust account	283	241	265	321	282	194	204	185	169	139
Unauthorized Practice of Law	104	104	105	74	224	56	42	54	46	68
Monitoring disciplinary compliance	71	88	83	73	67	57	49	40	53	47
Disciplinary charge against out-of-state lawyer	44	44	48	53	52	138	167	39	46	40
Receivership	14	31	33	21	17	28	29	24	12	13
Reciprocal	13	32	21	44	30	24	19	13	14	18
Impairment	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conditional Admission monitoring	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	3	1	0
Investigation related to Petition for Reinstatement	N/A	2	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0
<b>Total: New Docketed Investigations</b>	<b>5,460</b>	<b>5,332</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>5,007</b>	<b>4,867</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>3,858</b>	<b>4,309</b>	<b>4,538</b>	<b>4,678</b>
Reopened investigations	94	69	52	22	70	61	23	50	37	28
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>5,401</b>	<b>5,199</b>	<b>5,029</b>	<b>4,937</b>	<b>3,936</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>4,359</b>	<b>4,575</b>	<b>4,706</b>

## Chart 11

### Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations Docketed in 2024

Total # of Attorneys: 3,352	
<i>Investigations per Attorney</i>	
1 .....	2,700 (80.6%)
2 .....	439 (13.1%)
3 .....	120 (3.6%)
4 or more.....	93 (2.8%)
<i>Gender</i>	<i>Years in Practice</i>
Female .....	29.6%
Male .....	70.3%
Non-Binary .....	0.1%
Fewer than 5 .....	7.4%
Between 5 and 10 .....	13.8%
Between 10 and 20 .....	26.2%
Between 20 and 30 .....	21.1%
30 or more .....	31.5%

## Chart 12

### Investigations By Complainant Category in 2024

Complainant	# of Investigations	
Client/Formal Client	2,441	51.8%
Opposing Party	1,124	23.9%
Other (e.g. witness, relative, acquaintance)	543	11.5%
Administrator	216	4.6%
Opposing Counsel	139	3.0%
Lawyer self-report	57	1.2%
Judge/Tribunal	38	0.8%
Undeterminable (not arising out of a legal representation)	33	0.7%
Anonymous	24	0.5%
Financial Institution	21	0.4%
Prosecutor/Law enforcement	20	0.4%
Other disciplinary agency	17	0.4%
Lienholder	14	0.3%
Service provider/vendor	14	0.3%
Lawyer's law firm/employer	10	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,711*</b>	

\*Some investigations had more than one complainant.

## Chart 13

### Classification of Charges Docketed in 2024 by Allegations

<i>Type of Misconduct</i>	<i>Number*</i>	<i>Type of Misconduct.....Number*</i>	
Neglect (Rule 1.3).....	1,219	Failing to report misconduct of another lawyer or judge (Rule 8.3(a)-(b)).....	45
Failing to provide competent representation (Rule 1.1) .....	672	Failing to preserve client confidences or secrets (Rule 1.6(a) and 1.18(b)) .....	29
Failing to communicate with client, including failing to communicate the basis of a fee (Rule 1.2(a), 1.4(a)(1)-(5) and (b), and 1.5(b)) .....	630	Not abiding by a client's decision concerning the representation or improperly limiting scope of representation (Rule 1.2(a), (c) and (e)).....	28
Excessive or improper fees, including failing to refund unearned fees (Rule 1.5 and 1.16(d)).....	501	Improper commercial speech (Rules 7.1-7.3) .....	22
Fraudulent or deceptive activity including misrepresentation to a tribunal, clients, and non-clients (Rules 3.3(a)(1)-(4), 3.4(a)-(e), 4.1(a), 8.4(a) & (c)) .....	422	Failing to properly withdraw from representation, including failing to return client files or documents (Rule 1.16(a) and (c)).....	21
Improper management of client or third-party funds, including commingling, conversion, failing to promptly pay litigation costs or client creditors or issuing NSF checks (Rule 1.15) .....	366	Threatening criminal prosecution or disciplinary proceedings to gain advantage in a civil matter (Rule 8.4(g)).....	21
Improper trial conduct, assertion of frivolous pleadings or false claims, using means to embarrass, delay or burden another or suppressing evidence where there is a duty to reveal (Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.4(b), (d)-(e), 3.5(a)-(b) & (d), 3.6, 3.7 & 4.4(a)-(b)) ....	260	Improper communications with a represented person (Rule 4.2) .	17
Criminal conduct, assisting a client in a crime or fraud, and counseling illegal or fraudulent conduct (Rules 1.2(d) and 8.4(b)).....	139	Investigation relating to a charge of DUI .....	16
Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, including conduct that is the subject of a contempt finding or court sanction (Rule 8.4(d)).....	139	Failing to supervise subordinates (Rules 5.1 and 5.3) .....	15
Conflict of Interest:.....	98	Violation of anti-discrimination statute/ordinance (Rule 8.4(j))...	15
Rule 1.7: Concurrent clients .....	58	Improper communication with an unrepresented person (Rule 4.3) .....	13
Rule 1.8(a): Improper business transaction with client .....	2	Incapacity due to chemical addiction or mental condition (IL. S.Ct.Rules 757-758) .....	8
Rule 1.8(e): Improper financial assistance to client .....	1	Termination of eligibility under Rule 707(i) .....	7
Rule 1.8(i): Improper acquisition of propriety interest .....	2	False statements in bar admission or disciplinary matter (Rule 8.1(a)-(b)).....	4
Rule 1.8(j): Improper sexual relations with client .....	12	Improper division of fees or partnerships with a nonlawyer (Rule 5.4(a)-(b)) .....	4
Rule 1.9: Successive conflicts .....	15	Failing to maintain appropriate attorney-client relationship with client with diminished capacity (Rule 1.14) .....	3
Rule 1.11: Former Government Lawyer .....	3	False statements about a judge, judicial candidate or public official (Rule 8.2(a)).....	2
Rule 1.13: Organizational client .....	3	Improper use of public office to obtain an advantage in legislative matter (Rule 8.4(k)(1)) .....	2
Rule 1.18: Representation adverse to prospective client .....	2	Improper practice after failure to register under Rule 756 .....	1
Filing frivolous or non-meritorious claims or pleadings (Rule 3.1) .....	72	Judicial candidate's violation of Judicial Code (Rule 8.2(b)).....	1
Practicing in a jurisdiction where not authorized (Rule 5.5) .....	63	No allegation of misconduct warranting investigation.....	753
Prosecutorial misconduct (Rule 3.8) .....	56		
Failure to comply with IL S.Ct.Rule 764 following discipline.....	47		

\*Totals exceed the number investigations docketed in 2024 because in many more than one type of misconduct is alleged.

\*Totals exceed the number investigations docketed in 2024 because in many more than one type of misconduct is alleged.

## Chart 14

### Classification of Charges Docketed in 2024 by Area of Law\*

<i>Area of Law</i>	<i>Number</i>
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal .....	1,141
Domestic Relations .....	823
Tort (Personal Injury/Property Damage) .....	460
Real Estate/Landlord-Tenant .....	367
Probate .....	296
Labor Relations/Workers' Comp .....	216
Contract .....	186
Immigration .....	157
Civil Rights .....	116
Debt Collection .....	94
Bankruptcy .....	73
Local Government Problems .....	55
Corporate Matters .....	52
Tax .....	14
Patent and Trademark .....	12
Mental Health .....	6
Social Security .....	5
Adoption .....	2

\* Does not include charges classified with no area of law indicated or alleged misconduct not arising out of a legal representation.



**Chart 15**  
**Investigations Concluded in 2024**

**Concluded by the Administrator:**

Closed after initial review .....	1,944
(No misconduct alleged)	
Closed after investigation .....	2,422
Filed at Supreme Court pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 757, 762(a), and 763 .....	9
Closed by agreement to enter into diversion...	29

**Concluded by the Inquiry Board:**

Closed after panel review .....	41
Complaint or impairment petition voted .....	68
Closed upon completion of conditions of Rule 108 supervision .....	15
<b>Total</b> .....	4,528

**Chart 16**

**Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2024**

<b>1,944 Investigations Concluded After Initial Review in 2024</b>			
<i>Number of Days Pending Prior to Closure:</i>			
Fewer than 10 days	10 - 20 days	21 - 60 days	More than 60 days
1,271 (65.4%)	306 (15.7%)	261 (13.4%)	106 (5.5%)

<b>1,828 Investigations Concluded in 2024 by the Intake Staff After Investigation</b>			
<i>Number of Days Pending Prior to Closure:</i>			
Fewer than 90 days	Between 90 - 180 days	Between 180 - 365 days	More than 365 days
782 (42.8%)	534 (29.2%)	378 (20.7%)	134 (7.3%)

<b>594 Investigations Concluded in 2024 by the Litigation Staff After Investigation</b>			
<i>Number of Days Pending Prior to Closure:</i>			
Fewer than 90 days	Between 90 - 180 days	Between 180 - 365 days	More than 365 days
137 (23.0%)	108 (18.2%)	162 (27.3%)	187 (31.5%)

**Chart 17**

**Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations (2020-2024)**

<i>Overdraft Notification Investigations</i>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Opened	194	204	185	169	140
Closed	161	212	196	167	132
Formal Complaints Filed	2	2	2	1	2

### Chart 18A

#### Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (2020-2024)

<i>Type</i>	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
UPL by unlicensed person	44	29	24	30	40
UPL by unlicensed entity	5	8	10	9	8
UPL by out-of-state lawyer*	1	4	9	12	17
UPL by disbarred lawyer	4	1	7	6	3
UPL by suspended lawyer	0	0	1	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>69</b>

\* Beginning in 2020, investigations involving out-of-state lawyers for allegedly failing to pay Rule 707 *pro hac vice* fees are no longer classified as UPL investigations and are now counted with disciplinary investigations involving out-of-state lawyers in Chart 10.

