



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 24, 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 2025 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 2025 and an accounting and audit of the monies received and expended during the twelve-month period that ended December 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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



2025

ARDC

ATTORNEY REGISTRATION &
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Mission Statement, Vision, and Organizational Values.....	iv.
Foreword.....	v.
Message from ARDC Administrator	vi.
Looking Ahead: 2025 and Beyond	viii.
2025 ARDC Annual Report	x
Introduction to the 2025 Annual Report of the ARDC	x.
Supporting Ethical Practice	1
ARDC Education programs.....	1
PMBR and other practice guidance	2
ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program.....	4
Addressing Risk and Misconduct Early	7
Probation and lawyer deferral services	7
Practice management interventions.....	9
Protecting the Public	11
Client Protection Program	11
Unauthorized practice of law investigations	13
Receiverships	14
Maintaining the Integrity of the Bar.....	15
2025 Master Roll.....	15
Ensuring Accountability	27
2025 Investigations	27
2025 Disciplinary and regulatory proceedings	31
2025 Developments	39
Rule changes.....	39
Commission Board changes.....	40
ARDC events in 2025	42
ARDC operations initiatives	44
2025 Financial Report.....	47

Appendix: Statistical Charts	49
Registration Charts	50
Chart 1: Registration Categories in 2025	50
Chart 1A: Gender, Age and Years in Practice (2020-2025)	51
Chart 1B: Lawyers By Gender and Years in Practice (2025)	51
Chart 1C: Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Illinois Lawyers (2004-2025)	52
Chart 2A: Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By Judicial District (2020-2025)	53
Chart 2B: New Judicial District Map (eff. Jan. 1, 2022)	54
Chart 3: Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By County (2022-2025)	55
Chart 4: Attorneys Removals from the Master Roll (2014-2025)	56
Chart 5: Pro Hac Vice Admissions (2020-2025)	56
Chart 6A: Practice Setting: Active Status and Currently Practicing Law (2020-2025)	57
Chart 6A-1: Practice Size: Active Status, Currently Practicing and In Private Practice (2020-2025)	57
Charts 6B-1 Practice Setting Demographics By Age (2024-2025)	58
Chart 6B-2: Practice Size Demographics By Age (2024-2025)	59
Chart 7A: Succession Planning of Active Status Lawyers in Private Practice (2020-2025)	60
Chart 7B: Solos with No Succession Planning and No Malpractice Insurance (2025)	62
Chart 8A: Report on <i>Pro Bono</i> Service Hours (2020-2025)	61
Chart 8B: Monetary Contributions to Pro Bono Service Organizations (2020-2025)	61
Chart 8C: Trust Account Disclosure Reports (2025)	62
Chart 8D: Trust Account Reports of Active Status Lawyers in Private Practice (2020-2025)	62
Chart 9A: Malpractice Insurance Disclosure Reports (2020-2025)	63
Chart 9B: Malpractice Insurance Disclosure Reports, Active Lawyers, Private Practice (2020-2025)	63
Investigations, Prosecutions and Sanctions	64
Chart 10: Types of Investigations Docketed in 2014-2025	64
Chart 11: Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations (2025)	65
Chart 12: Investigations By Complainant Type in 2025	65
Chart 13: Classification of Charges Docketed By Allegations (2025)	66
Chart 14: Classification of Charges Docketed By Area of Law (2025)	67
Chart 15: Investigations Concluded in 2025	68
Chart 16: Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2025	69
Chart 17: Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations (2020-2025)	69
Chart 18A: Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (2020-2025)	70
Chart 18B: Area of Law Involved in Rule 779(b) UPL Investigations in 2025	70
Chart 19: Proceedings Filed Directly with the Illinois Supreme Court (2020-2025)	70
Chart 20A: Matters Before the Hearing Board in 2025	71
Chart 20B: Demographics of Lawyers Charged in Disciplinary Complaints (2025)	72
Chart 20C: Types of Misconduct Alleged in Disciplinary Complaints in 2025	73
Chart 20D: Area of Law Involved in Disciplinary Complaints in 2025	73
Chart 20E: Cases Terminated by the Hearing Board in 2025	74
Chart 20F: Activity Before the Review Board in 2025	75
Chart 21A: Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered by the Supreme Court in 2025	76
Chart 21A-1: Disposition of Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered in 2025	76

Chart 21B: Location of Practice of Lawyers Disciplined in 2025	77
Chart 21C: Demographics of Lawyers Disciplined in 2025.....	77
Chart 21D: Practice Setting of Lawyers Disciplined in 2025.....	78
Chart 21D-1: Representation of Lawyers Disciplined in 2025	78
Chart 21E: Impairments Identified for Lawyers Disciplined in 2025	78
Chart 21F: Demographics of Disciplined Lawyers with Identified Impairments in 2025	79
Chart 22: Orders Entered by the Supreme Court in Disciplinary Cases in 2025	79
Chart 23: ARDC-Appointed Receiverships: 2020-2025.....	80
Chart 24: Non-Disciplinary Actions by the Supreme Court in 2025	80
Chart 25A: Registration Growth and Disciplinary Investigations Trend (2010-2025).....	81
Chart 25B: Admissions vs. Retirement Removals Trend (2010-2025).....	82
Chart 25C: Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings Trend (2010-2025).....	83
Chart 26: Attorney Reports Trend (2010-2025).....	83
Client Protection Program	84
Chart 27A: Client Protection Program Claims Trend (2010-2025)	84
Chart 27B: Classification of Approved Client Protection Claims in 2025	85
2025 ARDC Continuing Legal Education Programs.....	86
2025 ARDC CLE Presentations.....	87
2025 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report	
2025 Board Member Roster	
2025 ARDC Commission Staff	

MISSION

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

VISION

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

VALUES

- 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.

Foreword



To the Honorable Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court of Illinois, the Members of the Bar, and the Public:

On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to submit the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission's Annual Report for 2025.

The Commission serves the Court in its responsibility to regulate the practice of law in Illinois. In fulfilling that role, the Commission provides oversight of the systems that support attorney registration, investigation, and discipline, with the goal of ensuring that they operate fairly, efficiently, and in a manner that protects the public and preserves confidence in the legal profession.

This report reflects the breadth of that work. It highlights the processes through which allegations of misconduct are investigated and adjudicated, as well as the programs that support lawyers in meeting their professional obligations.

The Commission also recognizes that the legal profession continues to evolve, shaped by changes in technology, demographics, and the structure of legal practice. In its oversight role, the Commission supports efforts to ensure that the ARDC's programs and systems remain responsive to these developments while continuing to uphold the standards expected of the profession.

The Commission remains committed to a regulatory system that is fair, effective, and worthy of the public's trust.

I extend my appreciation to my fellow Commissioners for their dedicated service, and to the members of the Inquiry, Hearing, and Review Boards who contribute significantly to this work. I also thank the Administrator and the staff of the ARDC for their professionalism and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Nelson Wood, Chairperson

Kate L. McCracken, Vice Chairperson

Emily J. Hampton

Lashana T. Jackson

Robert C. Marsaglia

Cedric D. Thurman, Commissioners

Message from ARDC Administrator Lea S. Gutierrez

I am honored to present the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission's 2025 Annual Report.



The ARDC serves the Illinois Supreme Court and the public by preserving and advancing the integrity of the legal profession through registration, education, outreach, restorative services, and, when necessary, discipline. This report reflects not only the work of the past year, but also the evolving role of lawyer regulation in a changing profession.

The information and data presented in this report offer insight into broader developments affecting the profession. The legal landscape continues to shift in ways that are both complex and consequential, shaped by changing demographics, advances in technology, and the realities of modern legal practice.

One of the clearest trends is the aging of the profession. As more lawyers reach later stages of their careers, issues such as succession planning, practice transitions, and the sustainability of solo practices become increasingly important. At the same time, the data reflects that many professional risks emerge not early in a lawyer's career, but later, often in the context of increasingly complex practices and evolving professional expectations.

The report also reflects a growing understanding that many professional conduct issues arise not from intentional misconduct, but from challenges such as law office management, mental health, substance use, or the pressures of practice. These realities underscore the importance of a regulatory approach that addresses risk before it results in harm.

Effective regulation today requires more than responding to misconduct after it occurs. It requires helping lawyers identify and address risks early. Education, ethics guidance, practice management support, and restorative programs are essential tools in strengthening ethical practice and protecting the public.

At the same time, accountability remains central to our mission. When professional standards are not met and the public is at risk, discipline is necessary to maintain confidence in the profession and the administration of justice. A balanced approach, one that reflects both empathy and accountability, is essential to fulfilling that responsibility.

In my role as Administrator, I have come to see ARDC not only as a regulator, but as a steward of the profession. That stewardship includes working in partnership with lawyers, courts, and the public to support ethical practice, respond to emerging challenges, and strengthen trust in the legal system.

This work is made possible by the dedication of the Commission, the members of the Inquiry,

Hearing, and Review Boards, and the talented professionals who serve at the ARDC. I am grateful for their commitment and for the opportunity to serve in this role.

Together, we will continue to advance a regulatory system that protects the public, supports the profession, and reflects the evolving nature of legal practice in Illinois.

Lea S. Gutierrez
Administrator, ARDC

Looking Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

Trends in the Legal Profession, 2025–2026. The U.S. legal profession is entering a period of significant change, shaped by renewed population growth, shifting demographics, rapid technological adoption, evolving regulatory pressures, and heightened attention to attorney well-being. Together, these developments illustrate a profession that is expanding in size while simultaneously confronting structural challenges that affect how lawyers work, how clients experience legal services, and how regulators oversee professional conduct. Diversity gaps, aging of the profession, and uneven lawyer distribution across rural and urban areas remain central concerns. These ongoing challenges impact access to justice, workforce planning, and the profession’s ability to meet evolving client needs.

Growing Lawyer Population. Illinois is experiencing a renewed influx of new lawyers, likely driven by rising law school enrollment since 2016–2017 and Illinois’ adoption of the Uniform Bar Exam, which has broadened the state’s appeal to new graduates. The number of law school graduates admitted to the Illinois bar after passing the Illinois bar exam increased by 28% over the prior year, reaching its highest level since 2014. In addition, lawyers admitted through transferring all or part of their bar exam score from another jurisdiction doubled in 2025. When combined with new graduates, the total of 3,004 new admittees in 2025 represents the largest incoming class since 2010. This increase in newer lawyers entering the Illinois bar is expected to continue in the coming years.

Changing Demographics and Workforce Composition. Gender, race, age, and geography continue to shape the profession’s trajectory. Women now represent a growing share of the legal workforce and will likely reach parity with men in the near future. The profession is aging, and while older lawyers continue to steadily retire from the profession, many lawyers continue to remain in practice past retirement age for economic and other reasons. As law school classes diversify, the profession is expected to follow. Geographic inequities persist, with rural “legal deserts” continuing to expand.

Access to Justice Concerns. The ABA’s Task Force on Law and Artificial Intelligence identifies access to justice as one of the most pressing challenges for the legal profession.¹ Rural counties with few or no lawyers face worsening service gaps, and pro bono efforts alone cannot close the justice divide. Courts are experimenting with incentives such as CLE credit for participation in legal help initiatives such as Illinois Free Legal Answers, an ABA pilot program. See Page 39.

Rapid Acceleration of Technology and AI Adoption. One of the most transformative trends shaping the legal sector is the rapid adoption of technology and, in particular, artificial intelligence (AI). This shift increases demand for AI literacy, ethical awareness, and

¹ ABA AI Task Force Report Examines Opportunities, Challenges for Legal Profession (Dec. 15, 2025).

tech-enabled client service. These developments suggest a profession in transition toward hybrid human-technology workflows. Lawyers who combine legal expertise with technological fluency are increasingly valued, and firms are investing in systems that enhance efficiency, reduce administrative burdens, and improve client communication. At the same time, the rise of AI raises new ethical, regulatory, and competency considerations, reinforcing the need for updated professional standards and training.

Regulatory Pressures and Rising Client Complaints. Regulators nationwide report sustained or rising complaint volumes. In Illinois, grievances increased by more than 18% over the prior year and by 44% since the start of the pandemic in 2020, with projections indicating an even sharper year-over-year rise in 2026 than in 2025. Communication failures, delays, workload pressures, and heightened public awareness all contribute to these trends. Sanctions are increasingly concentrated among serious misconduct cases. Prosecutions alleging fraud, deception and the conversion of large amounts of trust funds continue to account for 70% of formal complaints and more than half of the 63 lawyers sanctioned in 2025 were disbarred or suspended until further order of the Court.

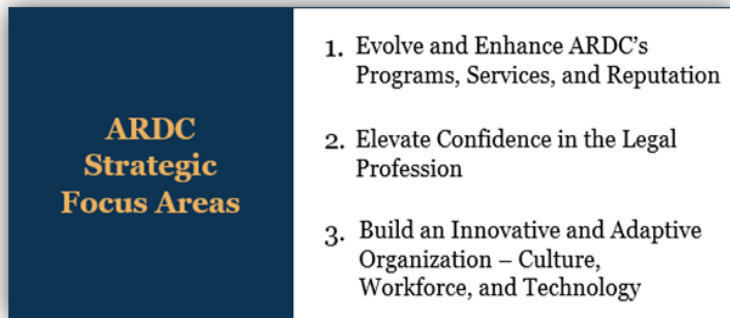
Attorney Well-Being: Impairments and Institutional Response. Attorney well-being remains one of the profession's most urgent concerns. The number of impaired lawyers disciplined by the Illinois Supreme Court rose 5% last year. The ARDC continues to expand early-intervention efforts, recognizing that meaningful progress requires sustained institutional commitment. Firms and organizations are investing more in wellness initiatives, yet many lawyers still struggle with burnout, anxiety, depression, and difficulty disconnecting from work. A major development is the forthcoming ABA–Krill Strategies national study (2025–2026), which will update the 2016 landmark American Bar Association–Hazeltin Betty Ford Foundation research on mental health, substance use, and the impact of technology. Its findings will guide state and local lawyers' assistance programs in shaping effective prevention and support strategies in the years ahead.

A Profession in Transition. Taken together, these trends depict a profession navigating growth and transformation. The lawyer population is expanding, but demographic and geographic disparities persist. Technology is reshaping legal work, offering new efficiencies while introducing new ethical and regulatory complexities. Client complaints are rising, reflecting both heightened expectations and systemic service-delivery challenges. Attorney well-being remains a critical concern, prompting further research and increased reform efforts.

The next several years will likely determine how effectively the profession adapts to these pressures. The interplay between technological acceleration, regulatory oversight, workforce composition, and well-being initiatives will shape not only the experience of practicing law but also the public's confidence in the legal system.

Introduction to the 2025 Annual Report of the ARDC

In 2025, the ARDC took pivotal steps forward in advancing the objectives of its 2025-2026 Strategic Plan and its long-standing commitments to serving the public, supporting the legal profession, and preparing for the future.



Guided by its mission, the ARDC focused its efforts on three interconnected priorities that position the organization to meet the emerging needs of the public and the legal profession with clarity and purpose.

These priorities are to:

- Evolve and enhance ARDC's programs, services, and reputation
- Elevate confidence in the legal profession
- Build an innovative and adaptable organization through its culture, workforce, and technology.

This annual report outlines the activities and achievements of the past year that advanced these priorities.

Across our core functions of **Supporting Ethical Practice, Addressing Risk and Misconduct Early, Protecting the Public, Maintaining the Professional Infrastructure, and Ensuring Accountability**, we enhanced the programs and services that anchor our work, advanced public trust in the legal profession, and continued building an innovative and adaptive organization capable of anticipating change, embracing new approaches, and delivering meaningful impact in the rapidly changing legal profession.

Together, these strategic focuses shaped a year defined by progress, collaboration, and forward momentum. They reflect both our current achievements and our direction towards a more resilient organization, a more trusted profession, and a stronger system of justice for all.

Supporting Ethical Practice

The ARDC is committed to ensuring that Illinois lawyers have the knowledge, resources, and guidance they need to practice ethically and effectively at every stage of their careers. Through high-quality MCLE-accredited webcasts, practical publications, experienced speakers, and a dedicated ethics inquiry line, the ARDC serves as a trusted source of support for both lawyers and the public they serve.

By emphasizing education before problems occur, the ARDC strengthens the profession as a whole. Its programs help lawyers understand their ethical responsibilities, navigate complex situations in daily practice, and identify risks early. These same educational tools also support lawyers who have faced discipline by providing targeted resources that address the issues underlying misconduct.

Throughout the year, the ARDC delivers a wide range of programming, from e-learning webcasts and CLE presentations to publications, training materials, and the annual report, all designed to reinforce ethical practice and promote public trust in the legal system.

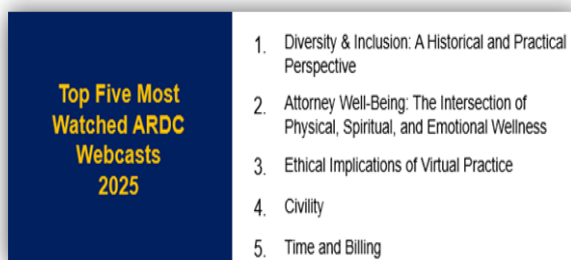
ARDC Education Programs

E-Learning MCLE Accredited Seminars

As a leading CLE provider in Illinois, the ARDC produces recorded MCLE-accredited webcasts to meet the need for easily accessible online programming and resources. ARDC webcasts are free of charge and available 24/7 on the ARDC website. In 2025, there were 49 on-demand, recorded webcasts available on the ARDC website, providing over 33 hours of free professional responsibility CLE credit.



In 2025, the ARDC issued approximately 40,000 certificates of CLE completion.



The most-watched and highest-rated CLE seminars highlight where lawyers are most engaged in ARDC programming. They point to a rising demand for diversity and inclusion and mental health continuing legal education, along with sustained interest in technology, civility,

and trust account and billing issues.

This suggests that lawyers are seeking guidance not just on how to practice law, but on how to navigate a rapidly changing profession while maintaining ethical integrity, cultural awareness, and personal well-being.

Key Takeaways: Continuing Legal Education Programming

Legal competence today requires more than legal knowledge. Participation in ARDC programs shows growing demand for support in mental health, technology, civility, and law office management. These trends highlight how many lawyers are struggling with the operational, technological, and managerial pressures of modern practice, and the need for programming that helps them navigate those challenges.

The ARDC has expanded its technology-focused CLE offerings, including programs on the benefits and risks of artificial intelligence, the ethical considerations of virtual practice, protecting client information, and the responsible use of social media.

In 2025, the ARDC expanded its CLE on-line offerings with new programs focused on succession planning, professional regulation, and practice management. Additional programs on mental impairment, time management, and winding down a practice are scheduled for release in 2026. The full list of these CLE on-line programs can be found in the Appendix at Page 88.

Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR) Course

The Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR) program is a core component of the ARDC's educational offerings, providing Illinois lawyers with a structured, four-hour interactive self-assessment focused on strengthening practice management, ethics, and client services.

Developed and administered by the ARDC, the PMBR course helps lawyers identify risks, improve office systems, and reinforce their professional responsibility duties.

By equipping lawyers with practical tools to prevent problems before they arise, PMBR plays a critical role in supporting ethical practice and reducing the likelihood of client harm. It reflects the ARDC's commitment to proactive regulation, helping lawyers build stronger, more resilient practices while advancing public trust in the profession.

Since 2018, completion of the PMBR self-assessment has been required every two years for lawyers in private practice who do not report carrying malpractice insurance during annual registration, making the program both a compliance requirement and a practical tool for maintaining a well-run law office. See IL Supreme Court Rule 756(e)(2). Approximately 12% of lawyers fall into this category. See Charts 6A-1 and 9B, Appendix.

For the 2024–2025 PMBR cycle, 6,961 lawyers were required to complete the PMBR course in order to be registered for 2025. Of those:

- 71% completed the course
- 14% satisfied the requirement by obtaining malpractice insurance
- 7% were no longer required to participate because they either changed their practice setting to something other than private practice or stopped practicing law
- 3% became exempt due to a status change from Active to either Retired or Inactive

Only 3% were removed from the Master Roll for PMBR non-compliance. An additional 2% were removed for other reasons, such as discipline, failure to meet other registration requirements, or death.

Open to all lawyers, the program saw strong interest from more than 3,300 lawyers who were not required to participate, and more than 2,000 of them completing all PMBR offerings. A total of 10,488 CLE certificates of completion were issued in 2025 from the aggregate of all five components of the 2024-2025 PMBR course.

The 2026-2027 PMBR course, which marks the fifth PMBR cycle, is expected to be published on the ARDC website in mid-2026. The 2026–2027 course will feature five modules covering digital-age marketing, conflicts of interest, confidentiality in a digital age, incivility and harassment, and setting the parameters of the client-lawyer relationship.

Speaking Engagements and ARDC CLE Collaborations

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

As part of the ARDC’s commitment to public outreach and its service to the Illinois legal profession, the ARDC provides experienced speakers at no cost to both community groups and lawyer audiences. Each year, ARDC staff present to bar associations, law schools, government agencies, and other law-related organizations across Illinois and beyond, addressing a wide range of topics related to lawyer regulation. In 2025, ARDC lawyers delivered 133 presentations, offered both in person and virtually in collaboration with other agencies of the Illinois Supreme Court, bar associations, law schools, and other groups to present educational programming for the Illinois bar. A list of the organizations with whom the ARDC collaborated in 2025 can be found in the Appendix at Page 89.



Ethics Inquiry Program

The ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program provides guidance to lawyers and members of the public who have general questions about a lawyer’s professional responsibilities. Since its launch in October 1995, the Program has handled over 80,000 inquiries from lawyers seeking help in navigating significant issues in their practice. Now entering its 30th year, the Program continues to serve as a trusted resource for both the legal profession and the public.

By offering timely, practical ethics guidance, the Program helps lawyers address concerns before they escalate, supports ethical decision-making in everyday practice, and strengthens public confidence in the profession. In 2025, staff lawyers responded to 2,224 calls, providing research support and guidance on ethics questions and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct. The most common area of inquiry continues to be a lawyer’s mandatory duty to report attorney or judicial misconduct under Rule 8.3. See Chart 26 Attorney Reports (2010-2025), Appendix, which illustrates the trend in lawyer reports over the past fifteen years.