### Chart 18B

#### Area of Law Involved in Rule 779(b) UPL Investigations in 2024 (Unlicensed Persons or Entities and Disbarred or Suspended Lawyers)

<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Number of 779(b) Investigations*</i>	<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Number of 779(b) Investigations*</i>
Immigration .....	24 ..... 35%	Tort.....	4.....6%
Real Estate .....	12 ..... 17%	Civil Rights .....	3.....4%
Contract .....	6 ..... 9%	Debt Collection.....	3.....4%
Criminal .....	5 ..... 7%	Probate.....	3.....4%
Domestic Relations .....	5 ..... 7%		

\* Total less than 69 investigations because four investigations did not arise out of an area of law.

### Chart 18C

#### Rule 779(b) UPL Actions Filed in the Circuit Court: 2015-2024

<i>Rule 779(b) UPL Complaints</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Filed Against Disbarred Lawyer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Filed Against Non-Lawyer	2	5	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Filed Against Out-of-State Lawyer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Chart 19

#### Proceedings Filed Directly with the Illinois Supreme Court: 2020-2024

Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Rule 762(a) Motion for Disbarment on Consent	6	7	4	7	7
Rule 763 Petition for Reciprocal Discipline	26	34	12	10	16
Rule 774 Petition for Interim Suspension	5	6	5	5	8
Rule 757 Transfer to Disability Inactive Status	0	0	0	1	0
Rule 756(a)(8) Petition for Permanent Retirement	4	3	3	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>

### Chart 20A

#### Matters Before the Hearing Board in 2024

<b>Cases Pending on January 1, 2024</b> .....	43
<b>Cases Filed or Reassigned in 2024:</b>	
<i>Disciplinary Complaints Filed:*</i>	
➤ Rules 753, 761(d) .....	46
<i>Reciprocal Petition Transferred for Hearing</i>	
➤ Rule 763 .....	1
<i>Restoration Petition Transferred for Hearing</i>	
➤ Rule 759 .....	1
<i>Reinstatement Petition</i>	
➤ Rule 767 .....	1
<i>Unauthorized Practice of Law</i>	
➤ Rule 779 .....	1
<b>Total New Cases Filed or Reassigned</b> .....	50
<b>Cases Concluded During 2024</b> .....	39
<b>Cases Pending December 31, 2024</b> .....	54
<p>* The number of cases filed at Hearing is significantly lower than the number of matters voted by Inquiry because multiple investigations against a particular attorney in which the Inquiry Board has voted a complaint are consolidated into a single complaint for purposes of filing at the Hearing Board.</p>	

## Chart 20B

### Years in Practice, Age and Gender of Lawyers Charged in the 46 Disciplinary Complaints Filed in 2024

	# of Complaints Filed	% of Complaints Filed	% of Lawyer Population
<b>Years in Practice</b>			
Fewer than 5 .....	1	2.2%	10.3%
Between 5 and 10.....	6	13.0%	14.1%
Between 11 and 20.....	11	23.9%	27.4%
Between 21 and 30 .....	13	28.3%	20.5%
Between 31 and 40.....	4	8.7%	16.4%
Between 41 and 50.....	9	19.6%	9.1%
50+.....	2	4.4%	2.2%
<b>Age:</b>			
21-29 years old.....	0	0%	3.6%
30-39 years old.....	5	10.9%	20.6%
40-49 years old .....	13	28.3%	26.4%
50-59 years old .....	9	19.6%	22.0%
60-69 years old .....	12	26.1%	17.0%
70-79 years old .....	5	10.9%	8.7%
80 or more years old .....	2	4.4%	1.7%
<b>Gender:</b>			
Female .....	11	23.9%	40.9%
Male .....	34	73.9%	58.9%
Non-binary.....	1	2.2%	0.14%

### Chart 20C

#### Types of Misconduct Alleged in the 46 Disciplinary Complaints\* Filed Before Hearing Board in 2024

<i>Type of Misconduct</i>	<i>Number of Cases*</i>	<i>% of Cases Filed**</i>	<i>Type of Misconduct</i>	<i>Number of Cases*</i>	<i>% of Cases Filed**</i>
Fraudulent or deceptive activity (8.4(c)).....	32	70%	Assertion of frivolous pleadings (3.1 and 3.2).4	4	9%
Criminal conduct/conviction of lawyer (8.4(b)).....	15	33%	Unauthorized practice of law (5.5(a))	4	9%
Failure to communicate with client (1.4).....	12	26%	Master Roll removal due to MCLE requirements	2	
Neglect (1.3).....	11	24%	Unauthorized practice after suspension	1	
Improper handling of trust funds (1.15).....	9	20%	Unauthorized practice in another jurisdiction	1	
Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice (8.4(d))	8	17%	Improper trial conduct (3.4)	3	7%
Conflicts of interest.....	8	17%	Failure to respect rights of third persons (4.1(a))	3	7%
Rule 1.7: concurrent conflicts	3		Improper communication with rep. person (4.2)	2	4%
Rule 1.8(a): improper business transition with client	1		Breach of confidentiality (1.6(a))	2	4%
Rule 1.8(h): improper agreement limiting liability	2		False/reckless statements about a judge (8.2)	2	4%
Rule 1.8(j): improper sexual relationship with client	2		Excessive or unauthorized legal fees (1.5)	1	2%
Improper withdrawal from employment incl. failure to refund unearned fees (1.16)	8	17%	Failure to provide competent representation (1.1)	1	2%
Misrepresentations to a tribunal (3.3(a))	7	15%	Assisting a client in a crime or fraud	1	2%
False statement or failure to respond in disciplinary matter (8.1)	6	13%	Misrepresentation to a third person (4.1(a))	1	2%

\* Based on complaint initially filed and not on amended charges.

\*\*Totals exceed 46 disciplinary cases and 100% because most complaints allege more than one type of misconduct.

### Chart 20D

#### Subject Area Involved in the 46 Disciplinary Complaints Filed Before Hearing Board in 2024

<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Number of Cases*</i>	<i>% of Cases Filed*</i>	<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Number of Cases*</i>	<i>% of Cases Filed*</i>
Real Estate/Landlord-Tenant	9	19.6%	Contract	2	4.3%
Criminal Conduct/Conviction	9	19.6%	Immigration	2	4.3%
Personal Misconduct	8	17.4%	Bankruptcy	1	2.2%
Criminal	7	15.2%	Civil Rights	1	2.2%
Probate	7	15.2%	Corporate Matters	1	2.2%
Tort	3	6.5%	Local Government	1	2.2%
			Tax	1	2.2%

\*Totals exceed 46 disciplinary complaints and 100% because many complaints allege several counts of misconduct in different practice areas.



## Chart 20E

### Activity Before the Review Board in 2024

<b>Cases Pending on January 1, 2024</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cases filed in 2024</b>	
Exceptions filed by Respondent Lawyer	7
Exceptions filed by Administrator	0
Exceptions filed by both	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cases Concluded in 2024</b>	
Hearing Board affirmed	4
Hearing Board reversal on findings or sanction	4
Notice of Exceptions withdrawn or stricken	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Cases Pending on December 31, 2024</b>	<b>4</b>

### Chart 21A

#### Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered by the Supreme Court in 2024

Disbarment.....	17
Suspension until further order of Court .....	12
Suspension for a specified period .....	9
Suspension for a specified period & conditions .....	4
Probation with partially stayed suspension .....	8
Probation with fully stayed suspension.....	3
Censure .....	5
Reprimand .....	2
Total	60*

\*In addition to the 13 suspensions above, the Court also ordered 11 interim suspensions, as reported in Chart 22 at H.