Rule	Total
Rule 8.3(a) Duty to report lawyer misconduct	231
Rule 5.5(a) Engaging in or assisting the unauthorized practice of law	137
Rule 1.7(a) Representation adverse to another client	111
Supreme Court Rule 776 Receivership of a lawyer’s practice	107
Rule 1.16(d) Failure to protect client at the end of representation	89
Rule 1.6(a) Duty of confidentiality	82
ARDC Procedures	81
Rule 1.7(a)(2) Representation limited by lawyer’s other interests	79
Rule 1.9(a) Representation adverse to former client	78

The questions posed through the Ethics Inquiry Program also offer valuable insight into emerging issues and the concerns most frequently encountered by the bar. These inquiries help inform the ARDC’s development of CLE programming and other educational resources.

The ARDC launched a new website feature in September 2025 called the *Ethics Inquiry Question of the Month*. Each month, it spotlights a real question submitted through the ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program and uses it to explore recurring ethical challenges, the professional responsibility rules that apply, and provide practical guidance for lawyers navigating similar situations.

The *Ethics Inquiry Question of the Month* published in 2025 are:

- December 2025 – Disclosing Confidential Information Relating to Client’s Mental Health
- November 2025 – Lawyer’s Ethical Response to a Client’s Negative Review

- October 2025 – Determining a Client’s Decision-Making Capacity
- September 2025 – Leaving a Law Firm – Communication with Clients.

Lawyers seeking assistance are asked to present their questions in the form of a hypothetical, and callers may remain anonymous if they wish. 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 covering a broad range of legal ethics issues and emerging developments. Resources such as the recently-published, *The Illinois Attorney’s Guide to Implementing AI* (see Page 46), *The Client Trust Account Handbook*, and a variety of law office management forms and checklists are available on the Commission’s website. These resources offer valuable guidance and updates on the latest developments in the legal profession in Illinois.

Additionally, the ARDC published several articles in 2025 that highlight ongoing issues and initiatives shaping the legal landscape in Illinois.

- *Paste in Haste: The Fallout of AI Hallucinations in Court Filings and the New ARDC’s Guide to Implementing AI* - This article examines the growing problem of AI-generated hallucinations in legal filings, why they occur, and how legal professionals can avoid them. It also highlights the ARDC’s new guidance on responsible AI implementation and the importance of verifying AI-assisted work.
- *A Safety Net You Support: How the ARDC’s Client Protection Program Strengthens the Profession and Serves the Public* - This piece explores how the ARDC Client Protection Program (now administered by the ARDC Protective Services Group) safeguards the public and supports the legal profession during moments of vulnerability. It explains the program’s role in protecting clients, maintaining public trust, and reinforcing professional integrity when attorney misconduct or incapacity occurs.
- *From Legal Desert to Oasis: Mapping the Legal Landscape in Illinois* - To better identify where legal deserts persist, the ARDC added new questions to the 2026 registration cycle to gather more accurate data on how legal services are distributed across Illinois. This article explains how these efforts aim to highlight underserved regions and support statewide initiatives to strengthen the justice system’s legal infrastructure.

All of these publications can be found on the ARDC under “Education & Resources.”

ARDC Website

The ARDC website (www.iardc.org) serves both lawyers and the public, offering clear, accessible tools and information that support transparency, accountability, and trust in the legal system.

For the profession, the site provides a wide range of resources for Illinois lawyers, including lawyer registration tools, disciplinary information, ethics guidance, CLE and PMBR education, practice-management support, and a searchable lawyer directory. It functions as a central hub for regulatory updates, learning opportunities, and professional responsibility resources.

For the public, the ARDC website offers easy access to lawyer search tools, disciplinary information, consumer guidance, and resources for understanding the legal system. It serves as a transparent, user-friendly hub where visitors can look up a lawyer's status, review disciplinary actions, file a complaint, and find information about navigating legal services.

The site also includes detailed information about the investigative process, instructions for filing a complaint, and a schedule of public hearings and arguments before the Hearing and Review Boards. Visitors can access a searchable database of disciplinary decisions issued by the Supreme Court, along with reports from the disciplinary boards. Additional resources include information and claim forms for the Client Protection Program, guidance on the Ethics Inquiry Program, and links to other legal ethics research tools.

In 2025, the ARDC website received more than 1.3 million visits. Its most frequently used feature, the Lawyer Search function, generated over 1 million page views last year. This tool enables the public to look up basic registration information for Illinois lawyers, including principal addresses, license status, and any public disciplinary records.

In early 2026, the ARDC launched an online complaint form to simplify the process of submitting a grievance. See Page 46. A new accessibility tool, UserWay, was also added to the Commission website as part of the ARDC's longstanding commitment to ensuring that its information and services remain accessible to everyone it serves. The tool, accessible through a person-shaped icon in the bottom right corner, offers visitors a range of accessibility features that allow users to customize and enhance their browsing experience.

Addressing Risk and Misconduct Early

The ARDC works with lawyers who must meet specific conditions to continue practicing, focusing on the underlying issues that can lead to misconduct, such as mental health challenges, substance use, or law-office management problems, through practical, forward-looking strategies.

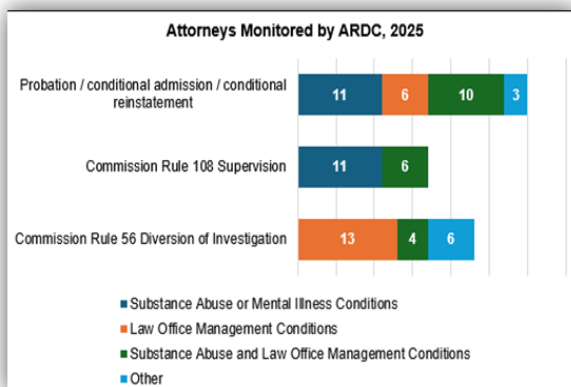
In addition to traditional discipline for serious violations, the ARDC uses structured alternatives like probation and deferral programs to intervene early and support lawyers who can benefit from targeted assistance. These programs reinforce professional accountability while providing resources that help lawyers meet their ethical responsibilities and protect clients. Together, they embody a modern approach to addressing risk and misconduct early, going beyond discipline to prevent harm before it occurs.

ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services

In 2025, the ARDC monitored 197 lawyers for substance or mental illness impairments, law office management issues, and restitution conditions. As the chart to the right shows, 81 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 46 lawyers had been suspended by the Illinois Supreme Court in earlier years with their reinstatement contingent upon fulfilling Court-ordered restitution.

ARDC Attorney Monitoring, 2025	
Reason for Monitoring	Total
Probation Conditions Imposed by Reciprocal Jurisdiction	81
Suspension Pending Restitution	46
Probation Conditions Imposed by Court	26
Conditional Reinstatement	4
Commission Rule 108 Supervision	17
Commission Rule 56 Diversion	23

Additionally, 70 lawyers were required to complete one or more remedial activities, services, or programs imposed by the Illinois Supreme Court or required by the ARDC under Commission Rules 108 or 56 following an investigation.



As shown in the chart here, 22 lawyers were monitored for substance abuse or mental health conditions, 19 for law office management issues, and 20 for both. An additional 9 lawyers were monitored for other requirements, such as making restitution or issuing a letter of apology. In total, 26 lawyers were subject to random drug and alcohol testing.

Probation, Conditional Admission and Conditional Reinstatement Monitoring

In 2025, the ARDC monitored 26 lawyers placed on probation as the result of a disciplinary sanction, and four lawyers under conditional reinstatement to the practice of law: 11 with substance abuse and/or mental health conditions; six for law office management training; 10 subject to both mental health and law office management monitoring conditions; and three with conditions falling into the “other” category, which typically involves CLE requirements, restitution or payment of costs.

Deferral and Diversion

Deferral and diversion programs offer an educational, rehabilitative response to minor misconduct, focusing on correcting behavior rather than imposing punitive measures. These programs help lawyers understand what went wrong, develop the skills needed to prevent future issues, and strengthen the office management systems that support ethical practice. For example, a lawyer struggling with office management may be required to complete management training or work with a practice monitor.

Remedial conditions may include continuing legal education, mentoring, participation in evaluation or treatment through the Lawyers’ Assistance Program (LAP), law-office management programs, or financial account audits. By addressing concerns early and providing structured support, the ARDC promotes more effective, ethical, and sustainable law practice, reducing risk, protecting clients, and reinforcing accountability within the profession.

Deferral of Investigation Program under Commission Rule 108 – The Inquiry Board, with the consent of the Administrator and the lawyer under investigation, may defer an investigation that does not involve trust fund misappropriation or criminal conduct. Deferral for up to one year is contingent upon the lawyer’s compliance with conditions set by the Board. In 2025, a total of 17 lawyers were monitored under Commission Rule 108 conditions: 11 with substance abuse and/or mental health conditions and six subject to both mental health and law office management monitoring conditions.

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 2025, a total of 23 lawyers were monitored pursuant to a

diversion agreement: 13 for law office management training; four subject to both mental health and law office management monitoring conditions; and six with conditions falling into the “other” category.

Key Takeaways: A Preventive Approach to Professional Regulation

Many professional conduct issues arise from practice management challenges, mental health concerns, or substance use issues rather than intentional misconduct. Preventive programs such as education, practice management training, diversion, and probation monitoring allow regulators to address these underlying issues early, helping lawyers correct problems before they escalate into serious disciplinary matters.

Practice Management interventions

Permanent Retirement under Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8) – Lawyers facing minor misconduct charges or who have cognitive impairment issues may 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 2025, four lawyers were transferred to permanent retirement status in lieu of disciplinary prosecution.

Intermediary Program – The ARDC Intermediary Program, established under Rule 1.6(d) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (In re ARDC Intermediary Program, M.R. 29898, June 4, 2019), uses independent lawyers experienced with impaired attorneys to contact lawyers who fail to respond during ARDC investigations or proceedings. Although intermediaries are paid by the ARDC and are contacted by the Administrator’s staff to reach out to respondent lawyers, they are not part of the disciplinary process. Their communications with respondents are privileged under Rules 1.6(d) and 8.3(c). The program aims to reduce unresponsiveness in disciplinary matters, connect lawyers with needed assistance, and conserve ARDC resources.

By intervening early and offering a supportive point of contact, the Intermediary Program helps preserve the integrity of the disciplinary process, protects the public, and promotes accountability within the profession. The Commission currently employs three intermediaries. In 2025, they were assigned seven respondents, bringing the total of 70 lawyers contacted by the intermediaries since the program began in 2019. The program’s steady use reflects its effectiveness in re-establishing communication, supporting lawyers in difficulty, and keeping disciplinary matters moving forward.

Referrals to Lawyers’ Assistance Program (LAP) - Through its partnership with the Illinois Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP), the ARDC is authorized under Supreme Court Rule 766 to refer lawyers to LAP during an otherwise confidential investigations when there is reason to

believe the lawyer may be impaired by substance use or a mental health condition. These referrals are one-way: LAP does not disclose information back to the ARDC. Referrals commonly involve lawyers facing DUI or other criminal matters suggesting impairment, as well as lawyers who fail to participate in investigations or default in disciplinary proceedings. In 2025, the ARDC made 40 such referrals. According to LAP's 2024-2025 annual report, ARDC referrals accounted for 13% of all LAP referrals.²

Law Office Management Program (LOMAP) – In April 2025, the Commission approved the ARDC's Law Office Management Program (LOMAP). In disciplinary matters involving inadequate law office management, one of the standard conditions imposed in probation, diversion, or Rule 108 dispositions is the requirement that a respondent work with an attorney monitor to evaluate and implement appropriate office management practices.

Typically, between five and ten lawyers each year are placed on conditions requiring law office management monitoring. For years, the ARDC relied on local bar association committees to provide monitors, but those committees dissolved over the past decade. As a result, lawyers were responsible for finding their own qualified monitor before meeting their management-related conditions.

The new in-house LOMAP fills that gap and ensures consistent, competent oversight. Monitors are expected to meet with the lawyer at least once each quarter and submit reports to the Administrator or probation officer regarding the lawyer's compliance with the LOMAP conditions. Four monitors completed the required training in fall of 2025, and one lawyer was assigned to monitor in late 2025.

² See LAP 2024-2025 Annual Report at <https://illinoislap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2024-2025-annual-report-FINAL.pdf>.

Protecting the Public

The ARDC's protective services are dedicated to safeguarding the public and strengthening trust in the legal profession. Through investigations into the unauthorized practice of law, the ARDC ensures that only qualified, licensed attorneys provide legal services. Its Client Protection Program offers reimbursement to clients harmed by a lawyer's dishonest conduct or unearned fees. Receivership actions are taken when a lawyer is unable to manage their practice, safeguarding client interests and preserving continuity of representation.

ARDC Protective Services

To strengthen its protective mission, the ARDC expanded its organizational focus on services that support clients and reinforce the integrity of the profession. This enhanced focus is reflected in three core areas of the ARDC's protective services:

- Unauthorized practice of law (UPL) investigations – The ARDC investigates allegations that individuals or entities are engaging in the unauthorized practice of law, helping ensure that the public receives legal services only from qualified and licensed professionals.
- Client Protection Program (CPP) – The ARDC reviews and administers claims for reimbursement submitted by clients who have suffered financial losses due to a lawyer's dishonest conduct or from unearned and unrefunded fees paid to lawyers who later died or were transferred to disability inactive status.
- Receivership investigations and actions – The ARDC assists and takes appropriate action when a lawyer is unable to manage their law practice because of death, disability, disappearance, or abandonment, helping protect clients from harm and ensuring continuity where possible.

ARDC Client Protection Program (CPP)

The Supreme Court of Illinois created the Client Protection Program (CPP) under Supreme Court Rule 780 to reimburse clients for losses caused by dishonest conduct of 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 program's maximum per-award limit in 2025 was \$100,000, with a per-lawyer cap of \$1 million. Beginning in 2026, the maximum amount payable per claimant increased to \$150,000, and the total amount available for claims against a single

lawyer rose to \$1.5 million. These changes are reflected in Commission Rule 510, Payment of Claims (amended April 4, 2025, eff. Jan. 1, 2026). See Page 39.

The Program does not cover losses resulting from professional negligence or malpractice and does not consider claims involving fee or contract disputes. Since its inception in 1994, the Program has reimbursed over \$31,000,000 in claimant loss.

In 2025, 157 new claims were filed, and the Commission approved payment of \$983,227.30 on 60 claims involving 26 different lawyers. See Chart 27A, Client Protection Claims (2010-2025), Appendix. Five approvals were for the \$100,000 maximum, and 25 were for \$2,500 or less.

The Commission awarded more than \$227,136 on four claims submitted against a lawyer who was disbarred in 2024 for conversion of settlement funds in personal injury and workers' compensation cases. The Commission also awarded \$54,583 on 16 claims involving a criminal defense attorney who died in July of 2024.

Claims of misappropriation of client funds (35) accounted for 58% of the 60 approved claims, while claims arising out of a criminal representation (31) represented the largest category of approvals. See Chart 27B, Appendix.

ARDC Client Protection Program Claims, 2025	
Type of Misconduct	Total
Misappropriation of Client Funds	35
Failure to Refund Unearned Fees	29
Area of Law	Total
Criminal	31
Tort	10
Real Estate	7
Probate/Trusts	5
Domestic Relations	3

Fifty-three claims were denied in 2025. See Chart 27A. Claims may be denied after investigation when the evidence shows that the claimants did not suffer a compensable loss under the program's rules. This includes situations where the fees were not proven to be unearned, where the losses stemmed from possible malpractice rather than wrongful conduct or death, or where there is no proof that the respondents took or withheld client funds.

Claims can also be denied at the administrative screening stage if the respondents are not deceased and were not disciplined when the claim was filed, and the related disciplinary grievances were closed on the merits. Administrative denials also occur when losses were repaid or when claims were withdrawn or otherwise ineligible.

Key Takeaways: Reinforcing Trust Through ARDC Client Protection Program

Although most lawyers serve their clients with integrity, the Client Protection Program plays a vital role in maintaining public confidence in the legal profession. By reimbursing clients harmed by dishonest conduct, the program reinforces the profession's commitment to accountability and helps preserve trust in the legal system.

Investigation of unauthorized practice of law (UPL)

Since 2011 the ARDC has been authorized under Supreme Court Rule 779 to investigate claims of the unauthorized practice of law (UPL) involving suspended and disbarred Illinois lawyers, lawyers licensed in another jurisdiction, and individuals or entities not licensed to practice law anywhere. 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 2025, 88 investigations were opened involving unauthorized practice of law (UPL) charges. Of these, 67 investigations (76%) concerned unlicensed individuals or entities. Investigations were also initiated in 2025 involving 13 out-of-state lawyers and eight Illinois lawyers who continued practicing after disbarment. Immigration law was the most common area implicated in UPL matters, accounting for 24% of the 88 investigations. See Chart 18A Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (2020-2025) and Chart 18B Area of Law in 779 Investigations in 2025, Appendix.

If after an investigation, there is credible evidence that unauthorized practice occurred, the Commission prepares cease-and-desist letters or other enforcement communications and ARDC litigation counsel may initiate and pursue formal UPL actions. Civil or contempt actions alleging UPL may also be brought pursuant to the Supreme Court's rules and its inherent authority over the practice of law, and other state laws related to the unauthorized practice of law.

In addition, ARDC staff work closely with other regulators and engage in ongoing outreach on UPL issues. Staff attorneys serve as liaisons to the Illinois State Bar Association's Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law and previously served on the Chicago Bar Association's Unauthorized Practice & Multidisciplinary Practice Committee until the committee concluded its work in fall 2025.

When necessary, 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 federal agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission. Because investigations and formal actions involving out-of-state attorneys often require coordination with other jurisdictions, the ARDC frequently works with attorney-regulation authorities in other states on unauthorized practice investigations.

Receivership of a lawyer's practice under Supreme Court Rule 776

Supreme Court Rule 776 authorizes the appointment of a receiver to manage a lawyer's files and close their practice when the lawyer has died, become disabled, or disappeared and no responsible party is available to step in. The ARDC provides guidance and support to family members, friends, and professional colleagues who assume responsibility for winding down a lawyer's practice, most often after the lawyer's death, and also assists court-appointed receivers. When no one else is able to take on this role, the ARDC may petition to have the ARDC appointed receiver of a law practice to ensure clients' interests are protected.

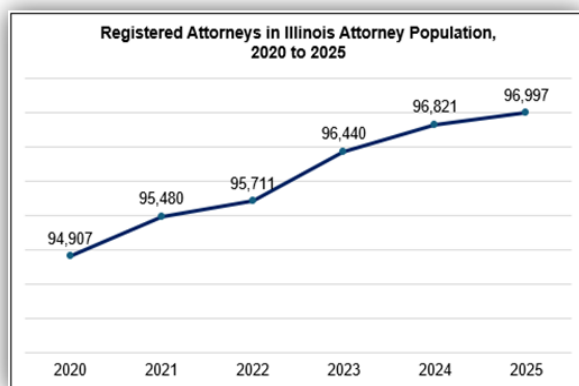
In 2025, ARDC initiated 11 investigations into potential receivership (see Chart 10, Appendix), was appointed receiver in 3, and provided assistance in the remaining 8 matters. See Chart 23, ARDC-Appointed Receiverships: 2020-2025, Appendix.

Maintaining the Integrity of the Bar

Illinois Master Roll of Attorneys

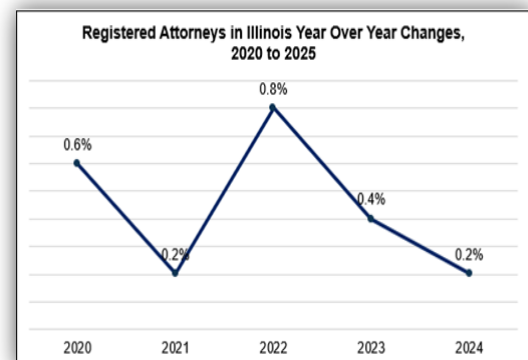
The Illinois Master Roll of Attorneys is the official list of all lawyers who are registered with the ARDC and their current registration status. Only attorneys whose names appear on the Master Roll are authorized to practice law in Illinois or represent themselves as licensed to do so. As part of the annual registration process, the ARDC also collects demographic information about the legal profession, which provides valuable insight into the profession's composition and emerging needs, supporting long-term planning and resource allocation.

2025 Illinois Attorney Population



In 2025, the Master Roll of Attorneys for Illinois numbered 96,997 lawyers, a 0.2% increase from the previous year. Growth in the number of registered lawyers in Illinois has been steady but modest in recent years. Since 2015, Illinois' annual net increase in licensed attorneys has remained below 1%. Despite this slow growth, the state ranks sixth nationwide in total number of active attorneys in 2025.³ For detailed data from 2010 to 2025, see Chart 25A, Appendix.

Illinois' legal population has continued to grow, but at a slower pace than the national average. In 2025, the U.S. legal population increased by 1.38% over 2024, the first significant national uptick since 2020, according to the American Bar Association's *2025 Profile of the Legal Profession*.⁴ This rebound appears driven by a surge in law school graduates and stronger employment hirings. The National Association of Law Placement (NALP) reported that the graduating class of 2024 was 12% larger than any class since 2012 and had the highest employment rate in nearly forty years.⁵



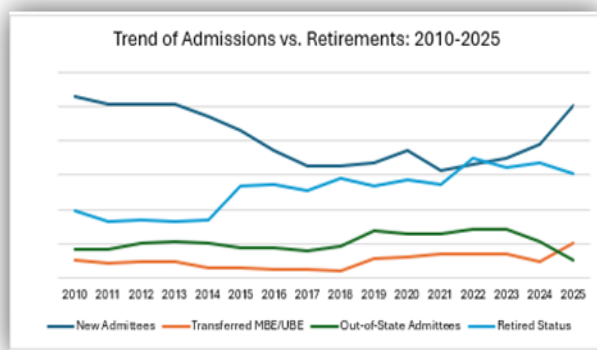
³ ABA [2025 National Lawyer Population Survey](#)

⁴ ABA [2025 Profile of the Legal Profession](#)

⁵ National Association of Law Placement (NALP), [Jobs and JDs, Employment for the Class of 2024](#).

While Illinois' overall legal population saw only a modest increase, there was a sharp rise in new admittees: more than a 28% increase over 2024.

According to admissions data from the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar and registration retirement data, the composition of Illinois' lawyer population has shifted noticeably over time. The table to the right highlights four major patterns of movement into and out of the Illinois bar:



- New Admittees (Rules 704 & 715): traditional in-state bar exam passers
- Transferred Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)/Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) (Rule 704A): lawyers admitted via score transfer
- Out-of-State Lawyer Admittees: admission on motion/reciprocity
- Lawyers Moving to Retired Status: exits from Active and Inactive status.

Over the past fifteen years, the Illinois legal profession has experienced both renewal and restructuring: new lawyers have entered practice in greater numbers, mobility has increased, older lawyers have remained in practice at a sustained pace, and greater racial and ethnic diversity has been seen throughout the legal profession.

Bar exam admissions declined steadily from 2010 through 2018 before rising to their highest level in 2025. UBE/MBE score transfers remained minimal until a sharp increase in 2025. Out-of-state admissions were relatively stable for most of the period but dropped significantly in 2025. Retirements increased through 2022 and have since declined, reflecting broader demographic and economic patterns. See Chart 25B Historical Bar Admissions v. Retirement Removals (2010-2025), Appendix.

Illinois' renewed influx of new lawyers is likely driven by rising law school enrollment since 2016–2017 and the adoption of UBE scores, effective in 2019, which has made admission in Illinois more accessible. In 2025, 2,499 law school graduates were admitted to the Illinois bar after passing the Illinois bar exam, a 28% increase from 2024 and the highest number since 2014.

In the early 2010s, Illinois consistently welcomed more than 2,500 new lawyers each year through the traditional bar exam process. But as national law school enrollment contracted by 2018, the number of new in-state admittees in Illinois had fallen to just over 1,600, a nearly 40% decline from 2010. Beginning in 2019, however, the trend reversed. The number of new admittees began to climb steadily, and by 2025 Illinois recorded its highest number of new bar exam admittees in over ten years. This increase is consistent with the national rebound in law school enrollment.

Parallel to this shift, Illinois saw a significant rise in lawyers entering the state through score transfers and other mobility pathways through the UBE or MBE. For much of the 2010s, UBE/MBE transfers were modest, typically ranging from 100 to 250 per year. Beginning in 2019, when the Illinois Supreme Court adopted the UBE for Illinois admissions (see IL S.Ct. Rule 70A, amended June 8, 2028, eff. Jan. 1, 2029), these numbers started to rise, reaching a level of 345 from 2021 to 2023. With a one-year decline in 2024 to 245, the number of admittees that transferred all or part of their bar exam score taken in another jurisdiction more than doubled in 2025 to 505, a 106% increase over 2024, and the most ever reported. This reflects the growing influence of the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) and suggests that Illinois is becoming more integrated into the national legal labor market, mobility is rising, and firms are hiring across jurisdictions more aggressively. When combined with new graduates, the total number of new admittees in 2025 of 3,004 is the largest number of new admittees since 2010.

Out-of-state admissions followed a different trajectory. For years, they remained relatively stable, hovering between 400 and 700 annually. But after peaking in 2022, they began to decline sharply, falling to just 264 in 2025. This drop appears to coincide with the rise in UBE score transfers, suggesting that lawyers who once relied on traditional reciprocity pathways are now opting for the more streamlined UBE route.

Meanwhile, retirements have played a major role in shaping the profession's demographics. From 2010 to 2022, the number of lawyers moving to retired status more than quadrupled, reaching a peak of 1,753. This reflects the retirement of the large cohort of lawyers who entered the profession in the 1970s and 1980s and the natural turnover of a profession that expanded significantly in the late 20th century. Although retirements have eased slightly since 2022, they remain elevated, underscoring the ongoing generational transition within the bar. Taken together, these trends paint a picture of a profession in transition. While the number of retirements will continue to increase, the post-2022 decline suggests delayed retirements, likely due to economic factors and post-pandemic adjustments.

Racial and ethnic diversity among U.S. law students has increased steadily over the past decade, reflecting broader demographic shifts in higher education. National enrollment data from the American Bar Association⁶ shows that the proportion of students of color has risen each year, while the share of white students has declined. Recent first-year classes illustrate this clearly: white students now make up just under 57% of incoming law students, while Hispanic, Asian, Black, and multiracial students represent a growing share of the national incoming class. These changes stem from long-term shifts in applicant pools, expanded law school outreach efforts, and broader demographic changes in the college-educated population.

⁶ ABA Section of Legal Education; see *also* supra note 3 (Resident Active Attorney Demographics: Race/Ethnicity 2015-2025).

Key Takeaways: Growth and Demographic Shifts in the Illinois Bar

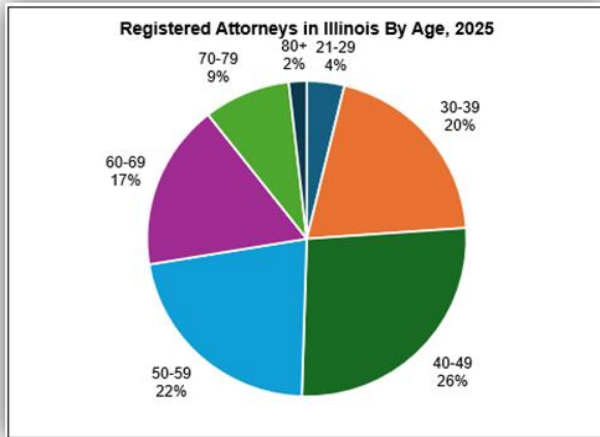
Illinois' legal profession is expanding, although more slowly than the nation's overall, driven by a sharp rise in new bar admittees.

In 2025, Illinois saw a 28% jump in new admittee bar exam passers, its highest total in more than a decade, alongside a 106% spike in lawyers admitted under UBE/MBE score transfers. These trends point to a steady rise in the state's legal population in the years ahead, even as retirements remain high and out-of-state lawyer admissions fall.

As the profession becomes more female and more racially and ethnically diverse, the Illinois bar is clearly in a period of transition, shaped by greater mobility, shifting demographics, and a new generation of lawyers entering the practice of law.

2025 Illinois Attorney Population Demographics

Age, Gender, and Years in Practice



In 2025, lawyers aged 40–49 formed the single largest age group in the profession, accounting for 26.6% of all registered attorneys. The overall age distribution was evenly divided, with half of lawyers age 49 or younger and half over 50. See Chart 1A Gender, Age and Years in Practice (2020–2025), Appendix.

The legal profession in the U.S. generally has an older demographic compared to many other fields.⁷ Of the 96,997 registered lawyers, 27.6%, approximately one in four,

are age 60 or older, up from 25.9% in 2020. This reflects a steady aging trend in the profession over the 2020–2025 period. Growth has been especially strong in the groups of lawyers aged 70–79 and 80–89, which together accounted for 10.6% of all lawyers in 2025, underscoring that many practitioners are remaining active past traditional retirement age. See Chart 1A.

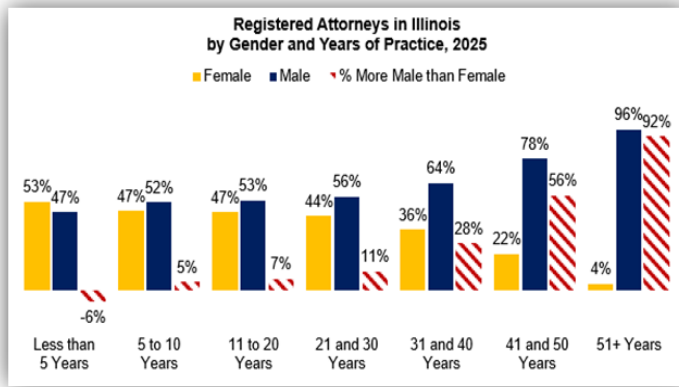
⁷ See *supra* note 2 (ABA 2025 Profile of the Legal Profession).

Key Takeaways: The Growing Importance of Succession Planning

Nearly half of Illinois lawyers are now over the age of fifty. As the profession ages, issues such as succession planning, law practice transitions, and continuity of representation become increasingly important.

Without effective planning, the sudden illness, disability, or death of a lawyer can significantly disrupt client matters and court proceedings. These demographic trends highlight the importance of succession planning and practice management support, particularly for solo practitioners.

The number of women lawyers in Illinois has continued to rise slowly but steadily each year. In 2025, women accounted for 41.6% of the profession, an increase of 0.7% from 2024 and up 2.3% since 2020. See Chart 1A. This is slightly higher than the national average of 41.3% of all U.S. lawyers.⁸ A major driver of this trend is law school enrollment where women have outnumbered men in U.S. law schools every year since 2016.⁹ The American Bar Association has described 2016–2026 as the “Decade of the Female Lawyer,” predicting that the profession may reach gender parity by 2026.¹⁰



Women continue to make up the majority of lawyers in their first five years of practice. In Illinois, women lawyers account for 52.9% of lawyers less than five years in practice. However, the gender balance changes after five years in practice, and male lawyers outnumber female lawyers by over 5% between five and ten years in practice. This gap increases to more than 11% after 20 years and widens further to over 28% after 30 years in practice. See Chart 1B Lawyers By Gender and Years in Practice (2025), Appendix.

Key Takeaways: Shifting Gender Dynamics in the Legal Profession

Women now make up 41.6% of Illinois lawyers, slightly above the national average, and their share has been rising steadily throughout what the ABA calls the “Decade of the Female Lawyer” (2016–2026), a period marked by women becoming the majority of U.S. law students and entering the profession in record numbers.

Women constitute the majority of the newest generation of lawyers, accounting for more than half of lawyers in their first five years of practice. The profession will likely reach gender parity in the next few years.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ See [ABA 2024 Profile of the Legal Profession, Women in the Profession](#)

¹⁰ *Id.*

Principal Business Location – Illinois vs. Out-of-State

Illinois appears to be undergoing a slow but noticeable shift toward a more nationally oriented legal market, with out-of-state lawyers with an Illinois license steadily gaining ground while the number of Illinois-based lawyers remains flat or declines slightly. In 2025, 65,608 (67.6%) of all registered Illinois lawyers reported a principal business address in Illinois, essentially unchanged from the prior year. The number of out-of-state lawyers likewise held steady at 32.4%.

The percentage of lawyers located outside of Illinois, however, has increased by 1.7% since 2020. This gradual shift reflects broader forces reshaping the profession, including the rise of remote practice, the expansion of national law firms, and demographic changes in the lawyer workforce. Rather than reflecting something unique to Illinois, the trend suggests that the legal market is becoming less tied to geography and increasingly integrated across state lines. See Chart 1C Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Lawyers 2004-2025, Appendix.

Of the lawyers based outside Illinois, 21,976 (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 Texas. Meanwhile, 9,412 (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.

Lawyers Located in Illinois: By County

There were 65,608 Active and Inactive lawyers located in Illinois in 2025, a slight increase (0.2%) from the 65,456 reported in 2024. 57,388 (87.5%) of lawyers, based on their primary business or residential address, are located within the six most populous counties in the state, commonly referred to as metropolitan Chicago (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will). 47,089 (71.8%) of all lawyers with a principal business address in Illinois are located in Cook County.

Outside the metropolitan Chicago area, 8,220 lawyers (12.5%) are located across the state's other 96 counties. See Chart 3, Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By County (2023-2025), Appendix.

Overall, the number of lawyers based in Illinois has remained stable since 2022. See Chart 3. Among the five judicial districts, First District (Cook County) saw an increase of 1.5%, followed by the Third District (0.8%), and the Fifth District (0.2%) in 2025. Slight decreases of about 1% occurred in the Second and Fourth Districts. See Chart 2A, Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by Judicial Districts: Five-Year Trend 2020-2025, Appendix. See Chart 3A, Map of Active and Inactive Attorneys by County, Appendix.

2025 Active Status Lawyer Practice Demographics

Lawyers on Active status are required each year to provide information on their *pro bono* work, trust accounts, malpractice insurance, and other aspects of their practice as part of the annual registration process, as set out in Supreme Court Rule 756(c)–(g). With the exception of a lawyer’s contact details and whether they carry malpractice insurance, all information collected is kept confidential, reported only in aggregate form, and does not appear in an individual lawyer’s Master Roll listing.

Practice Setting

There were 85,068 lawyers with an Active status license in 2025, representing 87.7% of all registered lawyers. Of those, 76,282 (89.7%) reported that they are currently practicing law.¹¹ Among lawyers who identified as currently practicing, 49,667 (65.1%) work in a private practice setting, a 0.4% decrease from the previous year. See Chart 6A 2020-2025 Practice Setting, Appendix.

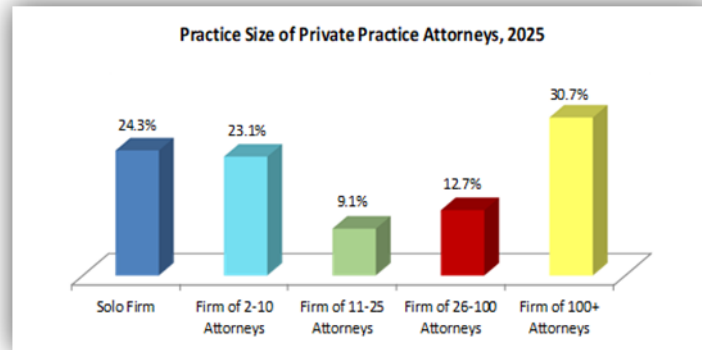
Practice Setting	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Private Practice	66.7%	66.1%	66.5%	66.0%	65.5%	65.1%
Corporate In-House	15.4%	15.5%	15.5%	16.1%	16.1%	16.2%
Government/Judicial	12.1%	12.4%	11.9%	11.9%	12.2%	12.5%
Other	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
Not-for-Profit	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%
Academic	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

Practice Size: Private Practice

Of the 49,667 lawyers in private practice, the number working in firms of ten lawyers or fewer has been steadily shrinking.

The number of solo practitioners declined from 27.4% in 2020 to 24.3% in 2025, and firms with 2 to 10 lawyers dropped from 25.6% to 23.1% over the same period. By 2023, these smaller sized practices no longer represented the majority of private-practice lawyers.

¹¹ Not included in the practice setting demographics are the 8,786 lawyers (11.6%) on Active status who reported that they are not currently practicing law in 2025. These lawyers are not required to provide practice setting information under IL S.Ct.R. 756(g)(4).



In contrast, the number of lawyers practicing in large firms has increased. Firms with more than 100 lawyers have grown nearly 5% since 2020, rising from 26.0% to 30.7% in 2025, making them the largest segment of private practice. See Chart 6A-1 2020-2025 Practice Size: Active Status, Currently Practicing, and in Private Practice, Appendix.

58% of all solos in private practice are over the age of 60 as compared to 32% in firms of 2 to 10 lawyers, 24% in firms between 11 and 25 lawyers, 20% of firms of 26 to 100 lawyers, and 15% of lawyers in firms of 100+. See 2024-2025 Practice Setting Demographics By Age: Charts 6B-1 and 6B-2, Appendix.

Key Takeaways: Supporting the Future of Small Firms

Small private-practice firms are steadily shrinking. The number of solo practitioners has dropped from 27.4% to 24.3% since 2020, and firms of 2–10 lawyers fell from 25.6% to 23.1%, leaving smaller practices no longer the majority by 2023.

At the same time, the number of large-firm lawyers (100+ lawyers) has expanded from 26.0% to 30.7%, emerging as the largest segment within private practice. An aging solo workforce in which 58% of solos are over age 60, along with rising costs, shifting client expectations, and financial pressures on new lawyers is accelerating the decline.

Some actions that could help small firms stay competitive include strengthening succession planning by connecting retiring solo practitioners with younger lawyers or small-firm buyers. Another approach is lowering barriers to launching small practices through grants, loan-forgiveness programs, incubators, and shared-services models such as the Chicago Bar Foundation’s Justice Entrepreneurs Project. A further strategy could involve expanding mentorship and apprenticeship pipelines that link new lawyers with experienced solos to create pathways into small-firm ownership, as for example, the Illinois State Bar Association’s Rural Practice Fellowship Program.

Succession Planning

Lawyers on Active status who are engaged in the practice of law are required under Supreme Court Rule 756(g) to disclose certain practice-related information, including whether their firm has a written succession plan. A succession plan sets out 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 identify a designated individual, ideally another lawyer, who will take responsibility for notifying clients and safeguarding client files, funds, and property. This is especially critical for solo practitioners who work independently.

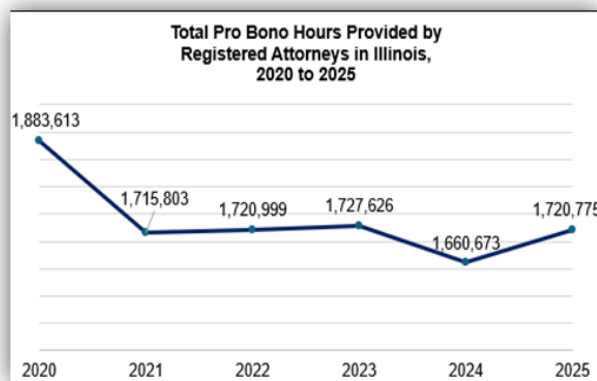
Of the 12,070 Active lawyers who identify as solo practitioners in private practice, only 2,786, about 23%, report having a written succession plan. A large majority, 71%, report that they do not have a written plan in place, and another 6% are unsure whether one exists. See Chart 7A 2020-2025 Succession Planning: Active Status, Currently Practicing, and in Private Practice, Appendix.

This pattern becomes more apparent as additional data shows that 29% of solo practitioners report having no succession plan and no malpractice insurance, and 66% are over the age of 60. See Chart 7B, Appendix.

Report on *Pro Bono* Activities

All Illinois attorneys are required to report any voluntary *pro bono* work they performed, as well as any charitable donations made in support of legal services, when they complete their annual registration under Supreme Court Rule 756(f). Even though these activities are voluntary, reporting is mandatory. The information lawyers provide about their *pro bono* efforts and their client trust accounts is protected by Supreme Court Rule 766, which keeps these details confidential. As a result, none of this data appears on a lawyer's public listing on the ARDC website or on the Master Roll.

In 2025, 29,126 lawyers provided a total of 1,720,775 *pro bono* legal service hours, representing a 0.6% increase in total hours despite a slight 0.2% decline in the number of participating lawyers. See Chart 8A Report on Pro Bono Hours (2020-2025), Appendix. Those who did volunteer provided an average of 59 hours each, more than the American Bar Association's recommended minimum of 50 hours annually. See ABA Model Rule 6.1, Comment [1]. This indicates that a smaller group of lawyers is carrying a growing share of the *pro bono* workload.



Over the past five years, there has been a decline in both participation and total hours. The percentage of lawyers providing *pro bono* legal services has decreased from 33.0% in 2020 to 30.0% in 2025. During the same period, the total number of *pro bono* hours reported has fallen by 162,838 hours, or 8.6%, compared to 2020.

Year	# of attorneys	% of Total Registered Attorneys
2020	31,325	33%
2021	30,646	32%
2022	29,594	31%
2023	29,389	31%
2024	29,193	30%
2025	29,126	30%

In 2025, 67,871 lawyers reported not providing *pro bono* legal services. Among them, 9,588 (14.1%) reported that their employment prohibited them from offering such services, a figure consistent with last year.

Key Takeaways: Pro Bono Trends and Their Impact

Pro bono work is increasingly shouldered by fewer lawyers. In 2025, lawyers contributed 1.72 million pro bono hours, a slight overall increase, even as the number of participating lawyers declined. Those who volunteered averaged 59 hours each, surpassing the ABA’s 50-hour annual benchmark.

Participation, however, continues to fall. Only 30% of lawyers reported providing *pro bono* services in 2025, down from 33% in 2020, and total hours have dropped 8.6% over the same period.

This growing concentration of *pro bono* work among a shrinking group of lawyers underscores a widening access-to-justice gap, as fewer lawyers are available to meet rising legal needs of low-income consumers.

Monetary contributions provide an additional aspect of the profession’s *pro bono* engagement. In 2025, 15,392 lawyers reported donating a total of \$17,935,346 to *pro bono* service organizations, averaging \$1,165 per contributing lawyer. However, the number of lawyers making such contributions has declined by 3% since 2020, mirroring the broader downward trend in volunteer and charitable activity. See Chart 8B Monetary Contributions to *Pro Bono* Service Organizations (2020-2025), Appendix.

Most Illinois lawyers help fund legal aid through the \$95 portion of the annual Active status registration fee that is remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, along with additional charitable contributions made individually. For the 2025 registration year, \$7,432,020 was remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund, an increase of \$555,540 over the prior year. This rise is largely attributable to the elimination of the discounted registration fee for early-career lawyers.

Effective October 1, 2024, the Illinois Supreme Court amended Rule 756(a)(1) to eliminate the \$121 reduced registration fee previously paid by lawyers between one and three years of practice. With the removal of the discounted fee, additional funding has been directed to key

Supreme Court-funded entities, including the Lawyers Trust Fund and the Lawyers' Assistance Program, which previously did not receive any portion of the reduced fee. A total of \$116,918,284 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

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

Because private practitioners typically receive or manage client or third-party funds, they are generally required to maintain a trust account. If no trust account existed within the past 12 months, the lawyer must provide an explanation for its absence.

In 2025, 46,667 (48.1%) of all 96,997 registered lawyers reported that they or their law firm maintained a trust account during the preceding 12 months. Of these trust accounts, 83% were IOLTA accounts, while 17% were non-IOLTA accounts. Of the 50,330 lawyers who reported that they or their law firm did not maintain a trust account, 26,456 (53%) indicated that they had no outside practice due to full-time employment in a corporation or governmental agency. These numbers are consistent with the figures from last year. See Chart 8C, 2025 Trust Account Disclosure Reports, Appendix.

For the 49,667 Active status lawyers in private practice, reports of IOLTA accounts declined in every firm size category, while non-IOLTA accounts rose sharply in 2025 to 10.2% as compared to 5.5% in 2024. This jump in non-IOLTA trust accounts may reflect that more lawyers are handling matters that require individual client accounts, such as real estate transactions, probate matters, settlements, or other work involving higher-value deposits or funds expected to be held for longer periods.

At the same time, the number of lawyers reporting no trust account at all grew modestly from 14.5% in 2024 to 15.4% in 2025. See Chart 8D, 2020-2025 Trust Account Reports of Active Status and in Private Practice, Appendix.

Malpractice Insurance

Most Illinois lawyers are required to disclose, under Supreme Court Rule 756(e), whether they have malpractice insurance coverage and, if so, to provide details about the dates of coverage. Illinois lawyers are not required to carry malpractice insurance as a prerequisite for practicing law under their Illinois license, however, clients may assume that their lawyer has malpractice insurance. Disclosure of malpractice coverage in a lawyer's registration report is publicly

available information on the ARDC website. Lawyers not actively practicing law, as well as in-house counsel and government lawyers typically do not carry malpractice insurance.