### Chart 21A-1

#### Disposition of 60 Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered in 2024

Consent	Total: 21
Disbarment	8
Suspension, UFO	1
Suspension and seminar	0
Suspension	2
Probation, fully stayed	2
Probation, partially stayed	4
Censure	4
Contested	17
Default	8
Reciprocal	13
Probation revoked	1
Total	60

### Chart 21B

#### Location of Practice of the 60 Lawyers Disciplined by the Supreme Court in 2024

County	Number Disciplined	County	Number Disciplined
Cook .....	22	Knox.....	1
Out-of-State .....	15	LaSalle .....	1
DuPage .....	6	Madison .....	1
Lake.....	2	Saint Clair .....	1
McHenry.....	2	Tazewell.....	1
Sangamon .....	2	Vermillion.....	1
Champaign .....	1	Whiteside .....	1
Christian .....	1	Will .....	1
Kane .....	1		

### Chart 21C

#### Years in Practice, Age and Gender of 60 Lawyers Disciplined in 2024

Years in Practice	# of Lawyers Disciplined	% of Lawyers Disciplined	% of Lawyer Population
Fewer than 5 .....	1	1.6%	10.3%
Between 5 and 9 .....	9	14.8%	14.1%
Between 10 and 19 .....	17	27.9%	27.4%
Between 20 and 29 .....	11	18.0%	20.5%
Between 30 and 39 .....	12	19.7%	16.4%
Between 40 and 49 .....	10	16.4%	9.1%
50 or more .....	0	0%	2.2%
<b>Age:</b>			
21-29 years old.....	0	0%	3.6%
30-39 years old.....	9	14.8%	20.6%
40-49 years old .....	15	24.6%	26.4%
50-59 years old.....	13	21.3%	22.0%
60-69 years old .....	13	21.3%	17.0%
70-79 years old .....	10	16.4%	8.7%
80 or more years old .....	0	0%	1.7%
<b>Gender:</b>			
Female.....	7	11.5%	40.9%
Male .....	53	86.9%	58.9%
Non-binary .....	0	0%	0.14%

Chart 21D

Practice Setting of 60 Lawyers Disciplined in 2024

<i>Practice Setting</i>	<i>Solo Firm</i>	<i>Firm 2-10</i>	<i>Firm 11-25</i>	<i>Firm 26+</i>	<i>Gov't/ Judicial</i>	<i>In-House Corporate</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Not Engaged in Practice</i>
<b>60 Lawyers Sanctioned</b>	36	8	2	2	5	1	2	4

Chart 21D-1

Representation of 60 Lawyers Disciplined in 2024

<b>Pro Se</b>	<b>Represented by Counsel</b>
28	32

Chart 21E

Impairments Identified for Lawyers Disciplined in 2024 By Practice Setting

<i>Practice Setting</i>	<i>Solo Firm</i>	<i>Firm 2-10</i>	<i>Firm 11-25</i>	<i>Firm 26+</i>	<i>Gov't/ Judicial</i>	<i>In-House Corporate</i>	<i>Academia</i>	<i>Other (e.g. CCH, ABA)</i>	<i>Not Engaged in Practice</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>20 Lawyers* with Impairments</b>	12	4		1	1			1	1	20
<b><i>Impairment</i></b>										
<b>Substances:</b>										
Alcohol	5	2						1	1	9
Cocaine	1									1
Cannabis	1				1					2
Amphetamine									1	1
Heroin/Opioids	3									3
Other Substance					1			1		2
<b>Mental Illness:</b>										
Depression	7	2		1	1			1		12
Anxiety Disorder				1						1
Bipolar								1		
Schizophrenia	1									1
Personality Disorder										
Gambling										
Sexual Disorder		1								1
Cognitive Decline	1									1
Other	1	1			1			1		4

\* Ten (50%) lawyers had more than one identified impairment.

### Chart 21F

#### Demographics of Disciplined Lawyers with Identified Impairments in 2024

20 Lawyers with Impairments by Age		<i>Solo Firm</i> (12)	<i>Firm 2-10</i> (4)	<i>Firm 26+</i> (1)	<i>Gov't/ Judicial</i> (1)	<i>Other</i> (e.g. CCH, ABA) (1)	<i>Not Engaged in Practice</i> (1)	Total
21-29 years old								
30-39 years old		3	1		1	1		6
40-49 years old		3	2				1	6
50-59 years old		1	1	1				3
60-69 years old		5						5
70-79 years old								
80-89 years old								
90+ years old								

### Chart 22

#### Orders Entered by Supreme Court in Disciplinary Cases in 2024

<b>A. <u>Motions for disbarment on consent: Rule 762(a)</u></b> Allowed ..... 8 Denied ..... 0 Total ..... 8		<b>D. <u>Motions to approve and confirm report of Review Board: Rule 753(e)(6)</u></b> Allowed ..... 1 Total ..... 1	
<b>B. <u>Petitions for discipline on consent: Rule 762(b)</u></b> Allowed: Suspension ..... 2 Suspension until further order of Court ..... 1 Suspension stayed in part, probation ordered ..... 4 Suspension stayed in its entirety, probation ordered ..... 2 Censure ..... 4 Total ..... 13 Denied ..... 0 Total ..... 13		<b>E. <u>Motions to approve and confirm report of Hearing Board: Rule 753(d)(2)</u></b> Allowed ..... 14 Denied ..... 0 Total ..... 14	
<b>C. <u>Petitions for leave to file exceptions to report and recommendation of Review Board: Rules 753(e)(1) and 761</u></b> Denied and same discipline imposed as recommended by Review Board ..... 7 Allowed and more discipline imposed than recommended by Review Board ..... 2 Allowed and less discipline imposed as recommended by Review Board ..... 0 Total ..... 9		<b>F. <u>Petitions for reciprocal discipline: Rule 763</u></b> Allowed ..... 14 Denied ..... 0 Total ..... 14	
		<b>G. <u>Motions to revoke probation: Rule 772</u></b> Allowed, probation revoked and respondent suspended ..... 1 Total ..... 1	
		<b>H. <u>Petitions for interim suspension: Rules 761 &amp; 774</u></b> Rule enforced and lawyer suspended ..... 11 Total ..... 11	

### Chart 23

#### ARDC-Appointed Receiverships by the Circuit Court: 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
2	2	2	4	2

### Chart 24

#### Non-Disciplinary Actions by the Supreme Court in 2024

***Rule 756(a)(8) Permanent Retirement Status***

Motion to transfer to permanent retirement status allowed .....	2
Motion to transfer to permanent retirement status denied .....	1

***Rule 757 Transfer to Disability Inactive Status***

Motion to transfer to disability inactive status denied .....	1
---	---

***Rule 758 Transfer to Disability Inactive Status***

Motion to transfer to disability inactive status allowed .....	1
--	---

***Rule 759 Restoration to Active Status***

***After Transfer to Disability Inactive Status***

Petition for restoration to active status referred to Hearing Board .....	1
---	---

***Rule 767 Petition for Reinstatement Following Discipline***

Petition for reinstatement to the practice of law denied.....	1
Petition for reinstatement referred to the Hearing Board.....	1

## Summary of Registration and Caseload Trends (2010-2024)

**Chart 25A**

### Registration Growth and Disciplinary Investigations (2010-2024)

Year	Registered Attorneys	% of Growth Over Prior Year	Investigations Docketed	Closure By Administrator: No Misconduct Alleged	Closure By Administrator After Investigation	Closure By Inquiry Board After Investigation	Investigations Voted as a Complaint By Inquiry Board*
2010	86,777	2.2%	5,617	1,354	3,914	50	271
2011	87,943	1.3%	6,155	1,405	4,293	83	156
2012	89,330	1.6%	6,397	1,649	4,598	75	273
2013	91,083	2.0%	6,073	1,544	3,974	50	142
2014	92,756	1.8%	5,835	1,442	4,468	46	198
2015	94,128	1.5%	5,554	1,343	3,993	52	158
2016	94,610	0.5%	5,401	1,321	3,967	41	142
2017	94,778	0.2%	5,199	1,191	3,657	97	118
2018	94,608	-0.2%	5,029	1,233	3,542	53	101
2019	94,662	0.6%	4,937	1,147	3,520	48	68
2020	94,907	0.3%	3,936	1,222	2,936	54	54
2021	95,480	0.6%	3,881	1,097	3,004	44	69
2022	95,711	0.2%	4,359	1,621	2,590	26	90
2023	96,440	0.8%	4,575	1,623	2,480	27	90
2024	96,821	0.4%	4,706	1,944	2,422	41	67

\*Complaints may be based on more than one investigation.

**Chart 25B**

Data on admissions of new and out-of-state lawyer admittees provided by the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar.

### Historical Bar Admissions v. Retirement Removals (2010-2024)

Year	New Admittees*	Out-of-State Lawyer Admittees**	Lawyers Moving to Retired Status
2010	2,637	418	970
2011	2,541	424	822
2012	2,541	502	853
2013	2,541	533	815
2014	2,354	511	833
2015	2,139	428	1,334
2016	1,853	434	1,354
2017	1,639	397	1,262
2018	1,623	464	1,458
2019	1,671	686	1,331
2020	1,857	651	1,419
2021	1,572	634	1,369
2022	1,645	709	1,753
2023	1,735	705	1,609
2024	1,949	520	1,673

\*"New Admittees" refers to law school graduates who were admitted to the bar in the given year after having passed the Illinois bar exam.