In 2025, 53.5% of all 96,997 registered lawyers reported that they have malpractice insurance, a 1% decline over the past five years. See Chart 9A Malpractice Disclosure: 2020-2025, Appendix. However, of the 49,674 lawyers with an Active status license and engaged in private practice (a group more likely to require malpractice coverage), this percentage rises significantly. 43,365 or 87.5% of lawyers in private practice reported that they carried malpractice insurance, a slight overall increase of 0.8% over the past five years.

In terms of practice size, 7,699 sole practitioners (63.8%) reported carrying malpractice insurance, compared with 10,715 lawyers (93.2%) in 2–10-lawyer firms. See Chart 9B Malpractice Disclosure: Active Status, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice: 2020-2025, Appendix. Many solo practitioners who answered “No” to the malpractice question selected as their reason the belief that their risk of malpractice liability is minimal given the nature of their practice.

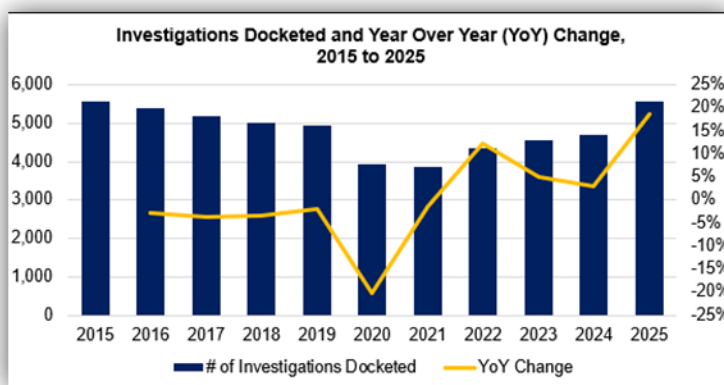
Ensuring Accountability

The ARDC's mission is to preserve and advance the integrity of the legal profession. While the ARDC values a balanced approach to attorney regulation, one that prioritizes education, proactive and restorative services, the license to practice law is a privilege not a right. Discipline is sought when necessary to protect the public and preserve trust in the profession. Each year ARDC's investigative and prosecutorial work plays a critical role in fulfilling that responsibility.

2025 Investigations

Investigations Initiated in 2025

In 2025, the Commission initiated 5,586 investigations, an 18.7% increase over 2024 and the highest annual total in more than 15 years, as shown in the chart below.



This surge follows a prolonged period of decline. From 2015 to 2021, the number of docketed investigations fell each year, dropping from 5,554 to 3,881, a 30% decrease over six years. The 2021 low point aligns with the height of the pandemic, when court operations, law offices, and client interactions were significantly disrupted. Beginning in 2022, the pattern reverses, with steady year-over-year increases through 2025, reaching its highest level since 2015 and representing a 44% increase from the 2021 low. See Chart 10 Ten-Year Trend of Types of Investigations: 2015-2025, Appendix.

In 2025, investigations involved charges against 3,964 lawyers, representing approximately 4.1% of the 96,997 registered lawyers. This reflects a 0.6% increase in the number of lawyers who received complaints compared with the previous year. Notably, 787 of the 3,964 lawyers complained about, roughly 20%, were involved in more than one investigation, a proportion consistent with last year. See Chart 11, Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations Docketed in 2025, Appendix.

Key Takeaways: Reducing Risk Through Education and Mentorship

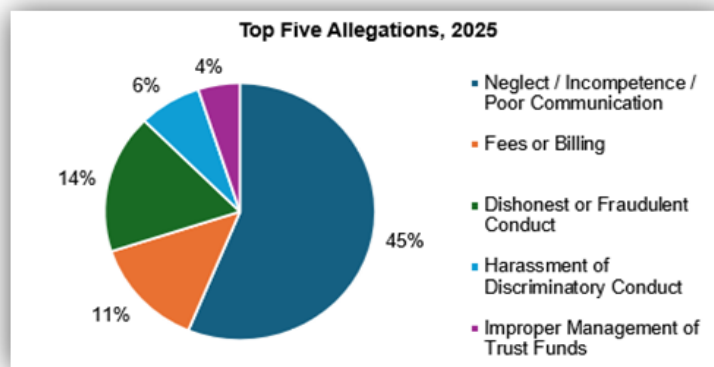
Disciplinary matters continue to occur disproportionately among solo practitioners and small firm lawyers.

Solo practice presents unique challenges, including limited administrative support and fewer opportunities for peer consultation.

Education, mentoring, and law practice management resources can play an important role in helping solo practitioners manage these risks effectively.

Disciplinary Investigations

Because most disciplinary matters originate from complaints by clients or former clients, allegations connected to the attorney–client relationship continue to predominate. In 2025, issues involving neglect, incompetence, and inadequate communication accounted for 45% of all complaints, underscoring ongoing breakdowns in the professional relationship. See Chart 13 Classification of Charges By Allegations in 2025, Appendix.



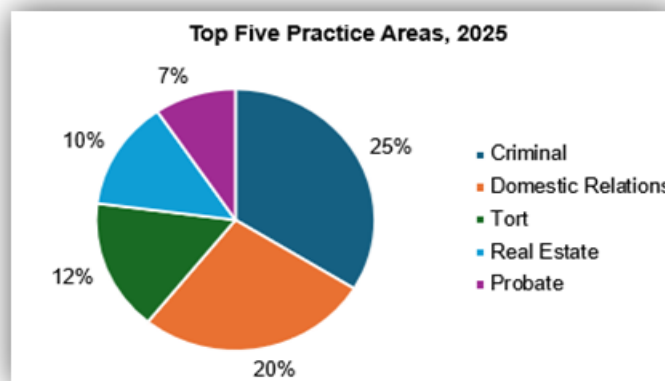
Clients and former clients remain the single largest source of disciplinary complaints, representing roughly half of all matters. Their share, however, has gradually declined, from 53.2% in 2023 to 50.3% in 2025. Over the same period, complaints from opposing parties and individuals categorized as “other” (including witnesses, relatives, and acquaintances) rose by 2–4%. See Chart 12 Investigations by Complainant Type in 2025.

This trend could reflect better client-lawyer communication or simply growth in other categories. The system is gradually seeing proportionally more complaints from non-clients: opposing parties and “Other.” Grievances filed by opposing parties rose from 22.9%

Complainant	2022	2023	2024	2025
Client / Former Client	52%	53%	51%	50%
Opposing Party	23%	22%	24%	24%
Other (e.g., witness, relative, acquaintance)	11%	11%	12%	14%

(2023) to 24.3% (2025). Opposing-party complaints often stem from perceived incivility, discovery disputes, more contentious disputes, and more self-represented litigants. Similarly, the “Other” category of complainants, individuals such as witnesses, relatives, acquaintances and those that do not fall into the other categories of complainants, increased from 10.6% in 2022 to 14.1% in 2025. See Chart 12.

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.

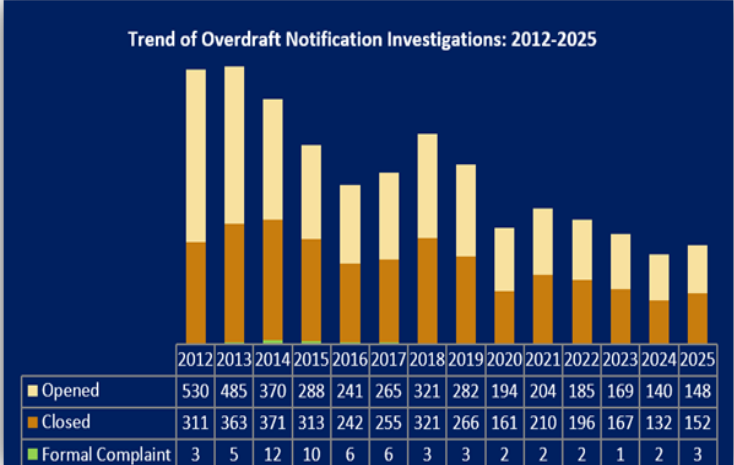


Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations

Rule 1.15B (formerly Rule 1.15(h)) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct requires financial institutions to notify the ARDC whenever an IOLTA or non-IOLTA client trust account is overdrawn. Although most overdrafts stem from mathematical mistakes, clerical errors, or other bookkeeping mistakes rather than intentional misuse of client funds, each notification triggers an investigation that remains open until the lawyer demonstrates that appropriate corrective steps have been taken. These steps may include reviewing relevant sections of the ARDC’s *Client Trust Account Handbook* or completing an ARDC webinar on the requirements of Rule 1.15 and related provisions.

In 2025, the ARDC opened 148 overdraft-notification investigations, eight more than the previous year. See Chart 17, Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations (2020–2025), in the Appendix.

Despite this uptick, the overall number of overdraft matters has been trending downward since at least 2021, and the accompanying chart illustrates the long-term decline in automatic overdraft investigations since the rule took effect in September 2011.



Several factors may explain the reduction in recent years, including better financial management by lawyers and law firms, wider adoption of accounting software and automated trust-accounting tools, expanded training on proper trust-account practices, and economic conditions that may have reduced the volume of matters requiring lawyers to hold client or third-party funds.

When an overdraft investigation reveals that client funds were actually misappropriated, the matter typically results in formal disciplinary charges. In 2025, only three overdraft investigations led to formal complaints. Since 2012, the ARDC has opened 3,822 overdraft-related investigations, but only 60, about 1.6%, have resulted in formal discipline.

Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations

The ARDC investigates allegations of the unauthorized practice of law (UPL) and initiates proceedings against suspended and disbarred Illinois lawyers, out-of-state lawyers licensed in another jurisdiction and persons not licensed in any jurisdiction pursuant to its authority under Supreme Court Rule 779. This authority is an important component of the ARDC’s public-protection mission. UPL can expose clients to incorrect legal advice, missed deadlines, financial harm, and the loss of important legal rights. By identifying and addressing unlicensed practice, the ARDC helps ensure that legal services in Illinois are provided only by individuals who are qualified, regulated, and accountable to professional standards. See Page 13.

Investigations Concluded in 2025

Investigations Closed by ARDC Staff Lawyers

A total of 5,080 investigations were closed in 2025, a 12.2% increase over the 4,528 investigations closed in 2024. Of these 5,080 investigations, 4,909 were concluded by the Administrator’s staff, also a 12% increase over last year’s total of 4,366. See Chart 15 Investigations Concluded in 2025. Of the 4,909 investigations closed by the Administrator’s staff, 2,666 investigations were closed after initial review after it was determined that the grievance did not warrant a disciplinary or unauthorized practice investigation, an increase of 37.1% from the

1,944 in 2024. Of these, 88% were closed within 60 days of being docketed.

2,241 grievances were resolved after a full investigation. Of these, 27.3% were closed within 60 days of being docketed, 23.8% between 90 and 180 days, 35.2% between 180 and 365 days, and 13.0% more than 365 days. See Chart 16 Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2025, Appendix.

Nine grievances were closed as the result of the filing of disciplinary charges under Supreme Court Rule 757, 762(a), or 763, and another 14 investigations were closed by the lawyer’s agreement to complete certain diversionary conditions under the ARDC Diversion Program. See Page 8. Otherwise, an investigation is closed because either there was insufficient evidence of misconduct or the concerns raised by the complainant were resolved or addressed by the lawyer. See Chart 15.

Investigations Closed by Inquiry Panel Review

If an investigation finds evidence of misconduct that may warrant prosecution, the case goes to the Inquiry Board, unless it is filed directly with the Supreme Court under Rules 757, 761, 762(a), or 763.

The Inquiry Board consists of Commission-appointed attorneys and public members who meet in three-person panels (two attorneys, one public member). A panel may authorize a formal disciplinary complaint, close an investigation for insufficient evidence, or place an attorney under supervision under Commission Rule 108. The Administrator cannot file formal charges without panel approval.

In 2025, the Inquiry Board closed after review 18 grievances, voted to file a formal disciplinary complaint or petition in 139 grievances against 57 lawyers, and closed 14 grievances after the lawyer’s completion of Commission Rule 108 conditions. See Chart 15.

2025 Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings

Hearing Board Filings

Most disciplinary prosecutions start with a formal complaint. A disciplinary complaint is filed against a lawyer only after an Inquiry Board panel has approved this action. The case then moves to a Hearing Board panel, which includes two lawyers and one nonlawyer appointed by the Commission. All Hearing Board proceedings are public, except for hearings under Supreme Court

Hearing Board Case Load, 2025				
Year	Pending January 1st	Filed During Year	Concluded During Year	Pending December 31st
2020	61	40	46	55
2021	55	53	55	53
2022	53	56	56	53
2023	53	43	53	43
2024	43	50	39	54
2025	54	50	51	53

Rule 758, which involve petitions to transfer a lawyer to disability inactive status.

The Hearing Board hears evidence on formal complaints alleging misconduct under Supreme Court Rule 753 and complaints arising from criminal convictions under Rule 761. In addition, the Board hears petitions for reinstatement pursuant to Rule 767; petitions for transfer to disability inactive status under Rule 758; petitions for restoration to active status under Rule 759; and petitions seeking reciprocal discipline under Rule 763.

In 2025, 50 new matters were filed before the Hearing Board, the same number as last year. Of these, 48 were initiated through the filing of disciplinary complaints, two more than the prior year.

A single formal complaint may contain multiple allegations. Fraudulent or deceptive conduct remained the most frequently cited category of misconduct, appearing in 65% of formal complaints. These allegations commonly involve misrepresentations to clients, tribunals, or other parties, as well as the misuse of trust funds. Additionally, 31% of formal disciplinary complaints involved a lawyer's criminal conduct or conviction. See Chart 20C Types of Misconduct Alleged in 2025, Appendix.

Among practice areas, labor and workers' compensation matters, along with probate matters, were the most common, each representing 15% of complaints. See Chart 20D Subject Area (2025), Appendix.

Among the 48 lawyers charged with misconduct, those with 41 or more years of experience have the highest complaint rates (24.6%) compared to their numbers in the profession (11.6%). Complaints also peak for lawyers with 21–30 years in practice, where they make up 20.5% of the bar but account for 28.3% of complaints. These patterns show that risk is not limited to inexperience. Instead, the most vulnerable periods appear to be mid-career, when lawyers are most active and autonomous, and late career, when maintaining the same level of practice can become more challenging. See Chart 20B Demographics of Lawyers Charged in 2025, Appendix. These patterns are also reflected in the lawyers who were disciplined by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2025. See Page 35.

Attorneys Charged With Complaints, 2025				
Years in Practice	# of Complaints Filed	% of Complaints Filed	% of Attorney Population	Over/Underrepresented in Attorney Population
Less than 5	1	2%	12%	-10%
5 to 10	6	13%	12%	1%
11 to 20	11	24%	38%	4%
21 to 30	13	28%	21%	8%
31 to 40	4	9%	17%	-8%
41 to 50	9	20%	9%	10%
50+	2	4%	2%	2%

Hearing Board Dispositions

Hearing Board Dispositions, 2025	
Disciplinary Cases: Rules 753 and 761(d)	46
Case closed by filing of petition for discipline on consent rather than disbarment	20
Recommendation of discipline after contested hearing	9
Recommendation of discipline after default hearings	10
Case closed by filing of motion for disbarment or consent	5
Complaint voluntarily dismissed before hearing	1
Case closed upon death of respondent ¹⁰	1
Disability Inactive Cases: Rule 7585	2
Recommendation to transfer to disability inactive status after contested hearing	1
Petition dismissed by filing of motion to transfer to disability inactive status	1
Restoration to Active Status: Rule 753	1
Recommendation to restore to active status after contested hearing	1
Reinstatement Petitions: Rule 767	1
Petition allowed with conditions after contested hearings	1
Unauthorized Practice of Law: Rule 779	1
Cases closed by filing of petition for discipline on consent other than disbarment	1
Total Matters Terminated in 2025	51

The Hearing Board resolved 51 cases in 2025, as shown in this chart. 12 (23.5%) cases proceeded to contested hearings and 39 cases (76.5%) were concluded without a contested hearing: 26 cases settled through consent, 10 concluded by default,¹² two cases voluntarily dismissed before a hearing, and one case closed due to the lawyer's death.

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.

In 2025, nine cases were appealed to the Review Board, with respondent-lawyers initiating seven of those appeals.

Seven cases were concluded by the Review Board in 2025. In five of them, the Board affirmed the Hearing Board's findings and disciplinary recommendations. In the remaining two, the respondent-lawyer's notice of exceptions was stricken.

Review Board Cases, 2025	
Cases Filed Before Review Board	9
Exceptions filed by respondent / petitioner	7
Exceptions filed by Administrator	2
Exceptions filed by both	0
Cases Concluded by Review Board	7
Hearing Board findings and sanction recommendation affirmed	5
Hearing Board findings and / or sanction recommendation reversed	0
Notice of exceptions stricken / withdrawn	2

Petitions for leave to file exceptions to the Review Board's report and recommendation were filed in three matters: two by respondent-lawyers and one by the Administrator.

¹² Despite the diligent efforts of ARDC staff counsel to involve respondent-lawyers in the disciplinary proceedings, some lawyers fail to participate. Failure to respond to the complaint and cooperate during the proceedings are viewed as aggravating factors in the Board's report and recommendation to the Illinois Supreme Court. Of the nine lawyers who defaulted in 2025, all nine were suspended until further order of the Court.

Supreme Court Matters

Disciplinary Cases – Filings in the Supreme Court

Disciplinary cases reach the Court in several ways. The chart below shows filings in the Supreme Court in disciplinary matters between 2020 and 2025. Certain disciplinary matters are filed directly with the Court, while others originate before the Hearing Board. Voluntary disbarments and petitions for reciprocal discipline are filed directly in the Supreme Court. In 2025, there were 23 direct filings, including eight petitions for voluntary disbarment and 15 petitions for reciprocal discipline.

Filings in the Supreme Court, 2025					
Year	Direct Filings in the Court	Petitions for Interim Suspension	Disciplinary Proceedings Disposition Findings	Permanent Retirement Petitions Disposition Filings	Petitions for Reinstatement
2020	32	5	55	4	4
2021	41	6	37	3	4
2022	16	5	58	3	8
2023	18	5	48	1	0
2024	23	8	40	2	1
2025	23	4	42	5	0

Additionally, four petitions for interim suspension were filed in the Supreme Court in 2025. 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.

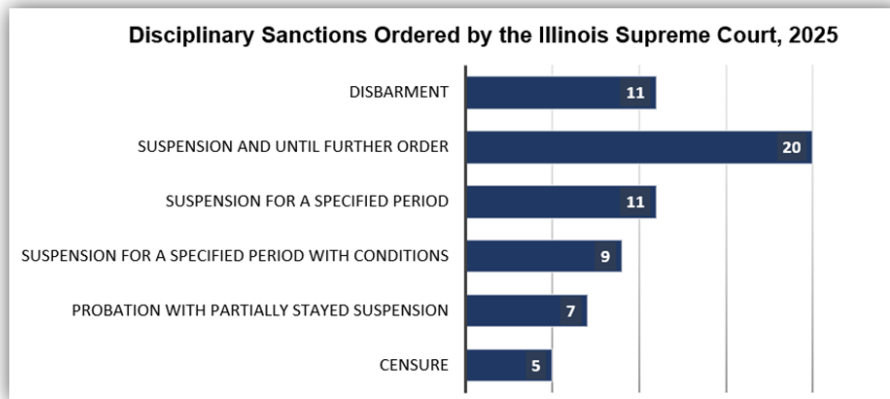
An interim suspension can also be sought if the Inquiry Board authorizes a formal complaint involving fraud, moral turpitude, or conduct that threatens irreparable harm to the public, the lawyer's clients, or the administration of justice, provided there is persuasive evidence to support the charge (IL 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, 42 cases were filed with the Supreme Court in 2025 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 2025, the Court imposed 63 sanctions. Nearly half of these cases (49%) resulted in disbarment or suspension until further order of the Court. This reflects that the most serious misconduct continues to be prosecuted. It also highlights the Commission’s shift toward more proactive work, investing more resources into early intervention and education, while focusing formal prosecution on the relatively small number of lawyers whose conduct poses the greatest risk to the public and the profession.

Another 32% of sanctions imposed in 2025 were fixed-term suspensions, followed by 11% that included probationary conditions and 8% that resulted in censure. See Chart 21A Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered by the Supreme Court in 2025, Appendix.

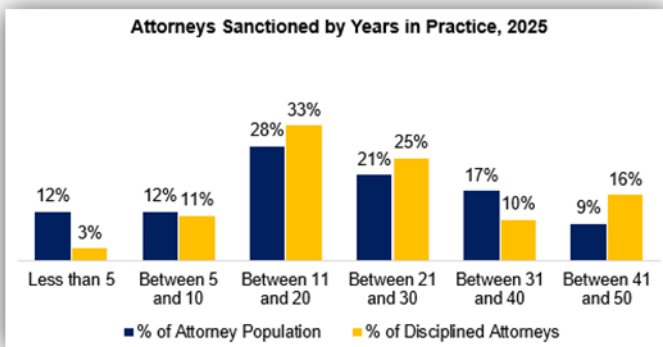
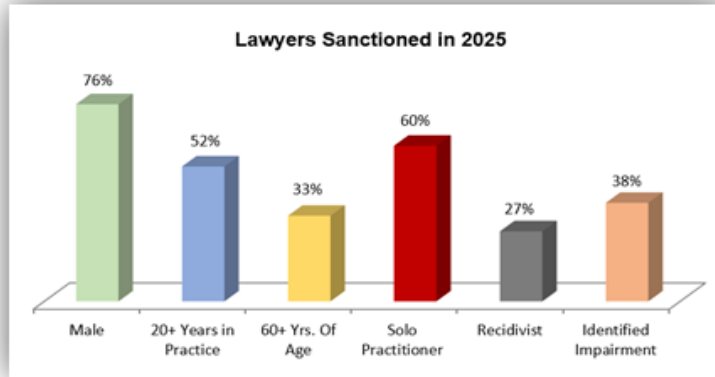


In 55 (87%) of the cases, sanctions were entered by the Supreme Court in 2025 without the need for a formal hearing before the Hearing Board. Only eight cases, or 13%, reached the Supreme Court after a contested hearing before the Hearing Board. See Chart 21A-1 Disposition of 63 Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered in 2025, 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. After the Court issues its disciplinary decision, the Administrator prepares a detailed statement of these costs, adds it to the official record, and serves it on the lawyer. If the lawyer challenges the assessment or does not pay within 30 days of receiving the cost statement or order for excess costs, the Administrator may request that the Court compel payment. In 2025, the Commission collected \$28,472 in cost reimbursements from 29 lawyers.

Demographics of Lawyers Sanctioned in 2025

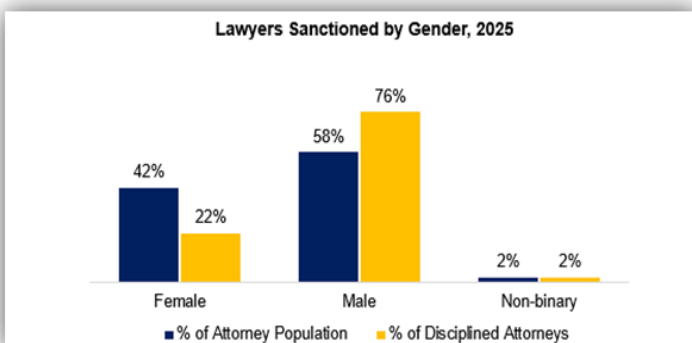
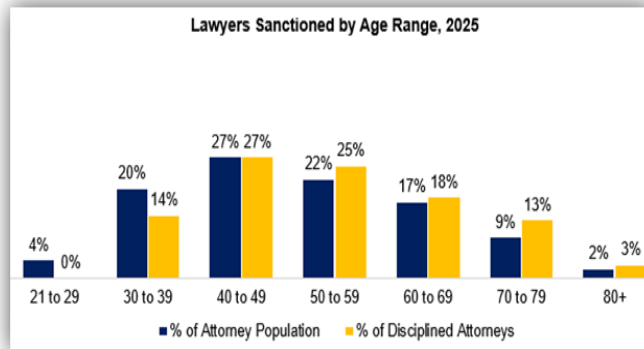
Disciplinary data from 2025 continues to show that discipline is most common among older, long-tenured, and predominantly male lawyers.



Lawyers with more than 20 years of experience make up 47% of the profession but account for over 52% of disciplined attorneys. The largest imbalance appears among those with 40 or more years in practice: they represent only 12% of the bar yet nearly 18% of disciplined lawyers. This pattern suggests that risk does not peak early in a career; instead, it tends to rise with longevity in practice,

possibly due to accumulated exposure, shifting work habits, or reduced oversight.

Age-related figures show a similar rise in risk. Lawyers under 40 are disciplined less often than their share of the profession would predict (14% of disciplined attorneys versus 20% of the bar), while those aged 60 and older are disciplined at disproportionately high rates (33% of disciplined attorneys versus 27% of the bar).



Male lawyers accounted for more than 76% of disciplined attorneys in 2025, despite representing only 58% of the profession.

Of the 63 lawyers disciplined in 2025, 38 were sole practitioners, representing 60% of the lawyers

disciplined, even though they comprise 24% of all private practice lawyers. Seventeen (27%) were recidivists who had been disciplined by the Court in the past. In terms of geographic distribution, 29 lawyers (46%) were principally located in Cook County and the surrounding Chicago metropolitan counties of DuPage, Lake, McHenry, and Will; 19 practiced out of state; and 15 were based in various other counties across Illinois. See Charts 21B-21D, Appendix.

Thirty-four lawyers (54%) of the 63 lawyers disciplined in 2025 were *pro se* in the proceedings. See Chart 21D, Appendix. Legal representation helps ensure fairness during disciplinary proceedings. Among the 34 lawyers who represented themselves, 17 lawyers faced serious misconduct charges, resulting in either disbarment (5) or suspension until further notice from the Court (12).

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 2025, 24 lawyers, 38% of the 63 disciplined lawyers, faced known issues related to substance abuse or mental impairment. This is a nearly 5% increase over the previous year and over an 11% rise over the past decade from the 27% reported in 2015. 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.¹³

Of the 24 lawyers identified as experiencing a mental health or substance-related impairment, more than half (13, or 54%) were facing more than one personal or health-related challenge at the same time. Mental-health-related impairments (32) were identified more often than chemical-dependency related ones (13). Depression remained the most frequently reported condition (11), followed by alcoholism (7). See Chart 21E Impairments Identified for Lawyers Disciplined in 2025, Appendix. This shift from impairments related to alcohol or drug use toward impairments rooted in psychological conditions is consistent with the findings in the Lawyers' Assistance Program's latest annual report.¹⁴

Of the 24 lawyers identified, 20 (83%) were in private practice, including 12 sole practitioners (50%). Most were under the age of 60, with 21 lawyers (88%) falling into that group. The largest

¹³ In addition to probationary conditions set by the Illinois Supreme Court in disciplinary cases, 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 Page 9. In 2025, a total of 42 lawyers were monitored for compliance with substance abuse or mental health conditions.

¹⁴ 52% of LAP's caseload involved mental health issues versus substance dependency problems (23%). See LAP 2024-2025 Annual Report at <https://illinoislap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2024-2025-annual-report-FINAL.pdf>.

age cohort was lawyers between 50 and 59, representing eight individuals (33%).

Among the 12 lawyers who were sole practitioners, depression was the most frequently reported impairment, affecting 7 of them. These figures reflect only cases in which impairments were self-reported or otherwise known to staff counsel, so the true number of affected lawyers is almost certainly higher. See Charts 21E and 21F, Appendix.

Key Takeaways: Understanding the Role of Impairment in Misconduct

In 2025, 38% of disciplined lawyers were dealing with mental health or substance-related impairments, a 5% increase from 2024 and an 11% rise over the past decade. More than half faced multiple impairments.

Most were private practitioners, including 12 sole practitioners, half of whom reported depression. Nearly 90% were under age 60, with lawyers in their 50s making up the largest group.

Because these figures reflect only known or self-reported impairments, the true number is almost certainly higher. The profession faces a clear challenge: to build stronger, earlier support systems that stop impairment from progressing into misconduct.

2025 Developments

Amendments to the Rules Regulating the Legal Profession

Supreme Court Rules and IL Rules of Professional Conduct

On April 1, 2025, the Court adopted three new rules impacting the legal profession: a new rule on attorney fee petitions; a pilot project for *pro bono* MCLE credits; and amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct to permit lawyers to participate in organizations that connect lawyers to potential clients, typically via the internet (aka intermediary connecting services or ICS).

Effective July 1, 2025, they are:

- New Supreme Court Rule 300 Governing Attorney’s Fee Petitions provides that hourly billing records are required only under specific circumstances set forth in the rules and establishes that alternative fee agreements can be the basis for fee petitions;
- Amended Supreme Court Rule 795(d) allows lawyers to earn CLE credits for providing *pro bono* legal assistance through Illinois Free Legal Answers, an ABA pilot program and virtual legal advice clinic in which qualifying users post civil legal questions at no cost to be answered by *pro bono* lawyers; and
- Amended Rules 1.6 and 7.2 define “intermediary connecting service” and permit lawyers to participate in an ICS when certain conditions are met, including conducting due diligence before and during their participation in an ICS to ensure that the ICS is complying with certain requirements (which can be accomplished via an annual ICS certification letter, the form of which follows Rule 7.2).

ARDC Commission Rule 510 Payment of Claims; ARDC Client Protection Program

ARDC Commission Rule 510 Payment of Claims sets the conditions under which the Client Protection Program (CPP) may pay a claim. The CPP exists to reimburse clients for financial losses caused by the dishonest conduct of Illinois lawyers or involving unearned and unrefunded fees paid to lawyers who later died or were transferred to disability inactive status.

On April 4, 2025, effective January 1, 2026, the rule was amended to raise the maximum per claim payment limit to any one claimant from \$100,000 to \$150,000, as well as increase the aggregate payment cap arising from the conduct of any one lawyer from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. The caps were increased to better address the growing financial impact of claimant losses and to ensure more adequate compensation in cases of attorney misconduct.

Commission Board Changes

ARDC Supreme Court Liaison

Justice Joy V. Cunningham Named as ARDC Liaison



Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joy V. Cunningham was named as the Supreme Court's liaison to the ARDC in 2025. She succeeds Justice David K. Overstreet who served as liaison from March 2023 to December 2025.

The ARDC Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court for three-year terms, four Illinois lawyers and three nonlawyers (public members). The Commission has administrative responsibility for the registration and discipline of Illinois lawyers. The Commission acts as a board of directors for the disciplinary agency, setting general policy and overseeing its implementation.

ARDC Commissioners

J. Nelson Wood Appointment as Chairperson, Commissioners



The Illinois Supreme Court appointed J. Nelson Wood to serve as Chairperson of the Commission, effective January 1, 2026. Mr. Wood has served as a Commissioner since January 1, 2019, and is a sole practitioner with offices in Mt. Vernon and Chicago. His practice focuses on coal, oil, and gas matters. He earned his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1980. He also holds an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and a B.S. in Finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

Mr. Wood succeeds John H. Simpson, who served as Chairperson of the ARDC Commissioners in 2025, after previously serving as Vice-Chairperson from 2022 to 2024. Mr. Simpson had been a Commissioner since 2017, concluding his term on December 31, 2025.

Kate L. McCracken Appointment as Vice Chairperson, Commissioners



Kate L. McCracken was appointed Vice Chairperson of the Commission by the Illinois Supreme Court, effective January 1, 2026. She has served as a Commissioner since January 1, 2022, and is a shareholder at Hoscheit, McGuirk, McCracken & Cuscaden, P.C., where her practice focuses on commercial and residential real estate, probate, contract law, and construction litigation. She has also served on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness. Ms. McCracken holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and earned her law degree from Seattle University School of Law.

ARDC Review Board

Esther J. Seitz Appointment as Chairperson, Review Board



Esther J. Seitz was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve as Review Board Chairperson beginning January 1, 2026. She succeeds J. Timothy Eaton, whose term concluded on December 31, 2025. Ms. Seitz has served on the Review Board since January 1, 2020, was Vice-Chairperson from 2024 to 2025, and previously served on the Hearing Board from 2018 to 2019. She is a partner at the Chicago law firm Mandell Menkes LLC, where her practice focuses on media, intellectual property, First Amendment, and construction matters. She earned bachelor's degrees in economics and English from Centenary College of Louisiana, a law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law, and an LL.M. in intellectual property law from MIPLC, a collaboration of the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law in Munich and the George Washington University School of Law.

George E. Marron, III Appointment as Vice Chairperson, Review Board



George E. Marron III was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve as Review Board Vice Chairperson beginning January 1, 2026. He has served on the Review Board since December 2017 and is a sole practitioner in Highland Park, where his practice focuses on business law, commercial litigation, banking law, creditors' rights, government law, real estate, and matters involving corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies. He earned his undergraduate degree, M.B.A. in finance, and J.D. from St. Louis University. Mr. Marron is a past president of the Madison County Bar Association (1998–1999) and previously served on the ARDC Hearing Board (2006–2017) and the Oversight Committee (2006–2008 and 2009–2014).

Steven Forbes Pflaum Appointment as Lawyer Member, Review Board



Steven Forbes Pflaum was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve as a member of the ARDC Review Board for a term beginning January 1, 2026. Mr. Pflaum is a partner at Neal Gerber Eisenberg, where he represents clients in complex civil litigation matters before state and federal courts nationwide. He is a past President of the Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and a former Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility. He is also a founding member and longtime

Chair of the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee, where he played a key role in developing what became the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct of 2023. Mr. Pflaum received his Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Michigan and his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

He succeeds ARDC Review Board member J. Timothy Eaton, whose term expired on December 31, 2025. Mr. Eaton had served as a member of the Review Board since 2016, was Vice Chairperson from 2021 to 2023, and was Chairperson from 2024 until his term ended on December 31, 2025.

ARDC Events in 2025

ARDC Board Seminar – October 16, 2025, University Club, Chicago

The ARDC hosted its annual CLE seminar and reception for Board members, which drew more than 100 volunteer Board members, Respondent’s counsel, and ARDC staff attorneys.



First District Admissions Ceremony

The ARDC provides administrative support in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts for the First District bar admission ceremonies held each May and November.



November 5, 2025, UIC Forum, Chicago

Supreme Court Chief Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr. administered the oath in two separate First District ceremonies held in Chicago. A total of 1,637 new attorneys were sworn on November 5, 2025, across all the state’s five judicial districts.

May 7, 2025, Harris Theatre, Chicago

Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis, Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., and First District Appellate Court Justice Rena Van Tine presided over the swearing in of 222 new attorneys in the First Judicial District. Across all five judicial districts, a total of 282 attorneys took their oath on May 7th.



Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP) 2025 Awards Dinner - October 8, 2025, Brookfield Zoo

The Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP) held its 2025 Annual Awards Dinner on October 8, 2025. Themed *"Let Your Inner Voice Roar!"*, the event celebrated both the supporters and beneficiaries of LAP. Justice David Ellis served as the featured guest speaker, and the evening honored several award recipients, including ARDC Administrator Lea S. Gutierrez, who received LAP's Executive Director Award in recognition of her significant contributions to advancing LAP's mission and goals.



2025 Award Recipients

Carl H. Rolewick Award: Shawn Kasserman (ISBA President, 2023-2024)
Daneen Fitzpatrick Award: Dorothy Carroll
Executive Director Award: Lea S. Gutierrez
Warren Wolfson Award: NIU College of Law Profs. Brian Shore, Colleen Boraca, Paul Cain, and Asst. Dean Greg Anderson



ARDC Administrator, Lea S. Gutierrez



LAP Executive Director, Dr. Diana Uchiyama and ARDC Administrator, Lea S. Gutierrez

All photographs on this page used with the permission of the Lawyers' Assistance Program of Illinois.
Photography by Steve/WarmowskiPhotography.com.

National Client Protection Program (NCPO) Annual Meeting – September 25, 2025

Eileen W. Donahue, former Director of the ARDC Client Protection Program, was recognized with the prestigious Isaac Hecht Award by the National Client Protection Organization (NCPO) during its annual meeting in September 2025. This national honor recognizes exceptional contributions to client protection in the legal profession and is awarded to individuals or organizations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to safeguarding clients from lawyer dishonesty. It is one of the highest awards in the field of client protection in North America. Ms. Donahue retired from the ARDC at the end of 2025.



Chicago Bar Association Achievements and Recognitions Awards – May 22, 2025



On May 22, 2025, the Chicago Bar Association held its Achievements and Recognitions Awards to honor distinguished members, leaders, and volunteers. The CBA's UPL and Multijurisdictional Practice Committee—co-chaired by Myrrha Guzman, former Intake Group Manager and now Manager, Protective Services Group, and Scott Kozlov, former ARDC counsel and currently member of the ARDC Oversight Committee, received the CBA Outstanding Seminar Award. Tammy Evans, Senior Litigation Counsel and Administrative Supervisor, served as the presenter for that award-winning seminar.

ARDC Operations Initiatives

Organizational Capacity and Talent Development

ARDC has made significant investments in building a stronger and more capable organization. This work included completing a full compensation recalibration and succession-planning initiative to ensure the organization can attract, retain, and develop talent. ARDC also expanded its data capacity by adding a Manager of Data Analytics and Program Evaluation to support data-informed decision-making and more rigorous measurement of program effectiveness. In early 2026, ARDC also welcomed four new staff members, a new Chief Financial Officer to succeed the retiring incumbent and three new lawyers, bringing total staffing across both offices to 95.

The ARDC enhanced its hybrid work policy and broadened internal training on organizational values and performance management to reinforce a culture of excellence, accountability, empathy, and growth. Monthly all-staff meetings and the adoption of key employment policies, such as conflicts of interest standards and whistleblower protections, further strengthened transparency, alignment, and overall organizational health.

Modernization of Systems and Infrastructure

ARDC advanced several initiatives to modernize its operational infrastructure. This work included laying the groundwork for the upcoming iMIS (Integrated Management Information System) upgrade, which will deliver significant improvements in processes related to lawyer registration, and implement enhanced cybersecurity measures to better protect organizational data and systems. The ARDC also launched an online complaint form, expanding accessibility and improving responsiveness in a key public-facing process. See Page 46.

Strengthening ARDC's Public Presence and Brand

ARDC began developing a modern, cohesive brand to elevate the organization's public-facing communications and materials. This work enhanced the clarity of engagement with stakeholders and reinforced a unified organizational identity. Prior to this effort, public-facing materials and communications varied widely in style and presentation, resulting in no consistent brand presence.



Changes for 2026 Registration Cycle

For the 2026 registration cycle, the ARDC implemented three significant updates to the registration questionnaire to improve data quality and better understand the profession's service landscape. Lawyers are now required to re-enter their practice demographics each year, as previously stored responses will no longer auto-populate.



In addition, the ARDC adopted a more targeted approach to data collection aimed at improving the mapping of legal service coverage across Illinois. Lawyers who designate their practice setting as private practice are now required to identify all the counties where they actively practice law, rather than just one county.



Lawyers who affirm that they have provided *pro bono* legal services within the past twelve months are prompted to select the county where those services were rendered from a dropdown menu of 61 counties identified as having 20 or fewer lawyers in the county. Tracking *pro bono* activity in these areas is especially important, as it helps identify underserved regions and the allocation of legal aid resources.

Together, these changes will strengthen the ARDC's ability to analyze practice trends, understand the distribution of legal services, and support more informed regulatory and policy decisions.

ARDC Guidance on Ethical AI Usage



The *Illinois Attorney's Guide to Implementing AI*, effective October 1, 2025, was published on the ARDC website on October 15th. Designed to provide practical guidance on the use of artificial intelligence (AI), the *Guide* explains how different AI systems function and offers strategies for legal practice. It is especially valuable for law firms with limited or no dedicated IT support. The *Guide* also serves as a complement to the Court's official AI policy adopted in December 2024.

Authored by Aaron Brooks, ARDC, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), the *Guide* presents concise, nonbinding guidance that explains how modern Generative AI works and why that matters for confidentiality and security; offers a practical framework to choose and document appropriate tools; and provides a Practice Resource Kit (sample notices, policies, consent form, and a Terms of Use checklist).

What This Means for the Profession

As technological innovation transforms legal practice, it brings both efficiency gains and new ethical responsibilities. Lawyers must stay vigilant about competence and confidentiality, and exercise sound judgment as technology evolves. Continued education and clear regulatory guidance will be essential to ensure these tools are used responsibly and in service of clients.

New ARDC Online Complaint Form

In late December 2025, the ARDC launched a new online complaint form. Previously, complainants had to download a form, save it, and open it in another program before typing. The new version is completed directly in the browser and typically submits instantly.

The online form has significantly lowered barriers for complainants. It is clear, intuitive, and accessible, and it has been well received by the public.

The new form has also streamlined internal workflows by delivering submissions in a consistent format, reducing the time from receipt to staff review. It lays the foundation for deeper integration with the ARDC's case-management system, which will cut duplication, improve data accuracy, and enhance overall efficiency. By creating a cleaner submission process for the public and a more efficient workflow for staff, the ARDC has strengthened trust, improved operations, and positioned itself for continued modernization.

2025 Financial Report

As required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 751(e)(6), The ARDC has annual independent financial audits performed. The attached financials are from the 2025 financial audit.

In 2024, ARDC reassessed its auditing needs and transitioned this required audit from Legacy Professionals LLP (Legacy) to Sikich CPA LLC (Sikich). The 2025 financials presented along with the comparative 2024 financials were both audited by Sikich. In addition, a five-year summary of revenues and expenditures as reported in the audited statements appears after the text in this section.

The ARDC generates most of its revenue 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;
- 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”).

Effective October 1, 2024, the Supreme Court of Illinois amended Rule 756 which 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. As a result, these attorneys are now subject to the full \$385 fee instead of the previous \$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 2025 and 2024, the Client Protection Fund reimbursed the Disciplinary Fund \$453,696 and \$400,087 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. These transfers resulted from revenue shortfalls 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, and no transfers were made in 2025.

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

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
REVENUE					
Investment income (loss) - net	\$ 4,571,439	\$ 3,491,669	\$ 2,639,293	\$ (629,597)	\$ 287,153
Registration and program fees	20,581,142	19,892,406	19,982,761	20,354,610	21,781,609
Cost reimbursements collected	28,473	35,658	42,558	59,094	36,852
Client Protection Program expense reimbursement	453,696	400,087	378,058	352,688	367,778
Transfer from Registration and Discipline	-	80,475	53,952	-	-
Client Protection Program reimbursements	74,356	142,771	6,569	627,730	10,864
Miscellaneous income	25	8,914	-	-	-
Total revenue	25,709,131	24,051,980	23,103,191	20,764,525	22,484,256
EXPENSES					
Salaries and related expenses	14,669,472	13,592,791	12,387,753	11,461,985	11,759,924
Travel	68,012	121,828	169,280	171,033	89,551
Continuing education	220,189	226,939	210,752	148,620	87,080
General expenses and office support	3,023,985	2,437,051	1,453,970	3,340,040	3,135,976
Computer	1,274,899	1,352,517	1,234,972	1,032,813	985,325
Other professional and case-related expenses	1,105,256	705,838	712,269	580,206	536,845
Client Protection program direct expenses	1,462,393	1,742,370	943,190	1,458,312	1,083,830
Transfers to sibling entities	-	549,193	360,345	-	-
Depreciation and amortization	580,754	567,633	333,722	404,261	267,012
Total expenses	22,404,960	21,296,160	17,806,253	18,597,270	17,945,543
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	3,304,171	2,755,820	5,296,938	2,167,255	4,538,713
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	64,319,846	61,564,026	56,267,088	54,099,833	49,561,120
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 67,624,017	\$ 64,319,846	\$ 61,564,026	\$ 56,267,088	\$ 54,099,833
OTHER INFORMATION AT YEAR END					
Number of active registered attorneys	98,001	97,718	97,064	96,952	96,689
Registration fees					
More than one year and less than three years	\$ 210	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121	\$ 121
More than three years	210	210	210	210	230/210
Inactive/out of state	121	121	121	121	121

Appendix – 2025 Statistical Charts

REGISTRATION

Registration data for 2025 is based on the 2025 registration year which ended on August 31, 2025.