\*\*"Out-of-State Admittees" refers to lawyers already licensed in another jurisdiction including admitted pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 715 (foreign law schools graduates), 705 (reciprocal admission on motion), 716 (limited admission as in-house counsel), 717 (legal services program lawyers), 719 (military spouse lawyers) or admittees who were deemed to have received a passing score on the Illinois bar exam after transferring part (MBE) or all (UBE) of their passing score from another jurisdiction.



**Chart 25C**

**Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings (2010-2024)**

Year	Matters Filed Directly with Supreme Court: R. 762(a), 763, 774, 757 and 756(a)(8)	Matters Filed With Hearing Board	Matters Concluded at Hearing Board	Matters Filed With Review Board	Matters Concluded at Review Board	Sanctions Ordered By Supreme Court
2010	56	122	115	27	32	148
2011	48	106	147	35	31	156
2012	45	120	113	36	32	103
2013	47	95	120	29	48	149
2014	41	126	105	29	29	112
2015	33	86	130	31	26	126
2016	45	83	93	21	22	104
2017	47	79	88	23	24	118
2018	41	64	64	17	22	75
2019	44	51	71	19	17	96
2020	41	40	46	7	11	81
2021	50	53	55	12	7	84
2022	24	56	56	11	16	63
2023	24	43	53	10	9	66
2024	33	50	39	7	8	60

**Chart 26**

**Attorney Reports: 2010-2024**

Year	Number of Grievances	Number of Attorney Reports	Percent of Attorney Reports to Grievances	Number of Grievances Voted into Complaints	Number of Attorney Reports Voted into Complaints	Percent of Attorney Reports to Formal Complaints
2010	5,617	497	8.8%	271	73	26.9%
2011	6,155	536	8.7%	156	33	21.2%
2012	6,397	651	10.2%	273	86	31.5%
2013	6,073	485	9.2%	144	48	33.3%
2014	5,835	581	9.4%	199	52	26.1%
2015	5,554	583	9.4%	159	62	39.2%
2016	5,401	606	11.1%	142	67	47.2%
2017	5,199	551	10.6%	118	55	46.6%
2018	5,029	479	9.6%	101	44	43.6%
2019	4,937	557	11.4%	68	29	42.7%
2020	3,936	404	10.4%	53	28	52.8%
2021	3,881	322	8.4%	76	31	40.8%
2022	4,359	408	9.5%	82	35	42.7%
2023	4,575	390	8.5%	77	39	50.6%
2024	4,678	443	9.5%	66	28	42.4%
<b>Totals for 2010-2024</b>	78,626	7,493	--	1,985	710	--
<b>Average For 2010-2024</b>	5,175	500	9.6%	132	47	39.2%

# CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

Chart 27A

## Client Protection Program Claims: 2010-2024

Year	Claims filed In Year	# Claims Approved In Year	# Claims Denied In Year	For Claims Approved, # Respondent Attys.	Total Amounts Paid in Year
2010	207	89	108	30	\$705,168
2011	184	89	96	38	\$1,006,013
2012	350	70	124	34	\$986,771
2013	256	247	91	38	\$2,016,669
2014	256	95	106	40	\$1,300,775
2015	541	366	152	34	\$2,488,651
2016	277	146	132	48	\$3,094,187
2017	229	152	144	48	\$1,776,419
2018	219	99	107	35	\$2,324,786
2019	132	56	112	26	\$1,392,321
2020	128	81	76	18	\$1,094,454
2021	124	58	94	31	\$715,311
2022	106	53	63	32	\$1,098,821
2023	136	46	60	25	\$562,699
2024	134	65	47	22	\$1,442,273

## Chart 27B

### Classification of Approved Client Protection Claims in 2024

**Type of Misconduct:**

Misappropriation of client funds.....	35
Failure to refund unearned fees.....	29
Improper loan to attorney .....	1

**Area of Law**

Tort .....	19
Labor/Workers' Comp.....	9
Criminal.....	8
Domestic Relations.....	7
Real Estate .....	7
Probate/Trusts .....	6
Corporate .....	2
Bankruptcy .....	1



**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND  
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

---

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

The background of the lower half of the cover features a complex, abstract geometric pattern. It consists of numerous overlapping, semi-transparent planes and polygons in various shades of gray, creating a sense of depth and architectural structure. The pattern resembles a stylized, multi-layered cityscape or a complex crystalline structure.

**SIKICH.COM**

3051 Hollis Dr., 3rd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217.793.3363

**SIKICH.COM**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Commissioners of  
Attorney Registration and Disciplinary  
Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois (the Commission), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, and the related statement of activities and of cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois as of December 31, 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Commission and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Prior Period Financial Statements**

The financial statements of the Commission as of December 31, 2023 were audited by other auditors whose report dated April 25, 2024 expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

### **Auditors' Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audits;
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements; and
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

## **Report on Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The Statements of Financial Position by Program, Statements of Activities by Program, Schedules of Attorney Registration Fees, and Five Year Summary of Operations are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates to directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

*Sikich CPA LLC*

Springfield, Illinois  
April 10, 2025



## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,267,766	\$ 2,206,292
Investments	78,919,617	75,862,950
Investments held for others	5,190,300	4,486,335
Accrued interest receivable	289,589	164,074
Accounts receivable, net	12,329	13,538
Prepaid expenses and deposits	272,860	226,382
Total current assets	86,952,461	82,959,571
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET</b>	1,707,647	2,069,542
<b>RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET, OPERATING LEASES</b>	3,294,491	3,911,047
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 91,954,599</b>	<b>\$ 88,940,160</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 386,921	\$ 655,750
Amounts held for others	5,190,300	4,486,335
Accrued vacation	635,086	595,242
Deferred registration and program fees	16,251,331	15,884,732
Postretirement benefit obligation, current portion	68,890	59,411
Operating lease liability, current portion	662,722	636,088
Deposits	6,004	1,504
Total current liabilities	23,201,254	22,319,062
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Postretirement benefit obligation, net of current portion	1,518,135	1,478,986
Operating lease liability, net of current portion	2,915,364	3,578,086
Total long-term liabilities	4,433,499	5,057,072
Total liabilities	27,634,753	27,376,134
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	64,319,846	61,564,026
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 91,954,599</b>	<b>\$ 88,940,160</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Operations</b>		
<b>REVENUE WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION</b>		
Investment income, net	\$ 3,491,669	\$ 2,639,293
Registration and program fees	19,892,406	19,982,761
Commission cost reimbursements collected	35,658	42,558
Client Protection Program reimbursement	142,771	6,569
Gain (loss) on disposal of property and equipment	-	(129,800)
Miscellaneous income	89,389	53,952
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total revenue without donor restriction	23,651,893	22,595,333
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 13,592,791	\$ 12,387,753
Travel	121,828	169,281
Continuing education	226,938	210,752
Commercial insurance	220,527	209,830
Printing and postage	255,158	264,102
Case-related services	504,175	459,932
Professional consulting services	349,533	252,336
Occupancy	1,040,754	1,074,869
Office expenses	87,606	121,675
Payment processing fees	505,421	473,370
Computer equipment and software	446,096	380,329
IT services and fees	993,408	941,347
Client protection program awards and direct expenses	1,342,283	560,199
Distributions to sibling entities	549,193	360,345
Depreciation and amortization	567,633	333,722
Other	35,784	34,761
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	20,839,128	18,234,603
	<hr/>	<hr/>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	2,812,765	4,360,730
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NONOPERATING INCOME</b>		
Change in postretirement benefit obligation	(56,945)	936,208
	<hr/>	<hr/>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	2,755,820	5,296,938
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION, BEGINNING OF YEAR	61,564,026	56,267,088
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 64,319,846</u>	<u>\$ 61,564,026</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ 2,755,820	\$ 5,296,938
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities		
Net (gain) loss on investments	(3,491,669)	(903,433)
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	-	129,800
Depreciation and amortization	567,633	333,722
Reduction in carrying amount of right-of-use asset	495,226	485,890
Change in assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable	(124,306)	(65,658)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(46,478)	1,420
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(268,829)	146,673
Amounts held for others	703,965	(197,837)
Accrued vacation	39,844	32,638
Deferred registration and program fees	366,599	1,049,168
Deposits	4,500	(5,999)
Postretirement benefit obligation	48,628	(936,082)
Operating lease liability	(636,088)	(584,506)
Net cash from operating activities	414,845	4,782,734
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchases of investment securities	(84,931,376)	(12,102,762)
Maturities of investment securities	84,662,413	9,630,300
Purchases of leasehold improvements	(14,316)	(873,728)
Purchases of property and equipment	(70,092)	(1,221,663)
Net cash from (used in) investing activities	(353,371)	(4,567,853)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	61,474	214,881
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,206,292	1,991,411
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 2,267,766	\$ 2,206,292

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2024 and 2023

---

**1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS**

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois (the Commission) was established by the Supreme Court of Illinois (the Court) pursuant to Article VII(B) of its rules, effective February 1, 1973. The Commission appoints an Administrator, with approval of the Court, to serve as its principal executive officer. Commission duties include maintenance of the Master Roll of Attorneys and administration of the disciplinary fund. The Administrator conducts investigations and prosecutes complaints against attorneys and non-lawyers pursuant to rules of the Court and Commission.