Chart 1

Registration Categories for 2025

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of Attorneys</i>
Admitted between January 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025	2,998
Admitted before January 1, 2024.....	77,050
Serving active military duty.....	290
Spouse of active military attorney under Rule 719.....	1
Serving as judge or judicial clerk	1,837
In-House Counsel under Rule 716.....	516
Foreign Legal Consultant under Rule 713	10
Legal Service Program Counsel under Rule 717	4
<i>Pro Bono</i> Authorization under Rule 756(k).....	107
<i>Pro Hac Vice</i> under Rule 707	2,255
Inactive status	11,929
Total Active and Inactive Attorneys Currently Registered	96,997

Chart 1A

Gender, Age and Years in Practice (2020-2025)

	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY
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%
2025	58.3%	41.6%	0.17%

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%
2025	3.8%	20.1%	26.6%	21.9%	17.0%	8.8%	1.7%	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%
2025	12.0%	12.0%	27.5%	20.4%	16.5%	9.2%	2.4%

Chart 1B*

Lawyers By Gender and Years in Practice (2025)

YEARS IN PRACTICE	%FEMALE BY YRS. IN PRACTICE	%MALE BY YRS. IN PRACTICE	%NON-BINARY BY YRS. IN PRACTICE	%MORE MALE THAN FEMALE BY YRS. IN PRACTICE
	2025	2025	2025	2025
<5 years 11,076	52.9% 5,858	46.6% 5,156	0.5% 62	-6.3%
5-10 years 11,277	47.2% 5,328	52.4% 5,907	0.4% 42	5.1%
11-20 years 26,041	46.5% 12,105	53.4% 13,899	0.1% 37	6.8%
21-30 years 19,373	44.3% 8,579	55.6% 10,783	0.06% 11	11.3%
31-40 years 15,630	36.0% 5,628	64.0% 9,998	0.03% 4	28.0%
41-50 years 8,715	21.8% 1,899	78.2% 6,814	0.02% 2	56.4%
51+ years 2,307	4.2% 97	95.8% 2,210	0.00% 0	91.6%

*Total is 94,736. 2,261 missing gender data.

Chart 1C

Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Lawyers 2005-2025

Year	Out-of-State Lawyers		In-State Illinois Lawyers		Total # of Registered Lawyers
2025	31,389	32.4%	65,608	67.6%	96,997
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

Chart 2A

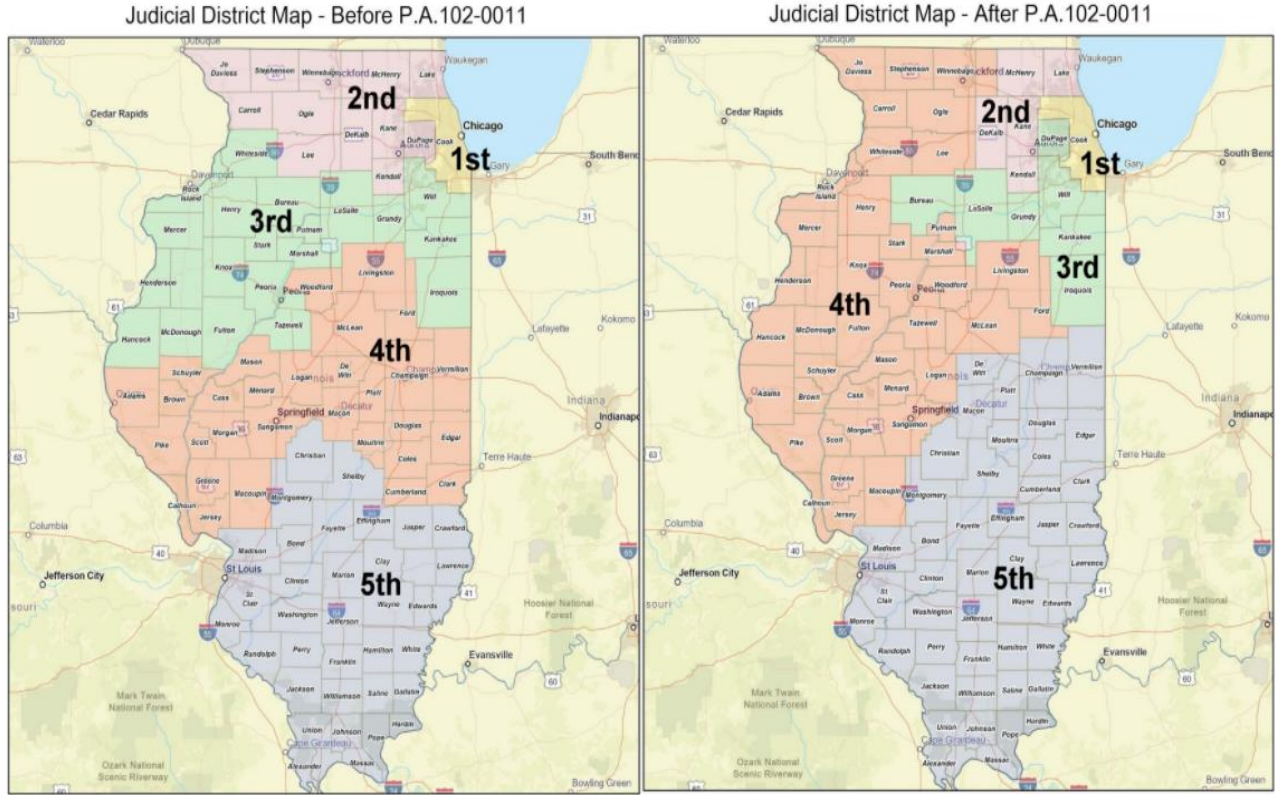
Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by Judicial Districts: Five-Year Trend 2020-2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
First District													
Cook County	46,951	47,210	46,812	46,733	46,907	47,089							
Second District							Fourth District						
16 th Circuit	1,135	1,158	1,154	1,131	1,135	1,131	7 th Circuit	1,245	1,266	1,212	1,201	1,224	1,226
19 th Circuit	3,032	3,186	3,157	3,127	3,078	3,057	8 th Circuit	172	180	174	173	165	164
22 nd Circuit	562	572	571	562	548	530	9 th Circuit	159	159	153	155	145	145
23 rd Circuit	270	275	261	270	259	254	10 th Circuit	856	845	815	790	773	767
Total	4,999	5,191	5,143	5,090	5,020	4,972	11 th Circuit	648	668	661	650	642	627
							14 th Circuit	454	466	452	448	426	410
							15 th Circuit	191	189	187	179	180	177
							17 th Circuit	768	791	761	725	720	722
							Total	4,493	4,564	4,415	4,321	4,275	4,238
Third District							Fifth District						
12 th Circuit	996	1,074	1,089	1,063	1,058	1,074	1 st Circuit	442	441	423	411	394	390
13 th Circuit	305	306	310	300	297	293	2 nd Circuit	277	288	285	277	276	274
18 th Circuit	4,331	4,505	4,482	4,513	4,468	4,507	3 rd Circuit	737	748	729	726	734	741
21 st Circuit	130	138	133	129	126	124	4 th Circuit	240	243	238	231	221	217
Total	5,762	6,023	6,014	6,005	5,949	5,998	5 th Circuit	220	217	197	190	192	187
							6 th Circuit	802	810	799	764	744	740
							20 th Circuit	800	778	784	767	744	648
							24 th Circuit	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	106	114
							Total	3,518	3,525	3,455	3,366	3,305	3,311
							Grand Total	65,723	66,516	65,839	65,515	65,456	65,608

The population figures in this chart have been updated to reflect the judicial circuit map that took effect on January 1, 2022. See Chart 2B Judicial Map. This adjustment allows population trends to be compared consistently. The highlighted circuits shown were previously part of a different circuit. Population data before 2024 could not be compared directly without accounting for these boundary changes.

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: 2023-2025

Principal Office	2023	2024	2025	Principal Office	2023	2024	2025	Principal Office	2023	2024	2025
Adams	110	105	108	Hardin	2	1	1	Morgan	39	39	37
Alexander	5	6	6	Henderson	7	7	4	Moultrie	9	7	5
Bond	11	10	11	Henry	45	44	41	Ogle	48	48	45
Boone	53	52	50	Iroquois	20	19	18	Peoria	638	628	627
Brown	10	9	9	Jackson	173	162	164	Perry	23	23	22
Bureau	32	35	30	Jasper	8	6	6	Piatt	25	25	22
Calhoun	4	4	4	Jefferson	113	113	118	Pike	11	11	12
Carroll	12	10	11	Jersey	19	15	14	Pope	5	4	3
Cass	7	8	7	Jo Daviess	40	39	35	Pulaski	4	4	4
Champaign	518	516	512	Johnson	9	9	8	Putnam	10	11	10
Christian	35	30	30	Kane	1,131	1,135	1,131	Randolph	26	27	30
Clark	14	13	13	Kankakee	109	107	106	Richland	20	16	13
Clay	12	12	12	Kendall	110	108	112	Rock Island	319	303	294
Clinton	21	21	20	Knox	49	46	43	Saline	38	40	38
Coles	71	72	68	Lake	3,127	3,078	3,057	Sangamon	1,094	1,119	1,129
Cook	46,733	46,907	47,089	LaSalle	203	205	201	Schuyler	9	5	6
Crawford	18	18	18	Lawrence	13	12	11	Scott	6	6	6
Cumberland	9	7	7	Lee	34	38	40	Shelby	17	19	18
DeKalb	160	151	142	Livingston	37	38	37	St. Clair	658	638	647
DeWitt	15	12	12	Logan	24	25	22	Stark	7	5	5
Douglas	17	15	17	Macon	180	169	172	Stephenson	45	45	46
DuPage	4,513	4,468	4,507	Macoupin	27	29	25	Tazewell	127	122	118
Edgar	18	20	19	Madison	715	724	730	Union	21	20	22
Edwards	4	4	3	Marion	38	39	38	Vermilion	78	80	80
Effingham	58	52	55	Marshall	8	7	7	Wabash	16	15	13
Fayette	19	18	17	Mason	10	10	8	Warren	17	15	21
Ford	12	12	12	Massac	14	14	12	Washington	14	14	14
Franklin	54	58	56	McDonough	36	34	33	Wayne	9	9	8
Fulton	29	28	31	McHenry	562	548	530	White	11	13	16
Gallatin	8	8	8	McLean	550	540	532	Whiteside	78	72	68
Greene	16	16	15	Menard	12	13	10	Will	1,063	1,058	1,074
Grundy	65	57	62	Mercer	6	7	7	Williamson	142	135	133
Hamilton	9	9	9	Monroe	46	42	49	Winnebago	672	668	672
Hancock	17	15	13	Montgomery	23	24	21	Woodford	27	27	24
									65,515	65,456	65,608

Chart 4

Attorney Removals from the Master Roll: 2015 – 2025 Registration Years

<i>Reason for Removal</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Registration non-compliance	1,155	1,135	1,644	1,286	981	946	1,009	1,103	987	708	913
Deceased	475	288	223	287	238	237	245	240	277	266	754
Retired	1,334	1,354	1,262	1,458	1,331	1,419	1,369	1,753	1,609	1,673	1,507
Disciplined	57	52	52	61	62	46	47	36	36	42	39
MCLE General non-compliance	109	111	128	120	148	197	292	160	69	85	127
MCLE Basic Skills non-compliance	33	24	22	16	14	0	27	51	22	15	20
Total	3,163	2,964	3,331	3,228	2,774	2,845	2,989	3,343	3,000	2,789	3,360

Chart 5

Pro Hac Vice Permissions*: 2020-2025

	<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>
2020	899	1,640	1,109	\$196,000	\$83,925
2021	1,172	2,065	1,489	\$259,666	\$111,012
2022	1,300	2,235	1,662	\$282,172	\$121,000
2023	1,288	2,514	1,580	\$274,976	\$118,349
2024	1,499	2,416	1,888	\$338,694	\$145,725
2025	1,486	2,816	2,031	\$360,410	\$154,370

* 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

2020-2025 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	2025
Private Practice	66.7% 48,798	66.1% 48,650	66.5% 49,108	66.0% 49,361	65.5% 49,579	65.1% 49,674
Corporate In-House	15.4% 11,231	15.5% 11,379	15.5% 11,464	16.0% 12,011	16.1% 12,215	16.2% 12,352
Government/Judge	12.1% 8,874	12.4% 9,164	11.9% 8,802	11.9% 8,923	12.2% 9,255	12.5% 9,506
Other	3.0% 2,177	3.1% 2,271	3.2% 2,317	3.1% 2,305	3.1% 2,319	3.1% 2,344
Not-for-profit	2.2% 1,628	2.3% 1,728	2.4% 1,737	2.4% 1,796	2.5% 1,877	2.6% 1,978
Academia	0.6% 448	0.6% 434	0.6% 433	0.6% 428	0.6% 436	0.6% 428
Total	73,787	73,156	73,626	73,861	75,681	76,282

Chart 6A-1

2020-2025 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	2025
Solo Firm	27.4% 13,356	27.2% 13,244	25.8% 12,692	25.1% 12,395	24.8% 12,264	24.3% 12,070
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	23.1% 11,496
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	9.1% 4,519
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	12.7% 6,322
Firm of 100 + Attys.	26.0% 12,692	26.3% 12,807	27.8% 13,647	29.0% 14,319	29.8% 14,798	30.7% 15,260
Total	49,996	48,798	48,650	49,108	49,579	49,667

Chart 6B-1

2024-2025 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.	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Private Practice % of Private Practice Total	4.6%	4.8%	21.9%	21.7%	22.8%	23.0%	19.8%	19.6%
Corporate In-House % of Corp. In-House Total	1.1%	1.2%	21.1%	19.7%	35.2%	35.6%	26.9%	27.6%
Government/Judge % of Govt/Judge Total	5.5%	6.0%	28.0%	27.2%	30.6%	30.8%	21.0%	20.7%
Other % of Other Total	4.1%	3.5%	23.1%	23.2%	27.7%	27.7%	19.9%	18.6%
Not-for-profit % of Not-for-Profit Total	7.9%	8.4%	30.0%	29.5%	26.1%	26.6%	16.2%	16.2%
Academia % of Academia Total	1.6%	1.6%	10.8%	11.9%	24.5%	25.0%	26.2%	26.9%

PRACTICE SETTING	60-69 YRS		70-79 YRS.		80-89 YRS.		90+ YRS.	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Private Practice % of Private Practice Total	17.6%	17.3%	11.0%	11.0%	2.1%	2.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Corporate In-House % of Corp. In-House Total	13.4%	13.5%	2.1%	2.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.02%	0.02%
Government/Judge % of Govt/Judge Total	12.0%	12.2%	2.8%	2.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.01%	0.01%
Other % of Other Total	16.1%	16.9%	8.0%	8.7%	1.3%	1.4%	0.04%	0.0%
Not-for-profit % of Not-for-Profit Total	13.1%	12.3%	5.9%	6.2%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Academia % of Academia Total	22.7%	21.5%	11.2%	10.1%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Chart 6B-2

2024-2025 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.	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Solo Firm % of Total	0.3%	0.2%	6.3%	5.6%	16.2%	16.2%	20.3%	19.9%
Firm of 2-10 Attys. % of Total	3.9%	3.9%	18.6%	17.8%	24.8%	25.0%	21.4%	21.4%
Firm of 11-25 Attys. % of Total	5.9%	6.4%	24.8%	24.6%	25.2%	25.7%	19.7%	19.2%
Firm of 26-100 Attys. % of Total	6.2%	6.7%	27.7%	27.6%	26.0%	26.3%	19.8%	19.3%
Firm of 100 + Attys. % of Total	7.5%	8.0%	34.1%	34.0%	24.7%	25.9%	18.2%	18.2%

PRACTICE SETTING	60-69 YRS.		70-79 YRS.		80-89 YRS.		90+ YRS.	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Solo Firm % of Total	27.7%	27.7%	24.1%	24.3%	4.9%	5.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Firm of 2-10 Attys. % of Total	18.0%	18.2%	10.9%	11.3%	2.2%	2.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Firm of 11-25 Attys. % of Total	15.5%	14.9%	7.3%	7.5%	1.4%	1.6%	0.1%	0.1%
Firm of 26-100 Attys. % of Total	13.6%	13.4%	5.5%	5.6%	1.1%	1.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Firm of 100 + Attys. % of Total	11.4%	10.9%	3.6%	3.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.01%	0.04%

Chart 7A

Succession Planning of Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice (2025)

PRACTICE SETTING	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Solo Firm % of Total 12,070	23.1% 2,786	70.9% 8,545	6.0% 739
Firm of 2-10 Attys. % of Total 11,494	32.7% 3,759	32.6% 3,743	34.7% 3,994
Firm of 11-25 Attys. % of Total 4,519	34.7% 1,567	15.6% 704	49.7% 2,248
Firm of 26-100 Attys. % of Total 6,322	40.6% 2,568	13.8% 871	45.6% 2,883
Firm of 100 + Attys. % of Total 15,261	59.7% 9,107	7.1% 1,090	33.2% 5,063
Total	39.8% 19,787	30.1% 14,953	30.1% 14,927

Chart 7B

Solo Practitioners, Active Status, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice with No Succession Planning and No Malpractice Insurance (2025)

% OF 3,536 TOTAL BY AGE	
21-29 YRS..	7 0.2%
30-39 YRS.	160 4.5%
40-49 YRS.	455 12.9%
50-59 YRS.	590 16.7%
60-69 YRS.	1,002 28.3%
70-79 YRS.	1,043 29.5%
80+ YRS.	279 7.9%

Chart 8A

Report on *Pro Bono* Hours (2020-2025)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Legal services to persons of limited means	1,076,943	991,862	1,011,596	1,012,095	944,218	974,392
Legal services to enumerated organizations designed to address needs of persons of limited means	316,254	281,117	281,389	279,890	280,510	309,824
Legal services to enumerated organizations in furtherance of their purposes	439,032	402,939	390,508	394,114	395,098	394,741
Training intended to benefit legal service organizations or lawyers providing pro bono services	51,384	39,885	37,506	41,527	40,847	41,818
Total:	1,883,613	1,715,803	1,720,999	1,726,626	1,710,673	1,720,775
Total	31,325	30,646	29,594	29,389	29,193	29,126

Chart 8B

Monetary Contributions to *Pro Bono* Service Organizations (2020-2025)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Amount Contributed	\$17,116,265	\$17,550,990	\$18,105,801	\$16,550,706	\$17,874,012	\$17,935,346
Number of lawyers who made contributions	17,936	18,096	16,858	16,263	15,557	15,392
% of lawyers who made contributions	18.9%	19.0%	17.6%	16.9%	16.1%	15.9%

Chart 8C

2025 Trust Account Disclosure Reports

A. Lawyers with Trust Accounts:	46,667
% with IOLTA trust accounts	83%
% with non-IOLTA trust accounts	17%
B. Lawyers without Trust Accounts:	50,331
Full-time employee of corporation or governmental agency (including courts) with no outside practice	26,456
Not engaged in the practice of law	12,585
Engaged in private practice of law (to any extent), but firm handles no client or third-party funds.....	8,532
Other explanation.....	2,758

Chart 8D

**2025 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		2024	2025
	2024	2025	2024	2025		
Solo Firm	7,683	7,451	670	774	3,911	3,846
Firm of 2-10 Attys.	9,760	9,030	638	1,028	1,344	1,439
Firm of 11-25 Attys.	3,859	3,527	242	501	375	491
Firm of 26-100 Attys.	5,339	4,838	373	777	587	707
Firm of 100 + Attys.	12,977	12,124	826	1,974	991	1,160
Total	39,618 79.9%	36,970 74.4%	2,749 5.6%	5,054 10.2%	7,208 14.5%	7,643 15.4%

Chart 9A

Malpractice Disclosure Reports: 2020-2025

Lawyer Malpractice Insurance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Yes	54.5% 51,748	54.5% 52,030	54.8% 52,483	54.9% 52,906	53.5% 51,714	53.5% 51,905
No	45.5% 43,159	45.5% 43,450	45.2% 43,228	45.1% 43,534	46.5% 45,107	46.5% 45,092

Chart 9B

**Malpractice Disclosure Reports: 2020-2025
Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice**

Practice Size	% Malpractice Responses By Practice Size											
	Yes						No					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Solo Firm % of Total 12,070 in 2025	8,138 60.9%	8,249 62.3%	7,979 62.9%	7,894 63.7%	7,748 63.2%	7,699 63.8%	5,218 39.1%	4,995 37.7%	4,713 37.1%	4,501 36.3%	4,516 36.8%	4,373 36.2%
Firm of 2-10 Attys. % of Total 11,494 in 2025	11,730 93.8%	11,596 93.7%	11,411 94.1%	11,248 94.5%	10,910 92.9%	10,715 93.2%	783 6.2%	780 6.3%	718 5.9%	659 5.5%	832 7.1%	779 6.8%
Firm of 11-25 Attys. % of Total 4,519 in 2025	4,477 97.9%	4,451 97.7%	4,526 98.1%	4,435 97.8%	4,308 96.2%	4,328 95.8%	98 2.2%	104 2.3%	89 1.9%	101 2.2%	168 3.8%	191 4.2%
Firm of 26-100 Attys. % of Total 6,322 in 2025	5,532 97.7%	5,515 97.3%	5,896 97.9%	6,045 97.7%	6,053 96.1%	6,035	130 2.4%	153 2.7%	129 2.1%	142 2.3%	246 3.9%	279 4.4%
Firm of 100 + Attys. % of Total 15,261 in 2025	12,463 98.2%	12,476 97.4%	13,384 98.1%	14,097 98.3%	14,253 96.3%	14,591	229 1.8%	331 2.6%	263 1.9%	239 1.7%	545 3.7%	579 3.8%
Total of 49,566 in 2025	42,340 86.7%	42,287 86.9%	43,196 88.0%	43,719 88.6%	43,272 87.3%	43,365 87.5%	6,458 13.3%	6,364 13.1%	5,912 12.0%	5,642 11.4%	6,307 12.7%	6,201 12.5%

INVESTIGATIONS, PROSECUTIONS and SANCTIONS

Chart 10
Types of Investigations Docketed (2015-2025)

Type of Investigation	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
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	5,181
Overdraft notification of client trust account	283	241	265	321	282	194	204	185	169	139	148
Unauthorized Practice of Law	104	104	105	74	224	56	42	54	46	68	94
Monitoring disciplinary compliance	71	88	83	73	67	57	49	40	53	47	46
Disciplinary charge against out-of-state lawyer	44	44	48	53	52	138	167	39	46	40	57
Receivership	14	31	33	21	17	28	29	24	12	13	11
Reciprocal	13	32	21	44	30	24	19	13	14	18	9
Impairment	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conditional Admission monitoring	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	3	1	0	2
Investigation related to Petition for Reinstatement	N/A	2	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Total: New Docketed Investigations	5,460	5,332	5,147	5,007	4,867	3,875	3,858	4,309	4,538	4,678	5,548
Reopened investigations	94	69	52	22	70	61	23	50	37	28	38
TOTAL:	5,554	5,401	5,199	5,029	4,937	3,936	3,881	4,359	4,575	4,706	5,586

Chart 11

Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations Docketed in 2025

Total # of Attorneys: 3,964	
<i>Investigations per Attorney</i>	
1	3,177 (80.2%)
2	533 (13.5%)
3	150 (3.8%)
4 or more.....	104 (2.6%)
<i>Gender</i>	
Female	30.8%
Male	69.0%
Non-Binary	0.2%
<i>Years in Practice</i>	
Fewer than 5	8.1%
Between 5 and 10	10.3%
Between 10 and 20	27.0%
Between 20 and 30	22.3%
30 or more	32.3%

Chart 12

Investigations By Complainant Category in 2025

Complainant	# of Investigations	
Client/Former Client	2,909	50.3%
Opposing Party	1,406	24.3%
Other (e.g., witness, relative, acquaintance)	813	14.1%
Administrator	222	3.8%
Opposing Counsel	148	2.6%
Undeterminable (not arising out of a legal representation)	52	0.9%
Lawyer self-report	51	0.9%
Anonymous	45	0.8%
Judge/Tribunal	35	0.6%
Lawyer's law firm/employer	22	0.4%
Financial Institution	19	0.3%
Lienholder	18	0.3%
Service provider/vendor	14	0.2%
Prosecutor/Law enforcement	14	0.2%
Other disciplinary agency	12	0.2%
Total	* 5,780	

*Some investigations had more than one complainant.

Chart 13

Classification of Charges Docketed in 2025 by Allegations

<i>Type of Misconduct</i>	<i>Number*</i>	<i>Type of Misconduct.....</i>	<i>Number*</i>
Neglect (Rule 1.3).....	1,335	Practicing in a jurisdiction where not authorized (Rule 5.5)	60
Failing to provide competent representation (Rule 1.1)	768	Failure to comply with IL S.Ct.Rule 764 following discipline.....	49
Failing to communicate with client, including failing to communicate the basis of a fee (Rule 1.2(a)-(c) and 1.4(a)(1)-(5) and (b)	736	Failing to preserve client confidences or secrets (Rule 1.6(a) and 1.18(b)).....	33
Excessive or improper fees, including failing to refund unearned fees (Rule 1.5 and 1.16(d)).....	528	Improper commercial speech (Rules 7.1-7.3)	33
Fraudulent or deceptive activity including misrepresentation to a tribunal, clients, and non-clients (Rules 4.1(a) and 8.4(c)	411	Threatening criminal prosecution or disciplinary proceedings to gain advantage in a civil matter (Rule 8.4(g)).....	27
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)	354	Failing to properly withdraw from representation, including failing to return client files or documents (Rule 1.16(a) and (c)).....	26
Harassment or failure to respect the rights of a third person during a representation (Rule 4.4(a)).....	250	Failing to report misconduct of another lawyer or judge (Rule 8.3(a)-(b)).....	23
Filing frivolous or non-meritorious claims or pleadings (Rule 3.1)	168	Investigation relating to a charge of DUI	21
Improper trial conduct including misrepresentation to a tribunal (Rules 3. 2-3.7).....	161	Failing to supervise subordinates (Rules 5.1 and 5.3)	20
Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, including conduct that is the subject of a contempt finding or court sanction (Rule 8.4(d)).....	144	Improper communications with a represented person (Rule 4.2) .	18
Conflict of Interest:.....	116	Violation of anti-discrimination statute/ordinance (Rule 8.4(j))...	11
Rule 1.7: Concurrent clients	60	Improper communication with an unrepresented person (Rule 4.3)	7
Rule 1.8(a): Improper business transaction with client	4	Incapacity due to chemical addiction or mental condition (IL. S.Ct.Rules 757-758)	6
Rule 1.8(b): Improper use of information from representation.....	2	Failing to maintain appropriate attorney-client relationship with client with diminished capacity (Rule 1.14)	4
Rule 1.8(c): Improper gift or bequest from client.....	1	False statements in bar admission or disciplinary matter (Rule 8.1(a)).....	3
Rule 1.8(e): Improper financial assistance to client	1	Improper practice after failure to register under Rule 756	2
Rule 1.8(j): Improper sexual relations with client.....	7	Termination of eligibility under Rule 707(i)	1
Rule 1.9: Successive conflicts	30	Improper settlement agreement restricting the right to practice (Rule 5.6(b)).....	1
Rule 1.10: Imputation of conflict.....	6	Improper use of public office to obtain an advantage in legislative matter (Rule 8.4(k)(1))	1
Rule 1.12: Representation by former judge/arbitrator/mediator	1	No allegation of misconduct warranting investigation	764
Rule 1.18: Improper representation adverse to prospective client	4		
Prosecutorial misconduct (Rule 3.8)	99		
Criminal conduct, assisting a client in a crime or fraud, counseling illegal or fraudulent conduct (Rules 1.2(d) and 8.4(b))	81		

*Totals exceed the number investigations docketed in 2025 because in many more than one type of misconduct is alleged.

Chart 14

Classification of Charges Docketed in 2025 by Area of Law*

<i>Area of Law</i>	<i>Number</i>
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal	1,176
Domestic Relations.....	968
Tort (Personal Injury/Property Damage)	564
Real Estate/Landlord-Tenant.....	495
Probate.....	344
Immigration	254
Labor Relations/Workers' Comp.....	223
Contract	210
Debt Collection.....	137
Civil Rights.....	127
Corporate Matters	93
Local Government Problems	82
Bankruptcy	50
Patent and Trademark.....	27
Tax.....	11
Social Security.....	5
Mental Health	2
Adoption	1

* Does not include 322 charges classified with no area of law indicated or 174 charges alleging misconduct not arising out of a legal representation.

Chart 15
Investigations Concluded in 2025

Concluded by the Administrator:	
Closed after initial review	2,666
Closed after investigation	2,218
Filed at Supreme Court pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 757, 762(a), and 763	9
Closed by agreement to enter into diversion...	16
Concluded by the Inquiry Board:	
Closed after panel review	18
Complaint or impairment petition voted.....	139
Closed upon completion of conditions of Rule 108 supervision	14
Total	5,080

Chart 16

Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2025

2,666 Investigations Concluded After Initial Review in 2025			
<i>Number of Days Pending Prior to Closure:</i>			
Fewer than 10 days	10 - 20 days	21 - 60 days	More than 60 days
1,350 (50.6%)	300 (11.3%)	705 (26.4%)	311 (11.7%)

1,603 Investigations Concluded in 2025 by the Intake Staff After Investigation			
<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
480 (30.0%)	414 (25.8%)	597 (37.2%)	112 (7.0%)

615 Investigations Concluded in 2025 by the Litigation Staff After Investigation			
<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
125 (20.3%)	119 (19.4%)	192 (31.2%)	179 (29.1%)

Chart 17

Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations (2020-2025)

<i>Overdraft Notification Investigations</i>	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Opened	194	204	185	169	140	148
Closed	161	212	196	167	132	152
Formal Complaints Filed	2	2	2	1	2	3

Chart 18A

Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (2020-2025)

Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UPL by unlicensed person	44	29	24	30	40	60
UPL by unlicensed entity	5	8	10	9	8	7
UPL by out-of-state lawyer*	1	4	9	12	17	13
UPL by disbarred lawyer	4	1	7	6	3	8
UPL by suspended lawyer	0	0	1	3	1	0
Total	54	42	52	60	69	88

* Beginning in 2020, investigations involving out-of-state lawyers for allegedly failing to pay Rule 707 *pro hac vice* fees were no longer classified as UPL investigations but 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 2025 (Unlicensed Persons or Entities and Disbarred or Suspended Lawyers)

Subject Area	Number of 779(b) Investigations*	Subject Area	Number of 779(b) Investigations*
Immigration	19 24%	Patent and Trademark	4 5%
Real Estate	12 15%	Tax	4 5%
Tort	10 13%	Civil Rights	3 4%
Works' Comp	8 10%	Local Government	2 3%
Corporate matters.....	5 6%	Bankruptcy	1 1%
Domestic Relations.....	5 6%	Debt Collection.....	1 1%
Criminal	4 5%	Social Security.....	1 1%

* Total less than 88 investigations because 9 investigations did not arise out of an area of law.

Chart 19

Proceedings Filed Directly with the Illinois Supreme Court: 2020-2025

Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rule 762(a) Motion for Disbarment on Consent	6	7	4	7	7	8
Rule 763 Petition for Reciprocal Discipline	26	34	12	10	16	15
Rule 774 Petition for Interim Suspension	0	2	2	4	8	3
Rule 757 Transfer to Disability Inactive Status	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rule 756(a)(8) Petition for Permanent Retirement	4	3	3	1	2	5
Total	36	46	21	23	33	31

Chart 20A

Matters Before the Hearing Board in 2025

Cases Pending on January 1, 2025	54
Cases Filed or Reassigned in 2025:	
<i>Disciplinary Complaints Filed:</i> *	
➤ Rules 753, 761(d)	48
<i>Disability Inactive Petition Transferred for Hearing</i>	
➤ Rule 758	2
Total New Cases Filed or Reassigned	50
Cases Concluded During 2025	51
Cases Pending December 31, 2025	53

* 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.

Chart 20B

Years in Practice, Age and Gender of Lawyers Charged in the 48 Disciplinary Complaints Filed in 2025

	# of Complaints Filed	% of Complaints Filed	% of Lawyer Population
Years in Practice			
Fewer than 5	1	2.2%	12.0%
Between 5 and 10.....	6	13.0%	12.0%
Between 11 and 20.....	11	23.9%	27.5%
Between 21 and 30	13	28.3%	20.5%
Between 31 and 40.....	4	8.7%	16.5%
Between 41 and 50.....	9	19.6%	9.2%
50+.....	2	4.4%	2.4%
Age:			
21-29 years old.....	0	0%	3.8%
30-39 years old.....	5	10.9%	20.1%
40-49 years old	13	28.3%	26.6%
50-59 years old	9	19.6%	21.9%
60-69 years old	12	26.1%	16.7%
70-79 years old	5	10.9%	8.8%
80 or more years old	2	4.4%	1.8%
Gender:			
Female	11	23.9%	41.6%
Male	34	73.9%	58.3%
Non-binary.....	1	2.2%	0.17%

Chart 20C

Types of Misconduct Alleged in the 48 Disciplinary Complaints* Filed Before Hearing Board in 2025

<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)).....	31	65%	Conflicts of interest.....	4	8%
Criminal conduct/conviction of lawyer (8.4(b)).....	15	31%	Rule 1.7: concurrent conflicts.....	2	
Improper handling of trust funds (1.15).....	15	31%	Rule 1.8(a): improper business transition with client.....	1	
Neglect (1.3).....	16	33%	Rule 1.8(j): improper sexual relationship with client.....	1	
False statement or failure to respond in disciplinary matter (8.1).....	13	27%	Improper trial conduct (3.4).....	3	6%
Failure to communicate with client (1.4).....	12	25%	Failure to abide by client's decision (1.2(a)).....	2	4%
Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice (8.4(d)).....	11	23%	Failure to respect rights of third person.....	2	4%
Improper withdrawal from employment incl. failure to refund unearned fees (1.16) ..	8	17%	Misrepresentation to a third person (4.1(a)) ..	2	4%
Excessive or unauthorized legal fees (1.5).....	6	13%	Failure to provide competent representation (1.1).....	1	2%
Misrepresentations to a tribunal (3.3(a)).....	6	13%	Failure to report criminal conviction (761(a))..	1	2%
Unauthorized practice of law (5.5(a)).....	5	10%	False/reckless statements about a judge (8.2)..	1	2%
Master Roll removal due to MCLE requirements..	4		Improper agreement limiting liability (8.4(h))	1	2%
Unauthorized practice in another jurisdiction	1		Improper communication with rep. person (4.2)	1	2%
			Violation of anti-discrimination law (8.4(j))...1	1	2%

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

**Totals exceed 48 disciplinary cases and 100% because most complaints allege more than one type of misconduct.

Chart 20D

Subject Area Involved in the 48 Disciplinary Complaints Filed Before Hearing Board in 2025

<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>
Criminal Conduct/Conviction	11	23%	Criminal	4	8%
Labor/workers comp	7	15%	Corporate Matters	2	4%
Probate	7	15%	Immigration	1	2%
Tort	6	13%	Social Security	1	2%
Contract	5	10%	Tax	1	2%
Domestic Relation.....	5	10%			
Personal Misconduct.....	5	10%			
Real Estate	5	10%			

*Totals exceed 48 disciplinary complaints and 100% because many complaints allege several counts of misconduct in different practice areas.

Chart 20E
Cases Terminated by the Hearing Board in 2025

Total Disciplinary Cases: Rules 753 & 761(d)	46
Case closed by filing of petition for discipline on consent other than disbarment	20
Recommendation of discipline after contested hearing	9
Recommendation of discipline after default hearing	10
Case closed by filing of motion for disbarment on consent	5
Complaint voluntarily dismissed before hearing	1
Case closed by death of respondent	1

Total Disability Inactive Cases: Rule 758	2
Recommendation to transfer to disability inactive status	1
Petition dismissed by filing of motion to transfer to disability inactive status	1
Total Restoration to Active Status: Rule 759	1
Recommendation to restore to active status	1
Total Reinstatement Petitions: Rule 767	1
Recommendation of petition allowed with conditions after contested hearing	1
Unauthorized Practice of Law: Rule 779	1
Case closed by filing of petition for discipline on consent other than disbarment	1

Chart 20F
Activity Before the Review Board in 2025

Cases Pending on January 1, 2025	4
Cases Filed in 2025	9
Exceptions filed by Respondent Lawyer	7
Exceptions filed by Administrator	2
Exceptions filed by both	0
Cases Concluded in 2025	7
Hearing Board affirmed	5
Hearing Board reversal on findings or sanction	0
Notice of Exceptions withdrawn or stricken	2
Cases Pending on December 31, 2025	6

Chart 21A
Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered by the Supreme Court in 2025

Disbarment.....	11
Suspension until further order of Court	20
Suspension for a specified period	11
Suspension for a specified period & conditions	9
Probation with partially stayed suspension	7
Censure	5
Total	63*

*In addition to the 40 suspensions above, the Court also ordered 2 interim suspensions, as reported in Chart 22 at H.

Chart 21A-1
Disposition of 63 Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered in 2025

Consent	Total: 30
Disbarment	6
Suspension, UFO	9
Suspension	8
Probation, partially stayed	6
Censure	1
Contested	Total: 8
Disbarment	2
Suspension, UFO	0
Suspension	2
Suspension with conditions	3
Probation, partially stayed	0
Censure	1
Default	Total: 9
Disbarment	0
Suspension, UFO	9
Suspension	0
Reciprocal	Total: 16
Disbarment	3
Suspension, UFO	2
Suspension	7
Probation, partially stayed	1
Censure	3
TOTAL	63

Chart 21B

**Location of Practice of the 63 Lawyers Disciplined
by the Supreme Court in 2025**

County	Number Disciplined	County	Number Disciplined
Cook.....	23	Lake	1
Out-of-State.....	19	Livingston	1
DuPage.....	3	Madison	1
Kane	2	McHenry	1
Adams.....	1	Montgomery.....	1
Champaign	1	Saline	1
Coles.....	1	Will	1
Edgar	1	Williamson.....	1
Fulton	1	Winnebago	1
Jackson	1		

Chart 21C

Years in Practice, Age and Gender of 63 Lawyers Disciplined in 2025

Years in Practice	# of Lawyers Disciplined	% of Lawyers Disciplined	% of Lawyer Population
Fewer than 5.....	2	3.2%.....	12.0%
Between 5 and 9.....	7	11.1%.....	12.0%
Between 10 and 19.....	21	33.3%.....	27.5%
Between 20 and 29	16	25.4%.....	20.5%
Between 30 and 39	6	9.5%.....	16.5%
Between 40 and 49.....	10	15.9%.....	9.2%
50 or more	1	1.6%.....	2.4%
Age:			
21-29 years old.....	0	0.0%.....	3.8%
30-39 years old.....	9	14.3%.....	20.1%
40-49 years old	17	27.0%.....	26.6%
50-59 years old.....	16	25.4%.....	21.9%
60-69 years old	11	17.5%.....	16.7%
70-79 years old	8	12.7%.....	8.8%
80 or more years old	2	3.2%.....	1.8%
Gender:			
Female.....	14	22.2%.....	41.6%
Male	48	76.2%.....	58.3%
Non-binary.....	1	1.6%.....	0.2%

Chart 21D
Practice Setting of 63 Lawyers Disciplined in 2025

<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>
63 Lawyers Sanctioned	38	16	1	2	5	1

Chart 21D-1
Representation of 63 Lawyers Disciplined in 2025

Pro Se	Represented by Counsel
34	29

Chart 21E
Impairments Identified for Lawyers Disciplined in 2025 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>	Total
24 Lawyers* with Impairments	12	5	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	24
Substances:										13
Alcohol	3	1	1	1	1					7
Cocaine										
Cannabis	1	1								2
Amphetamine	1									1
Heroin/Opioids										
Other Substance	2			1						3
Mental Illness:										32
Depression	7	2		1	1					11
Anxiety Disorder	3	1	1	2						7
Bipolar	2	1			1					4
Schizophrenia	2									2
Personality Disorder	2				1					3
Gambling	1	1								2
Sexual Disorder										
Cognitive Decline		1								1
Other				1	1					2

* Thirteen (54%) lawyers had more than one identified impairment.

Chart 21F

Demographics of Disciplined Lawyers with Identified Impairments in 2024

24 Lawyers with Impairments by Age	Solo Firm 12	Firm 2-10 5	Firm 11-25 1	Firm 26+ 2	Gov't/ Judicial 4	Other (e.g., CCH, ABA) 0	Not Engaged in Practice 0	Total 24
21-29 years old								
30-39 years old	4	1		1				6
40-49 years old	2	2	1		2			7
50-59 years old	5			1	2			8
60-69 years old	1							1
70-79 years old		2						2
80-89 years old								
90+ years old								

Chart 22

Orders Entered by Supreme Court in Disciplinary Cases in 2025

<p>A. <u>Motions for disbarment on consent: Rule 762(a)</u> Allowed 6 Denied 0 Total 6</p>	<p>D. <u>Motions to approve and confirm report of Review Board: Rule 753(e)(6)</u> Allowed 1 Denied 0 Total 1</p>
<p>B. <u>Petitions for discipline on consent: Rule 762(b)</u> Allowed: Suspension 8 Suspension until further order of Court..... 9 Suspension stayed in part, probation ordered 6 Censure 1 Total.... 24 Denied 0 Total 24</p>	<p>E. <u>Motions to approve and confirm report of Hearing Board: Rule 753(d)(2)</u> Allowed 12 Denied 0 Total 12</p>
<p>C. <u>Petitions for leave to file exceptions to report and recommendation of Review Board: Rules 753(e)(1) and 761</u> Denied and same discipline imposed as recommended by Review Board 3 Allowed and more discipline imposed than recommended by Review Board 1 Allowed and less discipline imposed as recommended by Review Board 0 Total 4</p>	<p>F. <u>Petitions for reciprocal discipline: Rule 763</u> Allowed 16 Denied 0 Total 16</p>
	<p>G. <u>Motions to revoke probation: Rule 772</u> Allowed, probation revoked and respondent suspended 1 Total 1</p>
	<p>H. <u>Petitions for interim suspension: Rules 761 & 774</u> Rule enforced and lawyer suspended 2 Total 2</p>

Chart 23

ARDC-Appointed Receiverships by the Circuit Court: 2020-2025

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2	2	2	4	2	3

Chart 24

Non-Disciplinary Actions by the Supreme Court in 2025

<i>Rule 756(a)(8) Permanent Retirement Status</i>	
Motion to transfer to permanent retirement status allowed	4
<i>Rule 758 Transfer to Disability Inactive Status</i>	
Motion to transfer to disability inactive status allowed	1
<i>Rule 759 Restoration to Active Status</i>	
<i>After Transfer to Disability Inactive Status</i>	
Petition for restoration to active status allowed.....	1
<i>Rule 767 Petition for Reinstatement Following Discipline</i>	
Petition for reinstatement to the practice of law allowed.....	1

Registration and Caseload Trends (2010-2025)

Chart 25A

Registration Growth and Disciplinary Investigations (2010-2025)

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
2025	96,997	0.2%	5,586	2,666	2,217	18	139

*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 (2010-2025)

Year	New Admittees			Out-of-State Lawyer Admittees**	Lawyers Moving to Retired Status
	Illinois Admittees* Rules 704 and 715	Transferred MBE/UBE Rule 704A**	Total New Admittees		
2010	2,637	254	2,891	418	970
2011	2,541	220	2,761	424	822
2012	2,541	231	2,772	502	853
2013	2,541	202	2,743	533	815
2014	2,354	154	2,508	511	833
2015	2,139	154	2,293	428	1,334
2016	1,853	132	1,985	434	1,354
2017	1,639	132	1,771	397	1,262
2018	1,623	101	1,724	464	1,458
2019	1,671	288	1,959	686	1,331
2020	1,857	313	2,170	651	1,419
2021	1,572	345	1,917	634	1,369
2022	1,645	345	1,990	709	1,753
2023	1,735	345	2,080	705	1,609
2024	1,949	245	2,194	520	1,673
2025	2,499	505	3,004	264	1,507

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

** This column shows the admittees who received a passing score on the Illinois bar exam after transferring part (Multistate Bar Exam) or all (Uniform Bar Exam) of their passing score from another jurisdiction.