Amendments to those rules and additional significant rules of the Court impacting the Commission's operations are as follows:

- Rule 756(a), as amended (the Rule), has set the annual registration and program fees for active lawyers licensed to practice law for three years or more at \$385 (the full fee) and the annual registration fees for active lawyers licensed to practice between one and three years and inactive lawyers at \$121. Effective October 1, 2024, attorneys admitted between one and three years are required to pay the full fee. The full fee was increased from \$382 to \$385 effective with the 2017 registration season, with the \$3 increase being allocated in full to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program. Prior to this, the last fee increase occurred effective with the 2015 registration season. The charge for late payment of annual registration fees during 2022 was \$25 per month for every month that fees were delinquent. Effective in 2023, the late payment fee was replaced with a \$25 per month reinstatement fee subject to a \$600 cap. The reinstatement fee applies to attorneys returning to the practice of law from multiple statuses, including removed status. This change also eliminated the application of any prior year registration fees. The Rule requires that the Commission, as part of the annual \$385 fee, collect and remit the following amounts to the following other entities that are not administered by the Commission: \$95 to the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, \$25 to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, \$20 to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program, and \$10 to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice. The Commission's share of the \$385 full fee is \$210. Effective July 1, 2021, the Commission's share of the full fee decreased from \$230 to \$210 as a result of a \$10 reallocation to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program and \$10 to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS (Continued)**

- Rule 780(b) provided for the establishment of the Client Protection Program (CPP) and set forth that the purpose of the CPP “is to promote public confidence in the administration of justice and the integrity of the legal profession by reimbursing losses caused by the dishonest conduct” of Illinois lawyers who have been disciplined. The Commission has administered the CPP since its inception and has maintained a separate Client Protection Fund account. Amended Rule 756 provides that \$25 of the \$385 full fee be set aside to fund awards made by the CPP. Prior to the Rule 756 amendment, the Commission funded payment of these awards by making an annual allocation from the Disciplinary Fund.
- The Commission includes in its general budget allocations for the administrative expenses of the CPP to be paid from the Disciplinary Fund. The CPP reimburses the Commission for said administrative expenses.
- Rule 707, as amended, provides that eligible out-of-state attorneys may appear in an Illinois proceeding upon meeting certain requirements, including the payment of a \$250 per proceeding fee and an annual registration fee, which is currently \$121. The \$250 per proceeding fee is allocated between the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice (\$175) and the Commission (\$75). The registration fee is allocated to the Commission.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Method of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements of the Commission have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP).

Basis of Presentation

The Commission reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets:

*Net assets without donor restrictions* include general net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions. These net assets may be used at the discretion of management to support the Commission’s purposes and operations.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Basis of Presentation (Continued)

*Net assets with donor restrictions* are subject to stipulations imposed by donors (if any). Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Commission or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity. The Commission has no donor restricted funds at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Commission did not receive donor contributions and does not have donors.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all deposits in checking and savings accounts. The Commission defines cash equivalents as highly liquid, short term investments with a maturity at the date of acquisition of three months or less.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Major additions in excess of \$5,000 are capitalized while replacements, maintenance and repairs which do not improve or extend the lives of the respective assets are expensed currently. Effective September 27, 2024 the Commission updated their capitalization threshold to \$25,000. This change in capitalization threshold did not have a material effect on the amount of purchases expensed that would have been capitalized under the original policy. Depreciation and amortization are provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets or asset groups, based on the straight-line method. Upon disposal of assets, gains or losses are included in the statement of activities. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the remaining lease period.

The estimated useful lives of the property and equipment are as follows:

Computer and related equipment	3 - 5 years
Office furniture and equipment	3 - 10 years
Leasehold improvements	5 - 15 years*

\*Leasehold improvements are amortized over the lesser of their estimated useful lives or the remaining lease term.



**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Investment

The investments of the Commission are reported at fair value. The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount that would be received to sell that asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (the exit price).

Purchases and sales of the investments are reflected on a trade-date basis.

Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Investment income is recorded net of external and direct internal investment expenses and is classified as income without donor restriction unless the use of the income is limited by donor restriction.

Specific investment allocation decisions about the Commission's portfolio are made by a third-party investment manager, subject to a set of formal investment guidelines.

Leases

As required by US GAAP, the Commission determines if a contract is a leasing arrangement at inception. Operating lease right-of-use (ROU) assets represent the right to control the use of an identified asset for the lease term, and lease liabilities represent the obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease. Operating lease ROU assets and liabilities are recognized at the adoption date based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term. As permitted by US GAAP, and consistent with industry practices, the Commission used the risk-free rate of return for the present value calculation. Operating lease ROU assets also include reclassifications related to lease incentives received at or before the commencement date. The lease terms may include options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that such options will be exercised. The Commission recognizes operating lease expense for operating leases on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

The Commission's lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees or material restrictive covenants.

Amounts Held for Others

Amounts held for others at December 31, 2024 and 2023 consist of funds collected for the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program in the amount of \$688,760 and \$595,740 respectively; the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois in the amount of \$3,271,575 and \$2,829,780 respectively; the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism in the amount of \$860,956 and \$744,725 respectively; and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice in the amount of \$369,009 and \$316,090 respectively. All amounts were remitted subsequent to year end.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Deferred Registration and Program Fees

The Commission is primarily funded by an annual registration fee assessed on Illinois attorneys which a \$25 Client Protection Program (CPP) fee in accordance with Rule 756(a). The annual fees for the subsequent year are billed before November 1 and are due January 1. Deferred registration and program fees represent the fees received in the current year for the following year.

Deferred revenue as of December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022 was comprised of the following:

	2024	2023	2022
Deferred registration fees	\$ 14,645,731	\$ 14,382,007	\$ 13,413,491
Deferred program fees - CCP	1,605,600	1,502,725	1,422,073
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,251,331</b>	<b>\$ 15,884,732</b>	<b>\$ 14,835,564</b>

Revenue Recognition

The Commission receives a significant portion of its operating revenue from registration and program fees. Registration and program fee revenue are recognized during the calendar year in which they relate to, as such fees enable the attorney to practice law for the respective year as defined by Rule 756 and are nonrefundable. Registration and program fees paid in advance are deferred to the calendar year to which they relate. Such amounts deferred are then recognized during the following year.

Commission Cost Reimbursements and Client Protection Program reimbursement revenues represent reimbursements from attorneys as a result of discipline imposed by the Court and for the related investigation and disciplinary costs.

Distributions to Sibling Entities

In 2024 and 2023, the Commission distributed \$549,193 and \$360,345 to its Rule 756(a) (1) sibling entities per direction from the Supreme Court as a result of a revenue shortfall associated with the October 24, 2022 amendments to Rule 756 (Registration and Fees).

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Income Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Commission is exempt from federal income taxes as an instrumentality of the State of Illinois and has been classified as an organization that is not a private foundation.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The Commission has allocated certain administrative expenses, such as salary costs, among the various programs and services benefited. Expenses are allocated to programs and administration and support services according to actual use, wherever practical. Indirect expenses that benefit more than one program or services are allocated to the benefited programs or services based on estimates of time and effort, including travel, continuing education, commercial insurance, printing and postage, case-related services, professional consulting services, occupancy, office expenses, payment processing fees, computer equipment and software, IT services and fees, and depreciation and amortization. The allocation of expenses by function is presented in Note 6.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires the Commission to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 10, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued and management determined that there were no significant non-recognized subsequent events through that date.

**3. LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES**

The Commission's liquidity plan is to maintain sufficient cash and cash equivalents, money market funds and other high quality short-term securities to fund its operations for a period of at least one year. The Commission utilizes checking accounts, money market funds, short-term U.S. Treasury securities and investments for this purpose. Excess cash is invested in longer-dated investment grade debt securities with varying maturities designed to fund the Commission's operations beyond the one-year interval and maximize its income over time.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**3. LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES (Continued)**

The Commission also maintains sufficient liquidity in the Client Protection Program's (CPP) financial accounts to fund award payments to the CPP's beneficiaries. This liquidity provision is normally established at the end of each calendar year based on a projection of award payments for the next 12 months. The amount invested in cash and cash equivalents, money market funds and other short-term securities is dependent on the projected timing and size of these award payments and may vary from year to year. Any excess funds that are not needed for disbursement are invested in longer-dated investment grade debt securities with varying maturities designed to meet the CPP's future obligations and maximize its income over time.

Cash levels can increase significantly when the Commission is collecting attorney registration fees during the annual registration season. The Commission collects approximately 75% of its annual registration fee income during the fourth quarter of each calendar year, with the bulk of the remainder in the month of January. Cash collected during these months is invested as soon as practicable. The cash collected in the fourth quarter temporarily inflates the Commission's year-end holdings of short-term liquid securities.

The following is a breakdown of the Commission's financial assets available for general expenditures, which primarily represent most program, administrative and general expenses expected to be paid in the subsequent year, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,267,766	\$ 2,206,292
Investments	78,919,617	75,862,950
Accrued interest receivable	289,589	164,074
Accounts receivable, net	12,329	13,538
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 81,489,301</b>	<b>\$ 78,246,854</b>

**4. CONCENTRATION OF CASH**

Cash consists of monies held in checking and highly liquid interest-bearing accounts without significant withdrawal restrictions. The Commission places its cash with financial institutions deemed to be creditworthy. Balances are insured by the FDIC up to \$250,000 per financial institution. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Commission's cash balances did not exceed FDIC limits. The Commission has not experienced any losses in such accounts and management believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

**5. COMMISSION COST REIMBURSEMENTS AND CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENTS**

The Commission receives reimbursements from disciplined attorneys for costs incurred as a result of the investigative and disciplinary process. Commission Cost reimbursements are billed at the time that discipline is imposed by the Court. Such billings may not reflect the total costs or match the period in which the investigative disciplinary costs were incurred. The Commission is limited to \$1,500 in cost reimbursements for each discipline case, absent exceptional circumstances.

The Client Protection Program (CPP) receives reimbursements from disciplined attorneys for award payments by the CPP. Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 780(e), an attorney who is the subject of a claim that results in a reimbursement to a claimant is liable to the CPP for restitution. The Commission bills the subject attorneys for the CPP award payments but doesn't pursue judgments. Interest does not accrue on any debt to the CPP. Any recovered amounts are credited to the CPP.

**6. FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES BY NATURAL CLASSIFICATION**

The following tables represent an analysis of the Commission's functional expenses, by natural classification, for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	2024				
	Program Services			Supporting Services	
	Registration and Discipline	Client Protection	Program Services Total	Administration and Support	Total
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 10,409,706	\$ 304,375	\$ 10,714,081	\$ 2,878,710	\$ 13,592,791
Travel	86,714	1,296	88,010	33,818	121,828
Continuing education	179,061	3,667	182,728	44,210	226,938
Insurance	174,002	3,563	177,565	42,962	220,527
Printing and postage	242,921	937	243,858	11,300	255,158
Case-related services	453,008	3,919	456,927	47,248	504,175
Professional consulting services	275,791	5,648	281,439	68,094	349,533
Occupancy	821,186	16,817	838,003	202,751	1,040,754
Office expenses	69,124	1,416	70,540	17,066	87,606
Payment processing fees	398,792	8,167	406,959	98,462	505,421
Computer equipment and software	351,983	7,208	359,191	86,905	446,096
IT services and fees	783,828	16,052	799,880	193,528	993,408
Client protection program awards and direct expenses	-	1,342,283	1,342,283	-	1,342,283
Distributions to sibling entities	433,330	8,874	442,204	106,989	549,193
Depreciation and amortization	447,879	9,172	457,051	110,582	567,633
Other	28,235	578	28,813	6,971	35,784
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 15,155,560</b>	<b>\$ 1,733,972</b>	<b>\$ 16,889,532</b>	<b>\$ 3,949,596</b>	<b>\$ 20,839,128</b>

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

**6. FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES BY NATURAL CLASSIFICATION (Continued)**

	2023				
	Program Services			Supporting Services	
	Registration and Discipline	Client Protection	Program Services Total	Administration and Support	Total
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 9,378,768	\$ 307,067	\$ 9,685,835	\$ 2,701,918	\$ 12,387,753
Travel	74,396	1,503	75,899	93,382	169,281
Continuing education	162,426	3,977	166,403	44,349	210,752
Insurance	163,852	4,012	167,864	41,966	209,830
Printing and postage	251,188	1,127	252,315	11,787	264,102
Case-related services	425,908	2,969	428,877	31,055	459,932
Professional consulting services	197,043	4,825	201,868	50,468	252,336
Occupancy	839,342	20,551	859,893	214,976	1,074,869
Office expenses	95,016	2,326	97,342	24,333	121,675
Payment processing fees	369,647	9,051	378,698	94,672	473,370
Computer equipment and software	296,992	7,272	304,264	76,065	380,329
IT services and fees	735,086	17,998	753,084	188,263	941,347
Client protection program awards and direct expenses	-	560,199	560,199	-	560,199
Distributions to sibling entities	281,383	6,890	288,273	72,072	360,345
Depreciation and amortization	260,594	6,381	266,975	66,747	333,722
Other	27,145	665	27,810	6,951	34,761
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,558,786</b>	<b>\$ 956,813</b>	<b>\$ 14,515,599</b>	<b>\$ 3,719,004</b>	<b>\$ 18,234,603</b>

**7. INVESTMENTS**

The following summary presents the fair values of each of the investment categories at December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 39,544,203	\$ 11,956,567
Certificates of deposit	3,449,600	16,022,000
Money market funds	28,943,748	30,375,857
Mutual funds and exchange traded funds	12,172,366	7,906,029
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 84,109,917</b>	<b>\$ 80,349,285</b>

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**7. INVESTMENTS (Continued)**

The following presents a summary of net investment income (loss) for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
Interest income	\$ 2,772,932	\$ 1,833,638
Net gain (loss) on investments	813,202	903,433
Investment fees	(94,465)	(97,778)
NET INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$ 3,491,669</u>	<u>\$ 2,639,293</u>

**8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the FASB Accounting Standards Codification established a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. US GAAP requires the Commission to maximize the use of observable inputs when measuring fair value. The hierarchy describes three levels of inputs, which are as follows:

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in inactive markets; or inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs.

In many cases, a valuation technique used to measure fair value includes inputs from more than one level of the fair value hierarchy. The lowest level of significant input determines the placement of the entire value measurement in the hierarchy. The categorization of an investment within the hierarchy reflects the relative ability to observe the fair value measure and does not necessarily correspond to the perceived risk of that investment.

If an investment that is measured using the net asset value (NAV) has a readily determinable fair value (that is, it can be traded at the measurement date at its published NAV), it is included in Level 1 of the hierarchy. Otherwise, investments measured using NAVs are not included in Level 1, 2, or 3, but are separately reported.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)**

Valuation Techniques

Following is a description of the valuation techniques used for assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis. There have been no changes to the techniques used during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

- U.S. Treasury notes and bills: U.S. Treasury notes and bills in which the Commission invests are usually “off the run” on the measurement date. Thus, they are valued by a pricing service using a model that incorporates market observable data such as reported sales of similar securities, broker quotes, yields, bids, offers, and reference data. U.S. Treasury notes and bills that are “on the run” are measured at quoted prices in active markets for the same security.
- Certificates of deposit: Valued at the closing quoted price in an active market.
- Money market funds: Valued at the closing quoted price in an active market.
- Mutual funds and exchange traded funds: Valued at the NAV of shares on the last trading day of the fiscal year.

Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

	2024			
	Total	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 39,544,203	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 38,044,203	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	3,449,600	3,449,600	-	-
Money market funds	28,943,748	28,943,748	-	-
Mutual funds and exchange traded funds				
Fixed income	11,112,432	11,112,432	-	-
Equity	1,059,934	1,059,934	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 84,109,917</b>	<b>\$ 46,065,714</b>	<b>\$ 38,044,203</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

**8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)**

	2023			
	Total	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 23,147,399	\$ 1,010,234	\$ 22,137,165	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	18,920,000	18,920,000	-	-
Money market funds	30,375,857	30,375,857	-	-
Mutual funds and exchange traded funds				
Fixed income	6,993,810	6,993,810	-	-
Equity	912,219	912,219	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 80,349,285</b>	<b>\$ 58,212,120</b>	<b>\$ 22,137,165</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**9. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Property and equipment at December 31, 2024 and 2023 consisted of the following:

	2024	2023
Computer and related equipment	\$ 3,375,766	\$ 3,313,150
Office furniture and equipment	1,434,297	1,446,272
Leasehold improvements	575,158	575,159
 Total	 5,385,221	 5,334,851
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(3,677,574)	(3,265,039)
 <b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET</b>	 <b>\$ 1,707,647</b>	 <b>\$ 2,069,542</b>

**10. OPERATING LEASES**

The Commission leases its Chicago and Springfield offices under operating lease agreements.

Effective July 31, 2022, the Chicago office lease was extended from May 31, 2027 through May 31, 2030. The total square footage under the lease was reduced by approximately 40%, from 38,349 square feet to 23,125 square feet.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**  
**OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**10. OPERATING LEASES (Continued)**

The Chicago office lease calls for monthly payments for pro-rata operating expenses and real estate taxes in addition to the scheduled rent payments.

Effective November 1, 2012, the Commission entered into a 15-year agreement for office space in Springfield, Illinois. The Commission's scheduled rent payments for this lease include operating expenses and real estate taxes.

The leases includes renewal and termination options that the Commission is not reasonably certain to exercise. Therefore, the payments associated with the potential extensions are not included in the lease liabilities as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, total operating lease expense under all agreements was \$1,040,754 and \$1,074,880 respectively. Included in these amounts are \$485,428 and \$519,555 respectively, of variable non-lease payments. Cash paid for operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$696,188 and \$653,941 respectively. As of December 31, 2024, the weighted-average remaining lease term and discount rate for the two operating leases was approximately 5 years and 1.53%, respectively.

The operating lease right-of-use asset and lease liability as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 were as follows:

	2024	2023
Right-of-use asset		
OPERATING LEASES	\$ 3,249,491	\$ 3,911,047
Lease liability		
Current operating lease liability	\$ 662,722	\$ 636,088
Noncurrent operating lease liability	2,915,364	3,578,086
TOTAL OPERATING LEASE LIABILITY	\$ 3,578,086	\$ 4,214,174

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

**10. OPERATING LEASES (Continued)**

Future minimum rental payments under the terms of these leases, net of scheduled rent abatements, are as follows:

	Springfield	Chicago	Total
Year Ending December 31,			
2025	\$ 123,790	\$ 589,196	\$ 712,986
2026	126,266	603,925	730,191
2027	106,969	619,023	725,992
2028	-	634,499	634,499
2029	-	650,362	650,362
Thereafter	-	273,765	273,765
Total lease payments	357,025	3,370,770	3,727,795
Less interest	(7,095)	(142,614)	(149,709)
PRESENT VALUE LEASE LIABILITY	\$ 349,930	\$ 3,228,156	\$ 3,578,086

**11. POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION**

On August 9, 1985, the Commission formed a trust to replace the Medicare coverage lost by its employees when the Social Security Administration ruled that certain Commission employees were ineligible for benefits.

The Commission committed to pay the future cost of Medicare premiums for former employees who met certain criteria and were employed by the Commission before March 31, 1986. Furthermore, the Commission agreed to pay reimbursement credits to eligible former employees for supplemental medical and hospitalization insurance coverage beginning at age 65. Therefore, the Commission records a liability associated with its employees' lost Medicare coverage and supplemental health benefits for retirees.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

**11. POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION (Continued)**

The following sets forth information with respect to this benefit obligation as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
Benefit obligation, beginning of year	\$ 1,538,397	\$ 2,402,887
Service cost	28,186	30,581
Interest cost	81,427	78,490
Benefits paid	(60,994)	(48,361)
Actuarial (gain) loss	9	(996,792)
<b>BENEFIT OBLIGATION, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,587,025</b>	<b>\$ 1,538,397</b>

Net periodic benefit costs for 2024 and 2023 are comprised of the following:

	2024	2023
Service cost	\$ 28,186	\$ 30,581
Interest cost	81,427	78,490
Actuarial (gain)	9	(996,792)
<b>NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST</b>	<b>\$ 109,622</b>	<b>\$ (887,721)</b>

The key methods and assumptions are as follows:

Actuarial cost method	Projected unit credit method
Mortality table	PriH-2012 Employee and Healthy Retiree tables projected generationally with MP-2021 for 2024 and 2023
Discount rate	2024 and 2023 – 5.40%
Retirement age	Between ages 55 and 75
Medical trend rate ultimate	5%

The liability will increase or decrease in future years due to changes in eligible employees, benefits paid, and possible changes in assumptions based on experience factors and applicable discount rates.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**11. POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION (Continued)**

Actuarially determined net benefit payments for each of the next five years and the five years thereafter are as follows:

2025	\$ 78,695
2026	86,953
2027	95,434
2028	102,844
2029-2034	<u>617,262</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>\$ 981,188</u>

The Commission maintains investments in a separate trust account for the Medicare replacement reserve. The assets are invested using prudent asset allocation parameters, with the goal of minimizing risk and achieving asset returns that will help the trust meet its future obligations.

The trust's returns should be competitive with like institutions employing similar investment strategies. Because these investments are not considered to be assets established under a separate benefit plan, they are included in the total investment balances on the statement of financial position. The fair values of these investments totaled \$3,271,906 and \$3,037,194 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

**12. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS**

The Commission maintains a defined contribution retirement plan and trust for the benefit of all eligible employees. The Commission provides enhanced retirement plan contributions due to a Social Security Administration ruling that Commission employees are not eligible for Social Security benefits. Employee contributions are not permitted under the plan's provisions. The Commission contributes 18% of compensation for eligible employees, plus additional contributions for eligible employees earning less than the Commission's median salary. The purpose of these incremental contributions is to ensure that the Commission's lower income earners receive the same aggregate contributions as its median salaried employee. The Commission's contributions to the retirement plan and trust totaled \$1,739,078 in 2024 and \$1,600,642 in 2023. The Commission also pays the plan's administrative expenses, which totaled \$63,518 in 2024 and \$95,462 in 2023.

The Commission also maintains a Section 457 savings plan which is funded by voluntary pre-tax employee and employer matching contributions. The Commission matches employee contributions equal to 100% of the employee deferral amount, up to a maximum of 5% of salary. Matching contributions totaled \$359,978 in 2024 and \$316,751 in 2023. The Commission also pays the savings plan's administrative expenses, which totaled \$5,993 in 2024 and \$5,061 in 2023.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

---

**13. LITIGATION**

Various complaints and actions are periodically filed against the Commission. At December 31, 2024, the Commission believes that pending matters do not present any serious prospect for negative financial consequences.

**14. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Commission invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could affect the amounts reported in the statements of financial position. The Commission believes that any such changes will not be material to the financial statements given that the majority of its investment portfolio is conservatively invested in short-term investment grade fixed income securities.

The actuarial present value of postretirement benefit obligations is reported based on certain assumptions pertaining to interest rates, health care inflation rates and employee demographics, all of which are subject to change. Due to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near-term would be material to the financial statements.

**ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS**

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Investment income (loss) - net	\$ 3,491,669	\$ 2,639,293	\$ (629,597)	\$ 287,153	\$ 1,234,207
Registration and program fees	19,892,406	19,982,761	20,354,610	21,781,609	21,716,237
Cost reimbursements collected	35,658	42,558	59,094	36,852	40,547
Client Protection Program expense reimbursement	400,087	378,058	352,688	367,778	341,150
Transfer from Registration and Discipline	80,475	53,952	-	-	-
Client Protection Program reimbursements	142,771	6,569	627,730	10,864	53,621
Miscellaneous income	8,914	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	24,051,980	23,103,191	20,764,525	22,484,256	23,385,762
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 13,592,791	\$ 12,387,753	\$ 11,461,985	\$ 11,759,924	\$ 11,942,876
Travel	121,828	169,280	171,033	89,551	72,515
Continuing education	226,939	210,752	148,620	87,080	137,014
General expenses and office support	2,437,051	1,453,970	3,340,040	3,135,976	2,652,280
Computer	1,352,517	1,234,972	1,032,813	985,325	1,225,495
Other professional and case-related expenses	705,838	712,269	580,206	536,845	512,827
Client Protection program direct expenses	1,742,370	943,190	1,458,312	1,083,830	1,437,706
Transfers to sibling entities	549,193	360,345	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortization	567,633	333,722	404,261	267,012	215,045
Total expenses	21,296,160	17,806,253	18,597,270	17,945,543	18,195,758
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	2,755,820	5,296,938	2,167,255	4,538,713	5,190,004
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	61,564,026	56,267,088	54,099,833	49,561,120	44,371,116
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 64,319,846	\$ 61,564,026	\$ 56,267,088	\$ 54,099,833	\$ 49,561,120
<b>OTHER INFORMATION AT YEAR END</b>					
Number of active registered attorneys	97,718	97,064	96,952	96,689	96,114
Registration fees					
More than one year and less than three years	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121
More than three years	210	210	210	230/210	230
Inactive/out of state	121	121	121	121	121

## 2024 COMMISSIONERS

---

Timothy L. Bertschy, *Chairperson*, Dunlap  
John H. Simpson, *Vice-Chairperson*, Chicago

Emily J. Hampton, Dunlap  
Lashana T Jackson, Chicago

Kate L. McCracken, St. Charles  
Cedric D. Thurman, Chicago

J. Nelson Wood, Mount Vernon

## 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

---

### *Review Board*

J. Timothy Eaton, *Chairperson*  
Esther J. Seitz, *Vice - Chairperson*

Leslie D. Davis  
George E. Marron, III  
David W. Neal

Bradley N. Pollock  
Michael T. Reagan

Scott J. Szala  
Pamela E. Hill Veal

### *Hearing Board*

Kenn Brotman, *Chairperson*  
Janaki H. Nair, *Vice-Chairperson*

Laura K. Beasley  
Jacquelyne M. Belcastro  
Patrick M. Blanchard, *Panel Chair*  
John L. Borovicka, IV  
Bianca B. Brown  
John Burns  
Michael M. Cabonargi  
Michael V. Casey  
Gerald M. Crimmins  
Elizabeth Delheimer  
Brian B. Duff  
Cristin K. M. Duffy  
Anna Dvinsky Domb  
LaShawn T. Eddings-Levesque  
Robbie L. Edmond  
William J. Fenili  
Martha M. Ferdinand  
Ghian Foreman  
Michael J. Friduss  
Marilynn Kelly Gardner  
John L. Gilbert, *Panel Chair*  
Alexander L. Groden  
Jennifer L. Guimond-Quigley  
Joanna Belle Gunderson

Meridith V. Hammer  
Robert Handley  
Mark D. Hassakis  
Carol A. Hogan, *Panel Chair*  
Scott M. Hoster  
Kristen E. Hudson  
Latoya J. Hughes  
Kenya A. Jenkins-Wright  
James W. Kiley  
Melissa J. Kuffel  
Carol A. Kulek  
Susan Cohen Levy  
Jose A. Lopez, Jr., *Panel Chair*  
Shelbie J. Luna  
John McCarron  
Rebecca J. McDade, *Panel Chair*  
Laura K. McNally  
Heather A. McPherson,  
*Panel Chair*  
Ricardo Meza  
Sherri Miller  
Stephen S. Mitchell, *Panel Chair*  
Hal R. Morris  
John P. Moynihan

Nicole C. Mueller  
Geetu R. Naik  
Christopher A. Nichols  
Lauren M. Noll  
Stephen R. Pacey  
Mark T. Peters, *Panel Chair*  
Carl E. Poli, *Panel Chair*  
Arlette G. Porter  
Untress L. Quinn  
Melisa Quinones  
Brian Russell  
Rhonda Sallée, *Panel Chair*  
Daniel G. Samo  
Stuart H. Shiffman  
Rachel C. Steiner  
Christina M. Sugden  
Charles J. Swartwout  
Michael T. Trucco  
Linda A. Walls  
Sonni Choi Williams, *Panel Chair*  
Willard O. Williamson  
Adam Miel Zebelian



## ***Inquiry Board***

Mara S. Georges, *Panel Chair*  
Pamela E. Hart, *Panel Chair*  
Steven V. Hunter, *Panel Chair*  
Howard L. Teplinsky, *Panel Chair*

John Costello  
Andrea D. Flynn  
Karen Hasara  
Edward W. Huntley

Henry T. Kelly  
Jose Damian Ortiz  
Claude A. Robinson  
Justine A. Witkowski

---

## **2024 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

---

William F. Conlon  
Phillip M. Gonet  
William E. Hornsby, Jr.

Scott A. Kozlov  
Gary M. Vanek  
Thomas A. Zimmerman

Abraham D. Zisook  
Rich W. Zuckerman

---

## **2024 CLIENT PROTECTION REVIEW PANEL**

---

Paula S. Tillman, *Panel Chair*

Terence Michael Heuel

Cheryl M. Kneubuehl

---

## **2024 SPECIAL COUNSEL**

---

Robert P. Marcus

Keith E. Roberts, Jr.

Gil M. Soffer

---

## **2024 INTERMEDIARIES**

---

Brigid A. Duffield

Robert A. Merrick, Jr.

Hon. James M. Radcliff III (Ret.)

## COMMISSION STAFF

---

### LEADERSHIP AND LEGAL STAFF

Lea S. Gutierrez, *Administrator*

Scott Renfroe, *Deputy Administrator, Appeals*

Peter L. Rotskoff, *Deputy Administrator, Litigation*

Althea K. Welsh, *Deputy Administrator, Intake & Administration*

### ADJUDICATION DEPARTMENT

Blair S. Barbour, *Senior Counsel, Adjudication Services*

Daniel N. Malato, *Director, Adjudication Services*

Kendra L. Morrill, *Counsel, Adjudication Services*

Jacqueline O. Stern, *Counsel, Adjudication Services*

Michelle Thome, *Clerk of the Commission*

Chelsey M. Wintersteen, *Counsel, Adjudication Services*

### ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Mary Grochocinski, *Controller*

Vick Paul, *Chief Financial Officer*

Eva Tramutolo, *Director, Human Resources  
& Administrative Services*

### CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

Eileen W. Donahue, *Director, Client Protection Program*

### IT DEPARTMENT

Neil Ballentine, *Chief Information Officer*

Aaron W. Brooks, *Chief Information Security Officer*

### REGISTRATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Britney Bowater, *Director, Registration Services*

Andrew Oliva, *Registrar*

### LEGAL STAFF

Christine P. Anderson, *Director of Probation & Lawyer  
Deferral Services and Intake Group Manager*

Mary F. Andreoni, *Senior Counsel, Ethics Education*

Karyn A. Bart, *Senior Intake Counsel*

Benjamin Boroughf, *Senior Counsel, Appellate Division*

Kathleen E. Boychuk, *Litigation Counsel*

John R. Cesario, *Senior Counsel Intake & Receiverships*

Nareen N. Choudhury, *Intake Counsel*

David B. Collins, *Litigation Counsel*

Tammy L. Evans, *Senior Litigation Counsel*

Richard C. Gleason, *Litigation Group Manager*

Myrrha B. Guzman, *Intake Group Manager*

Anisa L. Jordan, *Counsel, Ethics Education*

Morgan B. Handwerker, *Litigation Counsel*

Marci L. Jacobs, *Litigation Counsel*

Albert S. Krawczyk, *Senior Intake Counsel*

Matthew D. Lango, *Litigation Group Manager*

Kate E. Levine, *Litigation Counsel*

Rachel C. Miller, *Litigation Counsel*

Evette L. Ocasio, *Litigation Counsel*

Ann R. Pieper, *Litigation Counsel*

Rory P. Quinn, *Litigation Counsel*

Michael Rusch, *Litigation Counsel*

Roona N. Shah, *Senior Intake Counsel*

Melissa A. Smart, *Director, Education*

Steven R. Splitt, *Senior Counsel, Appellate Division  
& Media Spokesperson*

Athena T. Taite, *Director, Professional Development &  
Senior Counsel, Appellate Division*

Jonathan M. Wier, *Litigation Group Manager*

---

## ARDC STAFF IN LAW-RELATED VOLUNTEER and LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

---

Christine P. Anderson

American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, Commissioner  
Illinois Supreme Court Elder Law Committee, ARDC Liaison

Richard C. Gleason

Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on ARDC, Member

Lea S. Gutierrez

American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility Committee, Co-Chair  
Illinois Commission on Professionalism, *Ex Officio*  
Illinois MCLE Board, *Ex Officio*  
Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Judicial Security and Safety, *Ex Officio*

Myrrha B. Guzman

Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, ARDC Liaison  
Chicago Bar Association Multidisciplinary and UPL Committee, Vice-Chair  
Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago, ARDC Liaison  
Illinois State Bar Association UPL Task Force, ARDC Liaison

Anisa L. Jordan

American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility, CLE Committee, Member  
Illinois State Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Council, Vice-Chair  
Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Legislation, Member

Matthew D. Lango

National Employment Lawyers Association, Past Presidents Committee, NELA Illinois Chapter, Member

Kate E. Levine

Chicago Bar Association Professional Responsibility Committee, Co-Chair

Ann R. Pieper

Illinois Bar Foundation Board of Directors, Member  
Illinois State Bar Association Local Government Law Section Council, Member  
Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on ARDC, Member  
Tazewell County Bar Association, President and Treasurer

J. Scott Renfro

Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility, Member  
Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Professional Conduct, Ex Officio

Peter L. Rotskoff

Illinois State Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council, Member  
Illinois State Bar Association Committee on Legal Ed, Admission and Competence, Member  
Lincoln-Douglas American Inn of Court, President  
National Organization of Bar Counsel Amicus Committee, Chair  
National Organization of Bar Counsel Appellate Practice Seminar, Chair

Roona N. Shah

South Asian Bar Association (SABA), ARDC Liaison

Melissa A. Smart

Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Ed., Admission and Competence, Member  
Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on CLE, Member  
National Organization of Bar Counsel, ABA Delegate  
Women's Bar Association of Illinois, ARDC Liaison

Athena T. Taite

Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Women and the Law, Member  
Illinois State Bar Association Racial & Ethnic Minorities and the Law Cmte., Member  
National Bar Association Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee, Member  
National Bar Association Nominations Committee, Member  
National Bar Association Region VII (Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin), ARDC Liaison  
Practicing Law Institute Illinois Professional Responsibility Program, Co-Chair

Althea K. Welsh  
Illinois Judicial Conference Artificial Intelligence Task Force, Member

Jonathan M. Wier  
American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility Committee, Member



The 2024 ARDC Annual Report and Highlights were written and compiled by  
Mary F. Andreoni, Ethics Education Senior Counsel, ARDC.

---