***"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 (2010-2025)

Year	Matters Filed With Supreme Court or Circuit Court	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	49	122	115	27	32	148
2011	45	106	147	35	31	156
2012	30	120	113	36	32	103
2013	40	95	120	29	48	149
2014	31	126	105	29	29	112
2015	28	86	130	31	26	126
2016	34	83	93	21	22	104
2017	41	79	88	23	24	118
2018	38	64	64	17	22	75
2019	41	51	71	19	17	96
2020	32	40	46	7	11	81
2021	41	53	55	12	7	84
2022	16	56	56	11	16	63
2023	18	43	53	10	9	66
2024	23	50	39	7	8	60
2025	23	50	51	9	7	63

Chart 26
Attorney Reports: 2010-2025

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	4,706	443	9.5%	66	28	42.4%
2025	5,548	416	7.5%	110	29	26.4%
Totals for 2010-2025	83,202	7,909	--	2,095	739	--
Average For 2010-2025	5,200	494	9.5%	131	46	38.4%

CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

Chart 27A

Client Protection Program Claims: 2010-2025

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
2025	157	60	53	26	\$983,227

Chart 27B

Classification of Approved Client Protection Claims in 2025

Type of Misconduct:	
Misappropriation of client funds.....	21
Failure to refund unearned fees.....	39
Area of Law	
Criminal.....	31
Tort.....	10
Real Estate.....	7
Probate/Trusts.....	5
Domestic Relations.....	3
Labor/Workers' Comp.....	2
Immigration.....	2



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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024



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 statements of financial position as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related statements of activities and of cash flows for the years 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, 2025 and 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits 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.

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 Statement of Financial Position by Program, Statement of Activities by Program, Schedules of Attorney Registration Fees and Charges Earned, 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 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 17, 2026

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,458,351	\$ 2,267,766
Investments	84,266,251	78,919,617
Investments held for others	5,585,479	5,190,300
Accrued interest receivable	366,477	289,589
Accounts receivable, net	14,540	12,329
Prepaid expenses and deposits	297,062	272,860
	92,988,160	86,952,461
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	1,484,102	1,707,647
RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET, OPERATING LEASES	3,206,798	3,294,491
	\$ 97,679,060	\$ 91,954,599
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 795,509	\$ 386,921
Amounts held for others	5,585,479	5,190,300
Accrued vacation	686,600	635,086
Deferred registration and program fees	17,189,470	16,251,331
Postretirement benefit obligation, current portion	109,131	68,890
Operating lease liability, current portion	658,748	662,722
Deposits	6,004	6,004
	25,030,941	23,201,254
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Postretirement benefit obligation, net of current portion	2,216,090	1,518,135
Operating lease liability, net of current portion	2,808,012	2,915,364
	5,024,102	4,433,499
Total liabilities	30,055,043	27,634,753
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	67,624,017	64,319,846
	\$ 97,679,060	\$ 91,954,599

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
Operations		
REVENUE WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION		
Investment income, net	\$ 4,571,439	\$ 3,491,669
Registration and program fees	20,581,142	19,892,406
Commission cost reimbursements collected	28,473	35,658
Client Protection Program reimbursement	74,356	142,771
Miscellaneous income	25	89,389
	25,255,435	23,651,893
EXPENSES		
Salaries and related expenses	14,669,472	13,592,791
Travel	68,012	121,828
Continuing education	220,189	226,938
Commercial insurance	209,820	220,527
Printing and postage	182,656	255,158
Case-related services	542,353	504,175
Professional consulting services	622,056	349,533
Occupancy	1,043,263	1,040,754
Office expenses	91,223	87,606
Payment processing fees	540,873	505,421
Computer equipment and software	383,169	446,096
IT services and fees	1,006,670	993,408
Client protection program awards and direct expenses	1,008,697	1,342,283
Distributions to sibling entities	-	549,193
Depreciation and amortization	580,754	567,633
Other	38,653	35,784
	21,207,860	20,839,128
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	4,047,575	2,812,765
NONOPERATING INCOME		
Change in postretirement benefit obligation	(743,404)	(56,945)
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	3,304,171	2,755,820
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION, BEGINNING OF YEAR	64,319,846	61,564,026
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION, END OF YEAR	\$ 67,624,017	\$ 64,319,846

See accompanying notes to financial statement.

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

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ 3,304,171	\$ 2,755,820
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities		
Net gain on investments	(4,571,439)	(3,491,669)
Depreciation and amortization	580,754	567,633
Reduction in carrying amount of right-of-use asset	479,929	495,226
Change in assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable	(79,099)	(124,306)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(24,202)	(46,478)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	408,588	(268,829)
Amounts held for others	395,179	703,965
Accrued vacation	51,514	39,844
Deferred registration and program fees	938,139	366,599
Deposits	-	4,500
Postretirement benefit obligation	738,196	48,628
Operating lease liability	(640,436)	(636,088)
	1,581,294	414,845
CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of investment securities	(75,290,980)	(84,931,376)
Maturities of investment securities	74,120,606	84,662,413
Purchases of leasehold improvements	-	(14,316)
Purchases of property and equipment	(220,335)	(70,092)
	(1,390,709)	(353,371)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	190,585	61,474
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,267,766	2,206,292
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 2,458,351	\$ 2,267,766
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Right-of-use assets exchanged for lease liabilities	\$ 529,110	\$ -

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025 and 2024

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, 2025 and 2024.

For the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, 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, 2025 and 2024 consist of funds collected for the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program in the amount of \$741,540 and \$688,760 respectively; the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois in the amount of \$3,522,315 and \$3,271,575 respectively; the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism in the amount of \$926,925 and \$860,956 respectively; and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice in the amount of \$394,699 and \$369,009 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, 2025, 2024, and 2023 was comprised of the following:

	2025	2024	2023
Deferred registration fees	\$ 15,493,120	\$ 14,645,731	\$ 14,382,007
Deferred program fees - CCP	1,696,350	1,605,600	1,502,725
TOTAL	<u>\$ 17,189,470</u>	<u>\$ 16,251,331</u>	<u>\$ 15,884,732</u>

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 2025, the Commission did not distribute any amount to its Rule 756(a) (1) sibling entities. In 2024, the Commission distributed \$549,193 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 17, 2026, 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, 2025 and 2024:

	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,458,351	\$ 2,267,766
Investments	84,266,251	78,919,617
Accrued interest receivable	366,477	289,589
Accounts receivable, net	14,540	12,329
TOTAL	\$ 87,105,619	\$ 81,489,301

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, 2025 and 2024, 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, 2025 and 2024:

	2025				
	Program Services			Supporting Services	
	Registration and Discipline	Client Protection	Program Services Total	Administration and Support	Total
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 11,352,887	\$ 352,220	\$ 11,705,107	\$ 2,964,365	\$ 14,669,472
Travel	40,983	525	41,508	26,504	68,012
Continuing education	174,258	3,446	177,704	42,485	220,189
Commercial insurance	166,052	3,284	169,336	40,484	209,820
Printing and postage	178,649	301	178,950	3,706	182,656
Case-related services	522,473	1,492	523,965	18,388	542,353
Professional consulting services	492,297	9,737	502,034	120,022	622,056
Occupancy	825,641	16,329	841,970	201,293	1,043,263
Office expenses	72,194	1,428	73,622	17,601	91,223
Payment processing fees	428,049	8,466	436,515	104,358	540,873
Computer equipment and software	303,241	5,997	309,238	73,931	383,169
IT services and fees	796,682	15,757	812,439	194,231	1,006,670
Client protection program awards and direct expenses	-	1,008,697	1,008,697	-	1,008,697
Depreciation and amortization	459,611	9,090	468,701	112,053	580,754
Other	30,590	605	31,195	7,458	38,653
TOTAL	\$ 15,843,607	\$ 1,437,374	\$ 17,280,981	\$ 3,926,879	\$ 21,207,860

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

6. FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES BY NATURAL CLASSIFICATION (Continued)

	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
Commercial 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
TOTAL	\$ 15,155,560	\$ 1,733,972	\$ 16,889,532	\$ 3,949,596	\$ 20,839,128

7. INVESTMENTS

The following summary presents the fair values of each of the investment categories at December 31, 2025 and 2024:

	2025	2024
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 40,665,595	\$ 39,544,203
Certificates of deposit	596,666	3,449,600
Money market funds	28,422,658	28,943,748
Mutual funds and exchange traded funds	20,166,811	12,172,366
TOTAL	\$ 89,851,730	\$ 84,109,917

**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, 2025 and 2024:

	2025	2024
Interest income	\$ 2,967,066	\$ 2,772,932
Net gain on investments	1,701,043	813,202
Investment fees	(96,670)	(94,465)
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>\$ 4,571,439</u>	<u>\$ 3,491,669</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, 2025 and 2024.

- 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, 2025 and 2024 are as follows:

	2025			
	Total	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 40,665,595	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 39,165,595	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	596,666	596,666	-	-
Money market funds	28,422,658	28,422,658	-	-
Mutual funds and exchange traded funds				
Fixed income	15,893,333	15,893,333	-	-
Equity	4,273,478	4,273,478	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 89,851,730	\$ 50,686,135	\$ 39,165,595	\$ -

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

8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

	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	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 84,109,917	\$ 46,065,714	\$ 38,044,203	\$ -

9. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment at December 31, 2025 and 2024 consisted of the following:

	2025	2024
Computer and related equipment	\$ 3,411,453	\$ 3,375,766
Office furniture and equipment	1,421,672	1,434,297
Leasehold improvements	517,119	575,158
Construction in process	99,638	-
Total	5,350,244	5,385,221
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(3,866,142)	(3,677,574)
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	\$ 1,484,102	\$ 1,707,647

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 Chicago office 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, 2025 and 2024. The Springfield office includes renewal and termination options that the Commission determined it is reasonably certain to exercise during the year ended December 31, 2025. Therefore, the payments associated with the potential extensions are included in the lease liabilities as of December 31, 2025 and not included in the lease liabilities as of December 31, 2024.

For the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, total operating lease expense under all agreements was \$1,043,263 and \$1,040,754 respectively. Included in these amounts are \$480,894 and \$485,428 respectively, of variable non-lease payments. Cash paid for operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024 was \$712,986 and \$696,188 respectively. As of December 31, 2025, the weighted-average remaining lease term and discount rate for the two operating leases was approximately five years and 2.3%, respectively.

The operating lease right-of-use asset and lease liability as of December 31, 2025 and 2024 were as follows:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Right-of-use asset		
OPERATING LEASES	<u>\$ 3,206,798</u>	<u>\$ 3,249,491</u>
Lease liability		
Current operating lease liability	\$ 658,748	\$ 662,722
Noncurrent operating lease liability	<u>2,808,012</u>	<u>2,915,364</u>
TOTAL OPERATING LEASE LIABILITY	<u>\$ 3,466,760</u>	<u>\$ 3,578,086</u>

**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:

Year Ending December 31,	Springfield	Chicago	Total
2026	\$ 126,266	\$ 603,925	\$ 730,191
2027	128,791	619,023	747,814
2028	131,367	634,499	765,866
2029	133,994	650,362	784,356
2030	136,674	273,766	410,440
Thereafter	257,510	-	257,510
Total lease payments	914,602	2,781,575	3,696,177
Less interest	(133,020)	(96,397)	(229,417)
PRESENT VALUE LEASE LIABILITY	\$ 781,582	\$ 2,685,178	\$ 3,466,760

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, 2025 and 2024:

	2025	2024
Benefit obligation, beginning of year	\$ 1,587,025	\$ 1,538,397
Service cost	47,066	28,186
Interest cost	123,440	81,427
Benefits paid	(98,836)	(60,994)
Actuarial loss	22,739	9
Plan amendments*	643,787	-
BENEFIT OBLIGATION, END OF YEAR	\$ 2,325,221	\$ 1,587,025

*Effective January 1, 2025, the Defined Dollar monthly reimbursement amount was increased from \$5.00 to \$7.50.

Net periodic benefit costs for 2025 and 2024 are comprised of the following:

	2025	2024
Service cost	\$ 47,066	\$ 28,186
Interest cost	123,440	81,427
Actuarial loss	22,739	9
NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST	\$ 193,245	\$ 109,622

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 2025 and 2024
Discount rate	2025 - 5.60%, 2024 - 5.40%
Retirement age	Between ages 55 and 75
Medical trend rate ultimate	5%

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

11. POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION (Continued)

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.

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

2026	\$ 124,423
2027	138,016
2028	149,896
2029	163,888
2030-2035	<u>945,521</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 1,521,744</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 \$3,580,521 and \$3,271,906 at December 31, 2025 and 2024, 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 \$1,910,900 in 2025 and \$1,739,078 in 2024. The Commission also pays the plan's administrative expenses, which totaled \$72,855 in 2025 and \$63,518 in 2024.

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

12. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS (Continued)

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 \$421,930 in 2025 and \$359,978 in 2024. The Commission also pays the savings plan's administrative expenses, which totaled \$4,967 in 2025 and \$5,993 in 2024.

13. LITIGATION

Various complaints and actions are periodically filed against the Commission. At December 31, 2025, 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.

2025 ARDC Continuing Legal Education Programs

Added to the ARDC website in 2025:

- *Planning Ahead: A Guide to Emergency Succession Planning*. A 0.5-hour PRCLE-accredited webcast offering guidance on preparing for unexpected disruptions in legal practice. It covers how to spot ethical and professional issues during unforeseen events, why every lawyer needs a succession plan, and the steps to create an effective emergency plan. The program also includes templates for a law firm operations manual and contingency checklist.
- *Navigating the ARDC series*. A four-part series, offering 1.25 hours of PRCLE 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.

Additional webcasts expected to launch in 2026:

- *Managing Interactions with Lawyers and Clients Suffering from Mental Impairments*. A three-part series on dealing with impaired clients, judges, other lawyers, and law firm colleagues
- *Time Management*. A three-part series on time management including client engagement and retention, understanding fee management, and establishing a calendaring system.
- *Winding Down a Law Practice*. A one-hour webcast covering the practical, ethical, and financial considerations involved in successfully winding down a law practice.

2025 ARDC CLE Presentations

American Bar Association (ABA)
American Immigration Lawyers Assoc. (AILA)
Bohemian Lawyers' Association of Chicago
Central Illinois Paralegal Association (CIPA)
Chicago Bar Association (CBA)
Chicago Bar Foundation, Justice Entrepreneurs Project
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin
Chicago-Kent College of Law
College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers (CWCL)
Cook County Public Defender's Office
DePaul University College of Law
DuPage County Bar Association
Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE)
Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL)
Illinois Land Title Association
Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association
Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA)
Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA)
Illinois State Bar Association Mutual Insurance Co.
Illinois Township Attorneys Association
International Conference of Legal Regulators (ICLR)
Jackson County Bar Association
Kane County Bar Association
Land of Lincoln Legal Aid
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois
Lawyers' Assistance Program of Illinois (LAP)
Lake County Bar Association
Lincoln-Douglas American Inn of Court
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
McLean County Bar Association
National Association of Attorneys General
National Bar Association
National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC)
National Institute of Trial Attorneys (NITA)
National Judicial College, Appellate Judges Section
Nordic Law Club of Chicago
North Suburban Bar Association
Northern Illinois University College of Law
Northwest Suburban Bar Association
Peoria County Bar Association
Practicing Law Institute (PLI)
Salesforce
Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School
Southwest Suburban Bar Association
State Farm Insurance Company
The Decalogue Society of Lawyers
The Law Society of Hong Kong
University of Illinois-Chicago School of Law
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Will County Bar Association
Williamson County Bar Association
Winnebago State's Attorney Office
Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association (WCLA)

2025 COMMISSIONERS

John H. Simpson, *Chairperson*, Chicago
J. Nelson Wood, *Vice-Chairperson*, Mount Vernon

Emily J. Hampton, Dunlap
Lashana T. Jackson, Chicago

Robert C. Marsaglia, Joliet
Kate L. McCracken, St. Charles

Cedric D. Thurman, Chicago

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Review Board

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

Ashley N. Greer Shambley
George E. Marron, III
David W. Neal

Bradley N. Pollock
Scott J. Szala

Juan R. Thomas
Pamela E. Hill Veal

Hearing Board

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

David Badillo
Laura K. Beasley
Jacquelyne M. Belcastro
Patrick M. Blanchard, *Panel Chair*
John L. Borovicka, IV
John Burns
Michael M. Cabonargi
Michael V. Casey
Jeffrey N. Cole
Gerald M. Crimmins
Elizabeth Delheimer
Anna Dvinsky Domb
Emma Dorantes
Brian B. Duff
Cristin K. M. Duffy
LaShawn T. Eddings-Levesque
Robbie L. Edmond
Martha M. Ferdinand
Ghian Foreman
Mitchell H. Frazen
Michael J. Friduss
Marilynn Kelly Gardner
John L. Gilbert, *Panel Chair*
Alexander L. Groden

Jennifer L. Guimond-Quigley
Joanna Belle Gunderson
Meridth V. Hammer
Mark D. Hassakis
Carol A. Hogan, *Panel Chair*
Scott M. Hoster
Kristen E. Hudson
Latoya J. Hughes
James W. Kiley
Melissa J. Kuffel
Susan Cohen Levy
Jose A. Lopez Jr., *Panel Chair*
Shelbie J. Luna
Giuliana Martinez Martinez
Rebecca J. McDade, *Panel Chair*
Heather A. McPherson, *Panel Chair*
Ricardo Meza, *Panel Chair*
Patrick Milhizer
Sherri Miller
Stephen S. Mitchell, *Panel Chair*
Renee L. Monfort
Hal R. Morris
John P. Moynihan
Nicole C. Mueller, *Panel Chair*

Geetu R. Naik
Marc S. Needlman
Christopher A. Nichols
Lauren M. Noll
Stephen R. Pacey
Mark T. Peters, *Panel Chair*
Carl (Carlo) E. Poli, *Panel Chair*
Arlette G. Porter
Tiffany Pryor-Wallace
Untress L. Quinn
Melisa Quinones
Brian Russell
Rhonda Sallée, *Panel Chair*
Diane L. Saltoun
Daniel G. Samo
Stuart H. Shiffman
Rachel C. Steiner
Christina M. Sugden
Charles J. Swartwout
Michael T. Trucco
Linda A. Walls
Julia Whitman

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
Phillip M. Gonet
Edward W. Huntley

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

2025 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

William F. Conlon
William E. Hornsby, Jr.
Scott A. Kozlov

Gary M. Vanek
Thomas A. Zimmerman

Abraham D. Zisook
Rich W. Zuckerman

2025 CLIENT PROTECTION REVIEW PANEL

Paula S. Tillman, *Panel Chair*

Terence Michael Heuel

Cheryl M. Kneubuehl

2025 SPECIAL COUNSEL

Robert P. Marcus

Keith E. Roberts, Jr.

Gil M. Soffer

2025 INTERMEDIARIES

Brigid A. Duffield

Robert A. Merrick, Jr.

Hon. James M. Radcliff III (Ret.)

2025 LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (LOMAP) MONITORS

Brigid A. Duffield

William F. Marutzky

James E. Radcliffe

Hon. James M. Radcliff III (Ret.)

2025 COMMISSION STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Sets ARDC's strategy and regulatory stewardship; ensures accountability to the Court and oversees finance, human resources, IT, and security.

Lea S. Gutierrez, *Administrator*
Scott Renfroe, *Deputy Administrator, Litigation & Appeals*
Althea K. Welsh, *Deputy Administrator, Intake & Administration*
Neil P. Ballentine, *Chief Information Officer*
Aaron Brooks, *Chief Information Security Officer*
Vick Paul, *Chief Financial Officer*

ADJUDICATION DEPARTMENT

Clerk's Office and adjudication services supporting the Hearing and Review Boards

Blair S. Barbour, *Senior Counsel, Adjudication Services*
Daniel N. Malato, *Director, Adjudication Services*
Kendra L. Morrill, *Counsel, Adjudication Services*
Michelle Thome, *Clerk of the Commission*

EDUCATION

Helps lawyers succeed through proactive programming, ethics education, and practical guidance

Melissa A. Smart, *Director, Education*
Mary F. Andreoni, *Senior Counsel, Ethics Education*
Anisa L. Jordan, *Counsel, Ethics Education*

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Uses data and evaluation to inform strategy, improve programs, and increase transparency

Ryan Carlino, *Manager, Data Analytics & Program Evaluation*

REGISTRATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Maintains the Master Roll and supports accurate, accessible attorney registration in Illinois

Britney Bowater, *Director, Registration Services*
Andrew Oliva, *Registrar*

RESTORATIVE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Supports lawyers and protects clients through resources, claims resolution, probation/deferral services, and preventive measures

Christine P. Anderson, *Director of Probation & Lawyer Deferral Services and Intake Group Manager*
Eileen W. Donahue, *Director, Client Protection Program*

INTAKE, LITIGATION & APPEALS

Intake

Karyn A. Bart, *Senior Intake Counsel*
John R. Cesario, *Senior Counsel Intake & Receiverships*
Nareen N. Choudhury, *Intake Counsel*
Myrrha B. Guzman, *Intake Group Manager*
Albert S. Krawczyk, *Senior Intake Counsel*
Roona N. Shah, *Senior Intake Counsel*

Litigation

Stephanie E. Bogdan, *Litigation Counsel*
Kathleen E. Boychuk, *Litigation Counsel*
Tammy L. Evans, *Senior Litigation Counsel*
Richard C. Gleason, *Litigation Group Manager*
Morgan B. Handwerker, *Litigation Counsel*
Marci L. Jacobs, *Litigation Counsel*
Melissa M. Katt, *Litigation 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*
Jonathan M. Wier, *Litigation Group Manager*

Appeals

Benjamin Boroughf, *Senior Counsel, Appellate Division*
Steven R. Splitt, *Senior Counsel, Appellate Division & Media Spokesperson*
Athena T. Taite, *Director, Professional Development & Senior Counsel, Appellate Division*

ARDC STAFF IN LAW-RELATED VOLUNTEER and LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Christine P. Anderson

American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, Commissioner
National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), CoLAP Liaison
Illinois Supreme Court Elder Law Committee, ARDC Liaison

Richard C. Gleason

Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on ARDC, Member
Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Delivery of Legal Services, Member

Lea S. Gutierrez

American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility Committee
on Inclusion in Professional Responsibility, Chair
Illinois Supreme Court 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, Vice Chair & ARDC Liaison

Matthew D. Lango

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

Ann R. Pieper

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

Scott Renfroe

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

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, Board of Directors, Member

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, Executive Board, Secretary
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 Committee, Member
National Bar Association Elections Committee, Member
National Bar Association Region VII (Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin), ARDC Liaison
Practicing Law Institute Illinois Professional Responsibility Program, Co-Chair

Jonathan M. Wier

American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility Committee on Inclusion in Professional Responsibility, Member





One Prudential Plaza
130 East Randolph Drive
Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6219
312.565.2600

3161 West White Oaks Drive
Suite 301
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217.546.3523

www.iardc.org

ARDC
ATTORNEY REGISTRATION &
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION