2021 Annual Report

of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of Illinois

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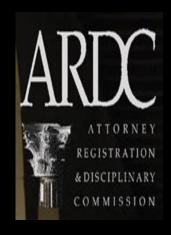


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ARDC Commission Staff



ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION of the SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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Chicago April 28, 2022

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

The annual report of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission for 2021 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 2021 and an accounting and audit of the monies received and expended during the twelve-month period that ended December 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy L. Bertschy, Chairperson John H. Simpson, Vice Chairperson LaShana T. Jackson Kate L. McCracken Drinda L. OConnor Cedric D. Thurman J. Nelson Wood, Commissioners

Jerome Larkin, Administrator Scott Renfroe, Deputy Administrator, Appeals Peter L. Rotskoff, Deputy Administrator, Litigation Althea K. Welsh, Deputy Administrator, Intake & Administration

ARDC Mission Statement

As an administrative agency of the Supreme Court of Illinois, the ARDC assists the Court in regulating the legal profession through attorney registration, education, investigation, prosecution and remedial action.

Through our annual registration process, we compile a list of lawyers authorized to practice law. We provide ready access to that list so that the public, the profession and courts may access lawyers' credentials and contact information.

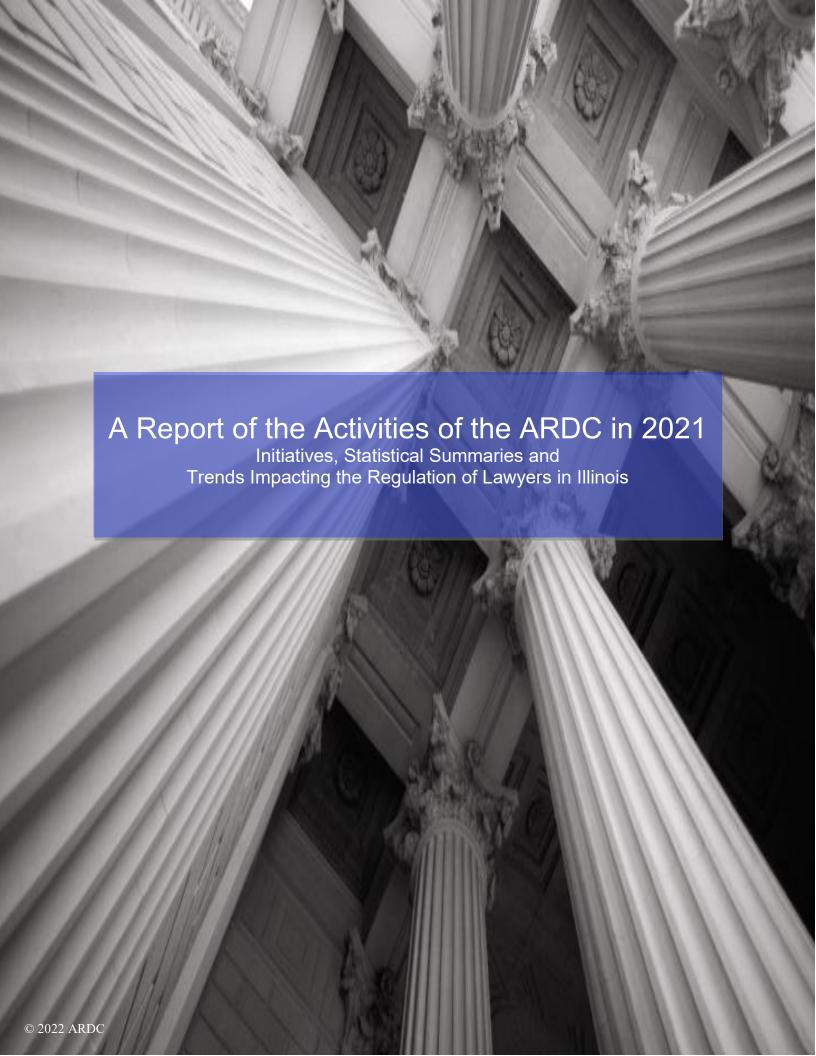
We educate lawyers through seminars and publications to help them serve their clients effectively and professionally within the bounds of the rules of conduct adopted by the Court. We provide guidance to lawyers and to the public on ethics issues through our confidential Ethics Inquiry telephone service.

The ARDC handles discipline matters fairly and promptly, balancing the rights of the lawyers involved and the protection of the public, the courts and the legal profession. Grievances are investigated confidentially. Disciplinary prosecutions are adjudicated publicly and result in recommendations to the Court for disposition. Our boards consist of independent, diverse groups of volunteer lawyers and non-lawyers who make recommendations in disciplinary matters.

We advocate for restitution and other remedial action in disciplinary matters. We seek to provide reimbursements through our Client Protection Program to those whose funds have been taken dishonestly by Illinois lawyers who have been disciplined.



ARDC Annual Report of 2021 and Highlights written and compiled by Mary F. Andreoni, Ethics Education Senior Counsel, ARDC.





Educational Initiative

A significant part of the ARDC's mission is the development of quality education and meaningful outreach programs for the profession and public on the ethical duties of lawyers. The ARDC was able to successfully adapt during the pandemic and pivot to online learning with easily accessible online programming and resources. The ARDC Education Group is responsible for creating, producing and supporting innovative instructional e-learning webcasts on the ARDC Online Learning Portal, the ARDC Annual Report, hundreds of hours of in-person and virtual CLE presentations, the Ethics Inquiry Program and various publications and training courses.

E-Learning MCLE Accredited Seminars

As a leading CLE provider in Illinois, the ARDC produces recorded MCLE-accredited webcasts, free of charge, and available 24/7 on the ARDC website. During the pandemic, the ARDC was able to meet the demand for high-quality professional responsibility training and ethics education for the profession. In 2021, there were 29 ondemand, recorded webcasts available on the ARDC website, providing 20.25 hours of professional responsibility CLE credit. 32,419 certificates of CLE completion were issued in 2021, totaling 24,274 hours of professional responsibility CLE credit earned.



Included in the ARDC webcast 2021 offerings is Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR), a four-hour interactive, law office management self-assessment course. Lawyers in private practice without malpractice insurance are required to complete the course every two years. See IL Supreme Court Rule 756(e)(2). Approximately 13% of lawyers fall into this category. See Chart 9B Malpractice Disclosure Reports: Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice, Appendix. From its launch in 2018 through 2021, 10,367 or 75% of attorneys required to take the PMBR course have completed the course; 1,362 attorneys or 10% obtained malpractice insurance in lieu of the requirement, and another 2,003 attorneys or 15% were exempt from PMBR because of a change from Active status to either

Retired or Inactive status. Over 70% of lawyers completing the course are over 50 years of age and 47% are more than 30 years in practice.

All ARDC CLE on-demand recorded webcasts, including the PMBR course, can be accessed from the ARDC website from the <u>ARDC Online Learning Portal</u>.

Speaking Engagements

An important part of the ARDC's outreach efforts and as a service to the Illinois bar, the ARDC offers experienced presenters to speak to lawyer and citizen groups at no charge. Each year ARDC Commissioners and staff members present to bar associations, government agencies, law-related organizations, schools and civic organizations throughout the state and country on a variety of subjects related to lawyer regulation. ARDC staff lawyers gave 117 speeches, all done virtually, in 2021.

Ethics Inquiry Program

The ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program assists attorneys and the general public with general questions about a lawyer's professional responsibilities. In 2021, staff lawyers responded to 2,817 calls from lawyers, providing research assistance and guidance regarding ethics issues and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, free of charge. Since the Program began in October 1995, the Program has received over 75,000 inquiries from lawyers seeking guidance in resolving important issues in their practice. The perennially top area of inquiry is a lawyer's mandatory duty to report lawyer or judicial misconduct under Rule 8.3 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct. See Chart 26 Attorney Reports (2007-2021), Appendix, which shows the trend of lawyer reports for the past fifteen years from 2007 through 2021.

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

Publications

ARDC lawyers frequently write alerts, e-blasts, newsletters and articles on a wide range of legal ethics topics and emerging trends for publication, including authoring a series of articles that appear in the Illinois Supreme Court's monthly newsletter, <u>Illinois Courts Connect</u>. These publications and resources can be explored on the ARDC website at www.iardc.org. The ARDC website also provides links to the rules governing Illinois lawyers as well as periodic announcements on the latest developments concerning lawyer regulation.

ARDC Website

The ARDC website (www.iardc.org) serves as an important source of information to the public and the legal profession about all aspects of the regulation of the legal profession in Illinois. A vital tool in the ARDC's education and outreach efforts, there are over 1.4 million visits every year. Most users utilize the Lawyer Search function, which provides ready access to the public, the profession, and the judiciary to lawyers' credentials and contact information. The ARDC website also handles all registration matters for over 95,000 lawyers each year and



is a portal for connecting the legal profession to important updates impacting Illinois lawyers, educational resources to assist lawyers in their practice, and CLE programming. In July 2021, the ARDC launched an updated website making the website more user friendly and improving the search function for researching disciplinary cases.

Hosting International Conference of Legal Regulators (ICLR)

On September 28, 2021, the ARDC hosted for the second time the ICLR 2021 Virtual Conference to registrants from around the world. The conference was held virtually over the course of four days across international time zones. Justice Rita B. Garman welcomed the conference attendees at the all virtual conference and was the keynote speaker. The ICLR (www.iclr.net) seeks to bring together legal regulators from around the globe to share knowledge and best practices and to find solutions to common challenges. The next Conference is scheduled to take place in-person in Chicago in fall 2022.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative

The ARDC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative provides leadership and direction for diversity, equity and inclusion at the ARDC, encourages diversity and cultural competence at all levels of the Commission, promotes a culture that leverages differences and similarities to maximize organizational and individual potential, and enhances the application of diversity, equity and inclusion principles in the ARDC's regulatory processes. The ARDC's DEI efforts include hosting ongoing continuing DEI education for staff and volunteer board members that increases cultural fluency, inclusion, and awareness of unconscious bias. The ARDC's DEI goals include ensuring a work environment free from discrimination and harassment, maintaining a diverse workforce and roster of volunteer board members, and enhancing confidence in the fairness of the disciplinary system.

Lawyer Well-Being Initiative

ARDC is committed to promoting well-being both within the legal profession as well as in the workplace. The challenges presented by the pandemic have served to increase focus on adopting and prioritizing strategies to improve the mental health and well-being of lawyers. Those efforts include presenting educational seminars on stress management, self-care, emotional intelligence, mindfulness and healthy lifestyles. There are currently three CLE-accredited webcasts on the ARDC website on the topic of well-being. Remedial efforts are also undertaken by the ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department and ARDC staff counsel, assisting lawyers that are the subject of a disciplinary investigation or prosecution to address the cause of misconduct and prevent future harm. See Probation, Referral and Diversion, at Page 30.

Within the ARDC, the ARDC established a seven-member well-being committee as part of the ARDC's commitment to the ABA Well-Being Pledge. The committee helped employees navigate the remote work environment, presenting in-house programs and providing resources to staff on wellness issues as well as information about the ARDC's employee assistance program.

ARDC Pandemic Response and Office Organization Initiative

Several changes the ARDC implemented pre-pandemic, as well as completion of the ARDC's transition to a Cloud-based system, enabled the ARDC to function effectively and efficiently during the nearly two-year statewide pandemic shutdown.

Disciplinary Investigations and Prosecutions

Accepting email requests for investigation, which prior to the shutdown, were only accepted by mail or facsimile, and handling investigations via email and conducting sworn statements via WebEx not only allowed the ARDC to pivot very quickly to a remote work environment but also greatly enhanced the processing and review of grievances. See Page 23.

Disciplinary Proceedings Before the Hearing and Review Boards

All filings before the Hearing Board and Review Board, since January 2019, are done electronically via the ARDC's e-filing system, utilizing WebEx for prehearing conferences as early as 2018, and moving toward a substantially paperless work environment before 2020. Since April 2016, the Clerk of the ARDC has maintained only an electronic record of all proceedings and has designated the electronic record as the official record of proceedings.

1 The ABA Well-Being Pledge is part of the <u>ABA Well-Being Campaign</u> to improve the substance use and mental health landscape of the legal profession, with an emphasis on helping legal employers support healthy work environments. The ARDC is one of 206 legal employers that took the Pledge.

In accordance with Illinois Supreme Court Rule 241, the Illinois Supreme Court Order of May 20, 2020 and the ARDC Administrative Order of June 10, 2020, all proceedings before the Hearing Board in Chicago are held remotely, and Springfield hearings can be in-person with the consent of the parties and within the discretion of the Panel Chair. To ensure fairness to all parties, the ARDC Clerk's Office sends out detailed written instructions covering how a remote video hearing will be conducted using the WebEx platform. In 2021, there were 15 contested hearings before the Hearing Board, only one of which was held in-person in the ARDC Springfield office. All 24 consent and six default hearings, as well as all nine oral arguments before the Review Board, were held remotely in 2021. The plan for 2022 is to have the option to conduct hearings in person, hybrid or remote.

Legal Staff Reduction

In response to ongoing caseload decreases, the anticipated retirement of senior staff lawyers, and the need to reassign existing legal staff in order to implement new strategies and efficiencies particularly as they relate to proactive and education efforts, the ARDC's entire legal staff decreased from 52 lawyers in 2013 to 33 lawyers beginning 2022, a 36.5% reduction. The number of litigation counsel staff declined during that same seven-year period from 28 to 15 litigators, a 46.4% decrease, as well as Adjudication counsel legal staff which decreased from 11 counsel in 2013 to four in 2022. Two lawyers were re-assigned to the ARDC's Intake division in the prior year, with the goal of enabling Intake counsel to act more immediately to help lawyers address practice issues through early education, diversion and deferrals and allowing litigators to be able to focus more effectively on a reduced number of serious disciplinary matters.



ARDC Begins Its 50th Year of Service

On January 24, 1973, the Illinois Supreme Court adopted Rule 751, which established the ARDC to assume the disciplinary functions previously performed

by the Illinois State and Chicago Bar Associations. Since that time, the ARDC has evolved to meet the changing needs of the legal profession and public. The ARDC provides services and resources beyond its initial mission of maintaining the Master Roll and the investigation and prosecution of complaints of misconduct against Illinois lawyers, assisting lawyers in meeting the challenges of practicing in a modern pre- and post-pandemic world.





Master Roll Demographics

Attorney Population in 2021

The 2021 Master Roll of Attorneys for the state of Illinois numbered 95,480 attorneys at the end of the 2021 registration year, comprised mostly of Active and Inactive status lawyers. A 0.6% increase over 2020, this continues a pre-pandemic trend, beginning in 2016, of less than a 1% net annual rate of growth. This is consistent with the static rate of growth in the lawyer population in the United States in the last five years.²

Year	Lawyer Population	% Change Over Prior Year
2021	95,480	0.6%
2020	94,907	0.3%
2019	94.662	0.6%
2018	94,608	-0.18%
2017	94,778	0.17%

It is too early to know what effect the pandemic has had, and may continue to have, on the lawyer population going forward, since 2021 was the first registration year after the statewide shutdown began in March 2020.³ Removals for lawyers electing to go on Retired status, along with removals due to nonpayment, death, or discipline, did not appreciably change for the 2021 registration year and are consistent with what was seen in the years prior to the pandemic. See Chart 4 Attorney Removals from the Master Roll: 2011-2021 Registration Years, at Appendix.

The number of lawyers removed for non-compliance with MCLE requirements, however, rose sharply for the 2021 registration year, as compared to prior years. A higher number of lawyers than usual (292) were eventually removed in 2021 for failure to comply, despite the Court, in consultation with the Illinois MCLE Board, providing a free, three-month extension in April 2020, to lawyers in the A-M reporting group facing a July 31, reporting deadline. More than 42,000 attorneys were eligible for the free extension. The average removal rate for non-compliance for the past ten years has been 117 lawyers each year. Similarly, lawyers removed for non-compliance with the MCLE Basic Skills course requirement, also having been given more time to complete the requirement, increased to 27 lawyers in 2021. The average removal rate since 2011 has been 16 lawyers annually. See Chart 4.

² See ABA National Lawyer Population Survey By State (2011-2021). Over the past ten years, Illinois had a much slower rate of growth (4.4%) as compared to the rate of growth in other states with the largest number of lawyers: New York (14.9%); California (6.6%); Texas (19.0%); and Florida (19.3%).

³ Most lawyers registered for the 2020 registration year by the January 1, 2020 deadline set forth in III.S.Ct.R. 756(a). The 2020 lawyer population statistics in the 2020 Annual Report are a snapshot of the profession as of August 31, 2020, before the ARDC began registration for 2021.

Age, Gender and Years in Practice

In 2021, most Illinois lawyers were between 11 and 20 years in practice (26.4%), 40 to 49 years old (24.9%), and male (60.3%). See Chart 1A Age, Gender and Years in Practice (2017-2021), Appendix.

The number of female lawyers has steadily increased since 2017, now comprising nearly 40% of Illinois lawyers in 2021. For lawyers less than 20 years in practice, female lawyers

YEARS IN PRACTICE	FEMALE	MALE	DIFFERENCE
D-+ 0 10	11,568	12,967	5.8%
Between 0 and 10 years	47.1%	52.9%	3.870
D-+ 10 120	11,588	13,149	6.4%
Between 10 and 20 years	46.8%	53.2%	0.4%
D-t 20 1	14,222	30,117	35.8%
Between 20 and more	32.1%	67.9%	33.8%

constitute approximately 47% of the profession. After 20 years in practice, however, the gap between the number of female and male lawyers starts to increase significantly. Only 32.1% of lawyers in practice more than 20 years are female.

See Chart 1B Comparison of Female and Male Lawyers By Years in Practice (2021), Appendix, for more detailed years-in-practice intervals.

Principal Business Location

All Active and Inactive Registered Lawyers

Of the 95,480 lawyers registered in 2021, 66,516 or 69.7% of Active and Inactive attorneys reported a principal business address in Illinois, a net gain of 793 lawyers or 0.4% increase over 2020 and continuing a slight gain in the number of in-state lawyers over the past five years. See Chart 1C Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Lawyers 2000-2021, Appendix. 28,964 or 30.3% of registered attorneys reported a principal address outside Illinois in 2021. 70.4% of attorneys registered as Active and able to practice under the auspices of their Illinois license and 29.6% registered as Inactive. Lawyers practicing principally outside of Illinois have comprised at least 30% of the Illinois legal population since 2014. See Chart 1C, Appendix. 20,550 or 71% of these 28,964 lawyers hold a license in another jurisdiction in addition to their Illinois license. The top five jurisdictions in 2021, the same as last year, are Missouri, District of Columbia, California, New York, and Wisconsin.

8,414 or 29% have solely an Illinois license but are located outside of Illinois. 72% have an Active license and the top jurisdictions in which they are located are District of Columbia, California, Texas, Florida and New York.

Active and Inactive Registered Lawyers Located in Illinois: By County 4

Of the 66,516 Active and Inactive lawyers in 2021 located in Illinois, 86.8% or 57,706 lawyers in Illinois practice within the six most populous counties in the state, commonly referred to as metropolitan Chicago (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will). 71.0% or 47,209 lawyers in Illinois are found in Cook County.

13.2% or 8,810 lawyers in Illinois are located in the remaining 96 counties of the state.

	In-State IL Lawyers	Metropolitan Chicago (6 Counties)		96 Co	unties
2021	66,516	57,706	86.8%	8,810	13.2%
2020	65,723	57,007	86.7%	8,716	13.3%
2019	65,107	56,368	86.8%	8,739	13.2%
2018	64,679	55,800	86.3%	8,879	13.7%
2017	64,175	55,285	86.2%	8,890	13.8%



There was little overall change in the 102 counties in Illinois over the prior year. See Chart 3, Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys By County (2019-2021), Appendix. Compared with 2020, 45 counties experienced a slight increase, including all the metropolitan Chicago counties, 36 saw a slight decrease, and 21 had no change in their lawyer population. See Chart 3. The lawyer population outside metropolitan Chicago has decreased approximately 0.6% since 2017.

Of the five judicial districts, only the First District (Cook County) has more lawyers within its district than it did five years ago. See Chart 2, Active and Inactive Lawyers By Judicial District and Circuit (2017-2021).

Practice Demographics

Beginning with the 2016 registration year, lawyers on Active status and engaged in the practice of law must report *pro bono*, trust account, malpractice insurance information, and other practice-related information during the annual registration process as required by Supreme Court Rule 756(c) through (g). Except for a lawyer's contact information and whether a lawyer maintains malpractice insurance, the data collected is confidential and is reported in the aggregate and does not appear in a lawyer's listing on the Master Roll.

Practice Setting	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Private Practice	68.2%	68.6%	68.5%	67.8%	66.7%	66.1%
	47,456	49,444	49,970	49,996	48,798	48,650
Corporate In-House	13.9%	14.0%	14.3%	14.8%	15.4%	15.5%
	9,662	10,080	10,423	10,901	11,231	11,379
Government/Judicial	11.4%	11.4%	11.4%	11.6%	12.1%	12.4%
	7,911	8,209	8,321	8,607	8,874	9,164
Other	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%
	2,220	2,297	2,233	2,220	2,177	2,271
Not-for-Profit	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%
	1,360	1,428	1,544	1,607	1,628	1,728
Academia	1.3%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
	963	604	461	456	448	434

⁴ See New Judicial District Map, effective January 1, 2022, Chart 2B, Appendix.

Practice Setting: Active Status

There were 80,280 lawyers with an Active registration status in 2021. 73,626 or 91.7% reported that they are currently practicing law and 66.1% or 48,650 are in a private practice setting.⁵ See Chart 6A 2017-2021 Practice Setting: Active Status and Currently Practicing, Appendix. Lawyers in private practice have decreased 2.1% since 2016.

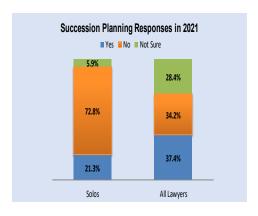
Practice Size: Private Practice

Of the 48,650 lawyers with an Active status license, engaged in the practice of law and in private practice, sole practitioners make up the largest practice size setting at 27.2%. The next largest practice size setting is lawyers at law firms with 100+ lawyers at 26.3%. The smallest practice size setting is lawyers in law firms of 11 to 25 lawyers at 9.4%. Sole practitioners and lawyers in firms of 2 to 10 lawyers account for 52.6% of lawyers actively practicing in private practice. See Chart 6B 2017-2021 Practice Size: Active Status, Currently Practicing, and in Private Practice, Appendix.



Succession Planning

Active status lawyers engaged in the practice of law must disclose whether the entity at which they practice law has established a written succession plan. See IL Supreme Court Rule 756(g). A succession plan is a plan for how the law firm will function in the event of the lawyer's death, disability or other inability to continue a law practice. At a minimum, such a plan should identify another person, preferably a lawyer, who agrees to assume responsibilities for notifying clients and disposing of client-related materials and



⁵ Not included in the practice setting demographics are the 6,653 lawyers, or 8.3% of all Active status lawyers, who reported that they are not currently engaged in the practice of law and are not required under III. S.Ct.R. 756(g)(4) to provide practice setting information.

other property. This is particularly critical for lawyers in a solo practice who work alone.

Of the 13,244 Active status lawyers that identify as solo practitioners engaged in the private practice of law, only 21.3% reported that they have a written succession plan. While this is a 1.4% increase over the prior year and a 4.1% increase since 2017, 72.8% reported that they do not have a written succession plan. 5.9% indicated that they are not sure of whether they have a plan in place. See Chart 7A 2017-2021 Succession Planning: Active Status, Currently Practicing, and in Private Practice, Appendix. The top practice area of sole practitioners with no written succession plan continues to be real estate at 21.7%.

The top five practice areas identified by solo practitioners who responded "No" to the succession planning question continues to be the same as what it was in 2021.



4,122 or 31.1% of all solo practitioners reported that they have no succession plan and no malpractice insurance of which 59.5% are 60 or more years old. See Chart 7B, Appendix.

Report on Pro Bono Activities

All registered lawyers are required to report voluntary *pro bono* service and monetary contributions in their annual registration even though *pro bono* activities are voluntary. See IL Supreme Court Rule 756(f). Although there was understandably a decrease in *pro bono* service during the pandemic, the number of lawyers making monetary contributions has stayed consistent with pre-pandemic levels and the amount contributed to pro bono organizations increased slightly in 2021.

Of the 95,480 lawyers registered for 2021, 30,646 or 32% reported that they had provided during 2021, a total of 1,715,803 *pro bono* legal service hours or an average of 56 hours of *pro bono* time per lawyer engaged in *pro bono* service, above the aspirational goal of ABA Model Rule 6.1 of providing at least 50 hours of *pro bono* legal services per year. See ABA Model Rule 6.1, Comment [1].

64,834 attorneys reported that they had not provided *pro bono* legal services of which 9,336 or 14.4%, indicated that they were prohibited from providing *pro bono* legal services because of their employment.

The information reported by individual attorneys concerning voluntary pro bono service and trust

accounts is confidential under Supreme Court Rule 766 and is not reported as part of a lawyer's individual listing on the Master Roll and is not displayed on the ARDC website (www.iardc.org).

Report on Pro Bono Hours (2017-2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Type of <i>Pro Bono</i> Services	Service Hours	Service Hours	Service Hours	Service Hours	Service Hours
Legal services to persons of limited means	1,051,684	1,129,983	1,096,544	1,076,943	991,862
Legal services to enumerated organizations designed to address needs of persons of limited means	335,118	355,969	333,371	316,254	281,117
Legal services to enumerated organizations in furtherance of their purposes	471,646	473,603	444,546	439,032	402,939
Training intended to benefit legal service organizations or lawyers providing pro bono services	54,874	48,051	44,001	51,384	39,885
Total:	1,913,322	2,007,606	1,918,462	1,883,613	1,715,803

18,096 lawyers reported \$17,550,990 in monetary contributions in 2021, an average of \$970 per contributing lawyer.

Monetary Contributions to *Pro Bono* Service Organizations (2017-2021)

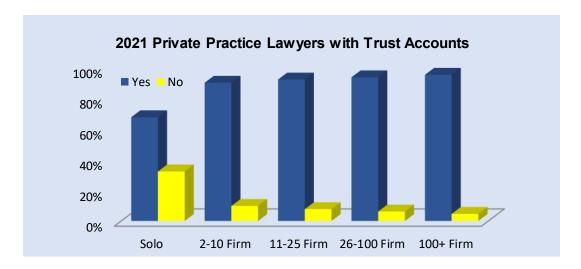
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Amount Contributed	\$17,858,268	\$18,223,917	\$16,930,744	\$17,116,265	\$17,550,990
Number of lawyers who made contributions	19,871	20,709	18,206	17,936	18,096
% of lawyers who made contributions	21.0%	21.9%	19.2%	18.9%	19.0%

Not reflected in the above chart is the fact that most Illinois lawyers contribute to the funding of legal aid through the \$95 portion of the full annual registration fee paid by Active status lawyers

that is remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, as well as the contributions lawyers have made to other charitable and not-for-profit organizations. For the 2021 registration year, \$7,149,667 was remitted through registration fees to the Lawyers Trust Fund in 2021. A total of \$88,451,638 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

Every Active and Inactive status lawyer is required to disclose in their registration under Supreme Court Rule 756(d), whether they or their law firm maintained a trust account during the preceding year and to disclose whether 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. Most lawyers in private practice need to have a trust account because they handle client or third-party funds at some point in the course of their practice. If no trust account was maintained during the preceding 12 months, the lawyer is required to disclose the reason why no trust account was maintained.



From the 95,480 lawyers who were registered for 2021, 49.9% or 47,736 of all registered lawyers reported that they or their law firm maintained a trust account sometime during the preceding 12 months. 81.8% of these trust accounts were IOLTA accounts and 18.2% were non-IOLTA accounts. See Chart 8A, 2021 Trust Account Disclosure Reports 2021, Appendix.

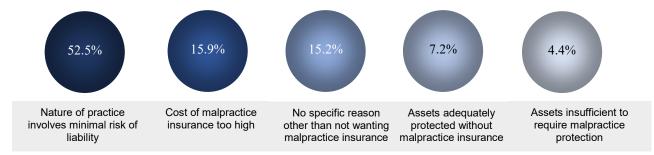
Of the 47,736 lawyers who reported that they or their law firm did not maintain a trust account, 50% reported that they had no outside practice because of their full-time employment in a corporation or governmental agency. *Id.* For sole practitioners in private practice, 32.3% reported that they did not maintain a trust account as compared to the average of 7.1% in all other private practice settings that responded in the negative. See Chart 8B, 2017-2021 Trust Account Disclosure Reports, Appendix.

Malpractice Insurance

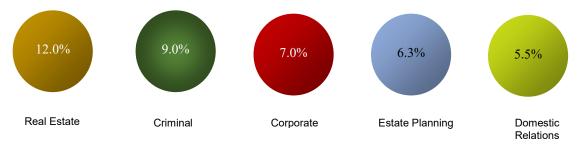
Supreme Court Rule 756(e) requires most Illinois lawyers to disclose whether they carry malpractice insurance coverage and, if so, the dates of coverage. The Rule does not require Illinois lawyers to carry malpractice insurance in order to practice law under the authority of their Illinois license.⁶ Many clients may assume that their lawyer has malpractice insurance. The disclosure of malpractice coverage in a lawyer's registration report is part of the publicly available information about a lawyer on the ARDC website. Lawyers not currently engaged in the practice of law, in-house counsel and government lawyers typically do not carry malpractice insurance.

In 2021, 54.5% of all 95,480 registered lawyers reported that they have malpractice insurance, a figure that has remained generally consistent over the past five years. See Chart 9A Malpractice Disclosure: 2017-2021, Appendix. Of the 48,650 lawyers with an Active status license and currently engaged in private practice (who most likely may have the need to carry malpractice), however, that number increases significantly. 86.9% of lawyers in private practice reported that they carried malpractice insurance. In terms of practice size, 62.3% of sole practitioners reported that they carried malpractice insurance as compared to at least 94% of firms with 2 or more lawyers. See Chart 9B Malpractice Disclosure: Active Status, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice: 2017-2021, Appendix.

The top five reasons given by solo practitioners who responded "No" to the malpractice question are:



The top five practice areas identified by solo practitioners who responded "No" to the malpractice question are the same top five practice areas identified for solos who answered "No" to the succession planning question. See Page 16.



6 Under III.S.Ct.R. 756(e)(2), Active status lawyers in private practice reporting no malpractice insurance must complete every other year the Proactive Management-Based Regulation (PMBR) course. See Page 7.

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2021 Regulatory Action

Investigations

Investigations Initiated in 2021

The impact of the pandemic and slowdown of the legal system continued to be reflected in the number of investigations docketed between 2020 and 2021. The number of investigations initiated in 2021 remained virtually unchanged over 2020. 3,881 investigations were received in 2021, 55 fewer investigations than in 2020; however, this is a more than 20% drop in investigations over 2019.

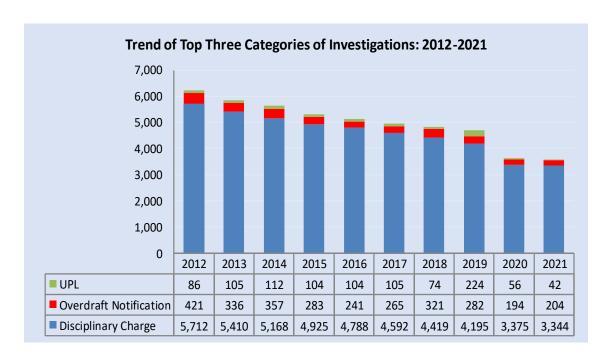
While the pandemic most likely explains the sharp decline in the caseload in 2020 and 2021, the trend of a decreasing caseload began in 2013. See Chart 10 Trend of Types of Investigations: 2013-2021, Appendix. The five-year average for investigations initiated each year dropped from 5,852 investigations between 2012 and 2016, to 4,596 investigations annually between 2017 and 2021, a 21.5% decline. See Chart 26 Attorney Reports, Appendix. Although the data does not point to a single reason for multi-year declines, more emphasis on continuing education and heightened ethics awareness among lawyers may be helping to reduce misconduct grievances. Other pre-pandemic factors possibly impacting caseload, such as the decline in the number of new cases filed in Illinois courts,⁷ the significant rise in the number of the self-represented,⁸ the aging of the legal profession, and the continuing decline in the Illinois population,⁹ will likely continue post pandemic.

The 3,881 investigations docketed in 2021 involved charges against 2,979 different attorneys, representing 3.1% of all registered attorneys. Out of these 2,979 attorneys, 472 or 15.8% were the subject of more than one investigation docketed in 2021, and 235 or 8.0% had been disciplined by the Court in the past. See Chart 11, Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations Docketed in 2021, Appendix.

⁷ The Illinois Courts, Statistical Summary (2020), published by the Illinois Supreme Court, reported that from 2016 to 2020 newly filed cases in the Circuit Courts decreased by 35.9%. See Statistical Summary at p.17.

⁸ According to the 2020 Annual Report of the Illinois Supreme Court, one of the growing challenges in courts across the country is the number of self-represented litigants (SRLs). Beginning in 2019, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) started collecting SRL data in civil cases in the Appellate Courts. The report found that 37% of civil appeals filed statewide are filed by SRLs. See Report at p. 53

^{9 &}lt;u>Data</u> released by the U.S. Census Bureau in December 2020, shows Illinois experienced a seventh consecutive year in population decline and has witnessed the second-largest population loss of all U.S. states since 2010. Illinois lost almost 2% of its residents from 2010 to 2020.



Disciplinary Investigations

64% of grievances stem from a breakdown in the attorney-client relationship: neglect of a client's cause, failure to communicate, billing and fee issues, and failure to provide competent representation. Allegations of neglect are perennially the top complaint, comprising 26% of all grievances in 2021. Consistent with prior years, the top practice areas most likely to lead to a grievance of attorney misconduct are criminal law, domestic relations, tort, real estate, and probate. See Chart 12 2021 Classification of Charges and Chart 13 2021 Area of Law, Appendix.

Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (UPL)¹⁰

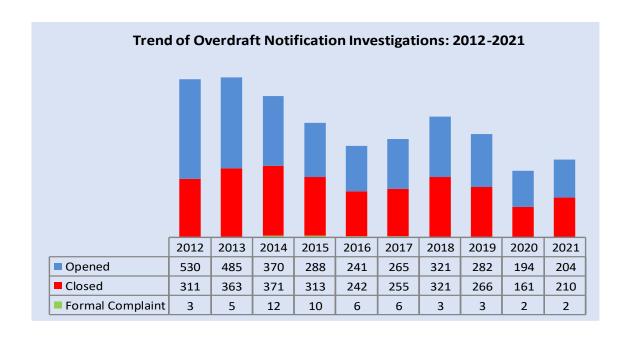
42 investigations were opened in 2021 involving UPL charges against 37 unlicensed individuals or entities, one out-of-state lawyer and one suspended lawyer. See Chart 18A Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigation (2017-2021), Appendix. Real estate (17%), contract (12%) and immigration (10%) were the top three areas of law involved in UPL investigations in 2021. See Chart 18B Area of Law in 779 Investigations in 2021, Appendix.

Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations

204 overdraft notification investigations were opened in 2021. Pursuant to Rule 1.15(h) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, financial institutions are required to notify the ARDC of a client trust account overdraft. Most overdrafts are found to be the result of a mathematical, clerical or accounting error rather than intentional misuse of client funds; however, some overdraft

10 Since 2011, the ARDC has the authority under Supreme Court Rule 779 to investigate UPL allegations against suspended and disbarred Illinois lawyers, out-of-state lawyers licensed in another jurisdiction, and persons not licensed in any jurisdiction and, if necessary, file a civil or contempt proceeding in the circuit court.

investigations reveal problems with the lawyer's handling of trust funds or the lawyer's recordkeeping practices. The ARDC's focus is to educate the attorney regarding the requirements of Rule 1.15 and to bring the lawyer into compliance. Typically, a lawyer will be directed to review sections of the ARDC's *Client Trust Account Handbook* or to view one of the ARDC's webinars covering the requirements of Rule 1.15. In some instances, the investigation will remain open subject to the lawyer completing certain conditions to ensure that necessary practice corrections are made before an investigation is closed. Evidence that client funds were converted can result in the filing of a formal complaint against the lawyer. Two investigations resulted in the filing of formal charges in 2021. Of the 3,180 trust account overdraft investigations opened since 2012, only 52 or 1.6% resulted in formal disciplinary charges.



Investigations Concluded in 2021

In 2021, 4,245 investigations were concluded of which 4,101 were closed by the Administrator's staff: 1,097 grievances closed after initial review of the complainant's concerns and 3,004 grievances closed after investigation did not reveal sufficiently serious, provable misconduct. See Chart 15 Investigations Concluded in 2021. Despite the pandemic shutdown and remote work environment, ARDC staff lawyers were able to adhere to the Commission's policy that disciplinary matters be handled expeditiously. The shift to an entirely electronic system in handling grievances allowed for faster resolutions. More than 97% of grievances not warranting in-depth investigation were concluded within 60 days of the docketing of the grievance as compared to 94% pre-pandemic in 2019. In 2021, 63% of grievances warranting a greater level of investigation were concluded within 90 days of receipt versus 58% in 2019. See Chart 16 Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2021, Appendix.

Where there is evidence of serious misconduct, the case is referred to the Inquiry Board, unless the matter is filed directly with the Supreme Court under Rules 757, 761, 762(a), or 763. The Inquiry Board, which is comprised of two attorneys and one nonlawyer, all appointed by the Commission, has the authority to vote a formal complaint if it finds sufficient evidence to support a charge, to close an investigation if it does not so find, or to place an attorney on supervision under the direction of the Inquiry Board panel pursuant to Commission Rule 108. The Administrator cannot pursue formal charges without authorization by an Inquiry Board panel.

In 2021, 24 grievances, involving 22 lawyers, resulted in the filing of a petition for discipline directly with the Supreme Court and 69 grievances were voted as disciplinary complaints by the Inquiry Board against 45 lawyers. An additional 44 files were closed after Inquiry Board review, as well as seven grievances were concluded upon compliance in 2021 with Commission Rule 108 conditions. See Chart 15 Investigations Concluded in 2021, Appendix.

Receivership of a Lawyer's Practice Under Supreme Court Rule 776

In the event of a lawyer's death, disability or disappearance and where there is "no partner, associate, executor or other responsible party capable of conducting the lawyer's affairs is known to exist," Supreme Court Rule 776 provides for the appointment of a receiver to inventory a lawyer's files and fulfill the duties necessary to close the practice.

The ARDC provides assistance to family, friends, and professional colleagues who have undertaken to close a lawyer's practice as well as to those individuals appointed by a court as a receiver. In the absence of someone to assume this responsibility, the ARDC will seek to be appointed receiver to ensure that clients' interests are not prejudiced by the lawyer's absence from the practice.

In 2021, there were five receiverships of a lawyer's law practice filed in the circuit court of which the ARDC was appointed receiver in two matters and assisted the receiver in the other three. Between 2017 and 2021, the ARDC has been appointed a receiver of a lawyer's practice in 13 instances, two of which were still pending in 2021. Of the 13 receiverships, 11 involved the appointment of a receiver due to the lawyer's death. See Chart 23, ARDC-Appointed Receiverships (2017-2021), Appendix. The average age of the lawyer when the ARDC was appointed as receiver was 64 years old. In addition, the ARDC conducted 29 investigations in 2021 to determine if a receivership was necessary. 23 were closed where the evidence showed that clients' interests were being protected and the disposition of the lawyer's practice was appropriately handled.

Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings

Hearing Board Filings

Most disciplinary prosecutions begin with the filing of a formal complaint. A formal complaint is initiated against the attorney when an Inquiry Board panel authorizes the filing of charges. The matter then proceeds before a panel of the Hearing Board, comprised of two lawyers and one nonlawyer, appointed by the Commission. Proceedings are public except for hearings held pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 758 (petition to transfer a lawyer to disability inactive status).

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

Hearing Board Caseload	Pending January 1st	Filed During Year	Concluded During Year	Pending December 31st
2021	55	53	55	53
2020	61	40	46	55
2019	81	51	71	61
2018	81	64	64	61
2017	90	79	88	81
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8 DISCIPLINARY

COMMISSION

53 cases were added to the Hearing Board's docket in 2021, a 32.5% increase over 2020, and raising the prosecutorial caseload back to the 2019 pre-pandemic level. As with the investigative caseload, the number of prosecutions has steadily decreased for the past several years. See Chart 25B Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings (2006-2021), Appendix.

Of the 53 cases filed before the Hearing Board in 2021, 48 were initiated by the filing of a new disciplinary complaint and five were filed by suspended or disbarred lawyers seeking reinstatement to the practice of law. See Chart 20A Matters Before the Hearing Board in 2021, Appendix.

Most lawyers charged with misconduct were between 21 and 30 years in practice (25.0%), 50 to 59 years of age (27.1%), and male (77.1%); however, lawyers between 5 and 10 years in practice were charged at a higher percentage (22.9%) than their percentage in the legal population (16.4%), more than any other years-in-practice group. See Chart 20B Demographics of Lawyers Charged in 2021, Appendix.

79% of formal disciplinary complaints charged fraudulent or deceptive activity in connection with alleged misrepresentations to clients, a tribunal or others, or in connection with the conversion of trust funds. See Chart 20C Types of Misconduct Alleged in 2021, Appendix.

The top five subject areas involved in the complaints were: at 17% each, the lawyer's own criminal conduct or conviction, tort, and the lawyer's personal conduct not arising out of a legal representation, real estate (15%) and domestic relations (13%). See Chart 20D Subject Area Involved, Appendix.

Hearing Board Dispositions

The Hearing Board concluded a total of 55 matters, 52 disciplinary cases and three reinstatement petitions during 2021. 19 cases (32.7%) proceeded as contested hearings and involved the filing of a comprehensive report and recommendation. The remaining 37 cases (67.3%) concluded without the need to prepare a detailed report and recommendation from the Hearing Board: 27 cases closed by the filing of discipline on consent; six cases proceeded as a default hearing; and three cases were dismissed prior to hearing.

Hearing Board proceedings were held remotely for most of 2020 and all of 2021, except for one hearing conducted in the Springfield office.

2021 Disciplinary Cases: Rules 753 & 761(d)	52
Case closed by filing of petition for discipline on consent other than disbarment	24
Recommendation of discipline after contested hearing	15
Recommendation of discipline after default hearing	6
Case closed by filing of motion for disbarment on consent	3
Complaint dismissed before hearing	3
Complaint dismissed after contested hearing	1
2021 Reinstatement Petitions: Rule 767	3
Petition allowed with conditions after contested hearing	2
Petition denied after contested hearing	1

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Review Board Caseload	Pending January 1st	Filed During Year	Concluded During Year	Pending December 31st			
2021	5	12	7	10			
2020	9	7	11	5			
2019	7	19	17	9			
2018	17	12	22	9			
2017	17	23	24	16			
ARDC							
ATTORNEY REGISTRATION & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION							

Review Board Dispositions

Once the Hearing Board files its report in a case, either party may file a notice of exceptions to the Review Board, which serves as an appellate tribunal.

The Review Board is composed of nine lawyer members appointed by the Supreme Court to three-year terms. The Supreme Court designates one member of the Board as Chair. The Review Board is assisted by a legal staff that is separate from the Administrator's office and the Hearing Board's adjudication staff.

Of the 12 cases filed in 2021, review was sought by the ARDC in nine. See Chart 20E, Appendix.

Supreme Court Matters

Disciplinary Cases

The Supreme Court has sole authority to sanction attorneys for misconduct, except for a reprimand which can be imposed in a disciplinary case without order of the Court by either the Hearing or Review Board. In 2021, the Court entered 84 sanctions against 83 lawyers (one lawyer was disciplined twice). The Hearing Board reprimanded one lawyer in 2021.

Filings in the Supreme Court	Total Filings	Direct Filings in the Court: 762(a), 763 & 757	Disciplinary Proceedings Disposition Filings	Permanent Retirement Petitions Disposition Filings	Petitions for Reinstatement Disposition Filings	Sanctions Entered	II SIPRO
2021	87	41	37	5	4	84	
2020	95	32	55	4	4	81	
2019	111	41	60	0	10	96	
2018	116	38	70	2	6	75	
2017	137	41	89	2	5	118	
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Disciplinary cases reach the Court in several different ways. Some disciplinary matters are filed directly with the Court upon petition and others are initiated before the Hearing Board. Disciplinary matters such as voluntary disbarments and petitions to impose discipline on consent or reciprocal discipline are filed directly in the Supreme Court. See Chart 19 Proceedings Filed Directly with the Illinois Supreme Court (2017-2021), Appendix.

In 2021, 41 disciplinary matters were filed directly with the Illinois Supreme Court. This is in addition to the 53 disciplinary proceedings filed before the Hearing Board in 2021. See Chart 20A Matters Before the Hearing Board in 2021, Appendix.

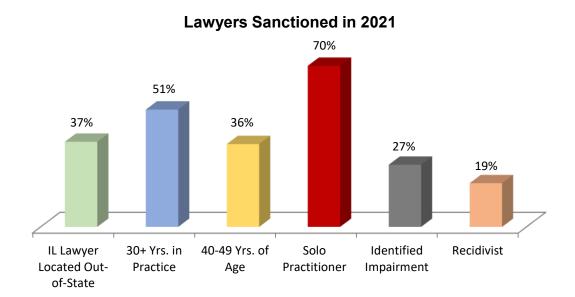
Of the 84 sanctions entered by the Court in 2021, 33 matters (39.3%) were concluded by the filing of a petition for discipline on consent, and 35 matters (41.7%) were filed directly in the Court on petitions seeking discipline reciprocal to what was imposed against the lawyer in another jurisdiction. See Chart 22 Orders Entered by the Supreme Court in Disciplinary Cases in 2021, Appendix.



Sole practitioners accounted for 70% of the 84 lawyers disciplined in 2021. See Charts 21A-21C, Appendix, for demographic information on the 84 lawyers disciplined in 2021.

It is frequently seen in discipline cases that an attorney-respondent is impaired by addiction to alcohol or other substance or suffers some mental illness or disorder. 22 out of the 83 lawyers disciplined in 2021, or 26.5%, had at least one known substance abuse or mental impairment issue, and ten lawyers or 45.5% of those 22 lawyers with impairments had more than one identified impairment. See Chart 21E, Impairments Identified for Lawyers Disciplined in 2021 and Chart 21F, Demographics of Disciplined Lawyers with Identified Impairments in 2021, Appendix.

In addition, 13 out of the 22 disciplined lawyers with identified impairments, or 59%, were sole practitioners at the time of the misconduct. These statistics reflect only those cases in which one or more impairments were raised either by the lawyer or otherwise known by staff counsel. It is likely that many cases involving impaired lawyers are never so identified.



ARDC Client Protection Program

The Client Protection Program was established by the Supreme Court under Supreme Court Rule 780 to reimburse clients for losses caused by dishonest conduct of Illinois lawyers or involving unearned or unrefunded fees paid to Illinois lawyers who later died or were transferred to disability inactive status. Funded by a \$25 annual assessment paid by most Active status lawyers and remitted to the Client Protection Program Trust Fund, the maximum per-award limit is \$100,000 and the per-lawyer limit is \$1 million. The Program does not cover losses resulting from professional negligence or malpractice and does not consider claims involving fees or contract disputes.

In 2021, 124 claims were filed, and the Commission approved payment of \$715,311 on 58 claims involving 31 different lawyers. Ninety-four claims were denied. One approval was for the \$100,000 maximum, and 23 were for \$2,500 or less.

The number of claims filed steadily declined for the past five years and the amounts paid out decreased between 2019 and 2021, likely due to the fact that fewer claims were filed involving large-dollar misappropriations of client funds. The average amount paid per year from 2017 to 2021 was \$1,460,658. In 2021, 71% of approved claims involved unearned and unrefunded legal fees. 22% arose out of real estate matters. See Charts 27A and B, Appendix.

A lawyer who is the subject of a claim that results in reimbursement to a claimant is liable to the Program for restitution. Disciplinary orders imposing suspension or probation include a provision requiring the lawyer to reimburse the Program for any payments arising from his or her conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension or probation. A lawyer petitioning for reinstatement or restoration to active practice must reimburse the Program for all payments arising from the lawyer's conduct. See IL S.Ct. R. 780(e). The Program received a total of \$10,564 in reimbursements in 2021. In January 2022, the Program received \$547,861, the largest reimbursement amount the Program has ever received, for 13 claims paid out in 2019 by the Program involving a lawyer who was disbarred on consent in 2018 for conversion of personal injury and workers' compensation settlements.

Commission Rules 501 through 512 govern the administration of the Program. More information about the Client Protection Program is available online on the ARDC website at ARDC Client Protection Program.

Probation, Referrals and Diversion

The ARDC is committed to exploring practical and innovative approaches to meaningfully address some of the causes of lawyer misconduct, particularly involving mental health and addiction impairments and law office management issues. The ARDC Probation and Lawyer Deferral Services Department monitors lawyers who must complete certain conditions in order to continue to practice law or to be able to resume the practice of law after discipline. In addition to lawyers with conditions imposed as the result of discipline, the ARDC utilizes several remedial options for lawyers with pending investigations to provide an opportunity for earlier intervention, prevent future harm and restore the public's trust. Those remedial options are:

- Commission Rule 108 Deferral of Investigation deferral of a pending investigation not involving misappropriation of funds or criminal conduct pending a lawyer's compliance with conditions imposed by the Inquiry Board for a specified period of time not to exceed one year. See Chart 15 Investigations Concluded in 2021, Appendix.
- Diversion Program under Commission Rules 54 and 56 an agreement for diversion to a program designed to afford the lawyer under investigation an opportunity to address concerns identified in the investigation such as continuing legal education classes, mentoring or law office management program, testing, evaluation and/or treatment by LAP or audit of the lawyer's financial accounts.
- Referrals to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP) referrals to LAP during an otherwise confidential investigation where there is reason to believe the lawyer may be impaired by substance abuse or a mental health issue, including referrals of lawyers subject to a DUI or criminal case investigation involving suspected impairment, as well as all lawyers who fail to respond in investigations or default in their disciplinary proceedings.
- ARDC Intermediary Program an intermediary who acts independent of the ARDC to reach out to lawyers who do not respond to repeated ARDC contacts during investigations and proceedings with the goal to decrease the number of lawyers who are unresponsive in a disciplinary matter, provide them with the assistance they may need, and save ARDC time and resources.

2021 Probation & Remedial Action

Com. R. 108 22 Com. R. 56

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12

LAP Referrals

Permanent Retirement Status under Supreme Court Rule 756(a)(8) - lawyers facing
minor misconduct charges may petition the Court for permanent retirement status with
no possibility of reinstatement as a reasonable and dignified way for lawyers to retire
from the practice of law. See Chart 24 Non-Disciplinary Actions by the Supreme Court
for 2021, Appendix.

Of the 183 lawyers monitored in 2021, 69 lawyers had conditions imposed by a jurisdiction other than Illinois as the result of discipline imposed by the Illinois Supreme Court on a reciprocal basis and 45 lawyers were disciplined by a suspension with the condition of making restitution. In addition, another 69 lawyers were required to complete one or more activities, services or programs to address the issues that led to a disciplinary sanction or investigation in Illinois: 30 lawyers as the result of disciplinary sanction, conditional admission to the Illinois bar or reinstatement to the practice of law; 22 under Commission Rule 108 supervision; and 17 under the Diversion Program. As shown below, 43 lawyers (62.3%) were being monitored for substance abuse or mental conditions, of which 30 lawyers were subject to random drug and alcohol testing.

Type of Matter	Substance Abuse or Mental Illness Conditions	Law Office Management Conditions	Both Substance Abuse and Law Office Management Conditions	Credit/ Employment	Total
Probation/conditional admission/conditional reinstatement	20	8	0	2	30
Commission Rule 108 Supervision	16	4	2	0	22
Commission Rule 56 Diversion of Investigation	7	5	4	1	17
				Total	69

ARDC Developments

ARDC Commissioners

The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court for three-year terms, four Illinois lawyers and three nonlawyers. 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. The Commission also makes Client Protection claim determinations.

Appointment of Timothy L. Bertschy as Chairperson of the Commission

Effective January 1, 2022, Timothy L. Bertschy of Dunlap, Illinois, who served as Vice Chairperson of the Commission from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, was re-appointed to another term on the Commission and appointed as Chairperson of the Commission by the Court, to a three-year term expiring on December 31, 2024. Mr. Bertschy takes over as Chairperson from David F. Rolewick of Wheaton, whose term expired on December 31, 2021.

Appointment of John H. Simpson as Vice Chairperson of the Commission

Effective January 1, 2022, the Court appointed current lawyer-member Commissioner John H. Simpson of Chicago to the position of Vice Chairperson of the Commission, to a term expiring on December 31, 2022.

Appointment of Kate L. McCracken as Commissioner



Effective January 1, 2022, Kate L. McCracken of St. Charles was appointed by the Court to serve as a lawyer-member Commissioner, for a term expiring on December 31, 2024.

Ms. McCracken is a shareholder at the law firm of Hoscheit, McGuirk, McCracken & Cuscaden, P.C., where she concentrates in commercial and residential real estate, probate, contract law, and construction litigation. She has 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 at Madison and earned her law degree from Seattle University School of Law. Ms. McCracken replaces David F. Rolewick, who completed his term on December 31, 2021.

ARDC Review Board

The ARDC Review Board is composed of nine members, all of whom are lawyers appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court. The Review Board sits in panels of three and considers appeals from reports of the ARDC Hearing Board.

Appointment of J. Timothy Eaton as Vice Chairperson of the Review Board

Effective January 1, 2021, current Review Board member, J. Timothy Eaton, was appointed Vice Chairperson of the Review Board. Mr. Eaton was first appointed to the Review Board in 2016. His term expires on December 31, 2022.

Mr. Eaton replaces Jill W. Landsberg, who served as Vice Chairperson, until her term on the Review Board expired on December 31, 2020.

Appointment of Michael T. Reagan as Review Board Member



Effective January 1, 2022, Michael T. Reagan of Ottawa was appointed by the Court to serve on the Review Board, to a term expiring on December 31, 2024.

Mr. Reagan concentrates his practice in civil trials and appeals at his firm, the Law Offices of Michael T. Reagan. He is a past President of the Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association and has served on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Civil Pattern Jury Instructions and Illinois State Bar Association Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee. He is a recipient of the ISBA's Maloney Tradition of Excellence Award (2009)

and named a 2017 Laureate of the Illinois Academy of Lawyers. Mr. Reagan received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Mr. Reagan replaces Review Board member Benedict Schwarz II, who completed his term on December 31, 2021.

ARDC Hearing Board

The Hearing Board consists of lawyers and nonlawyers appointed by the Commission for annual terms, who sit in panels of three, with one of the lawyer members designated as Panel Chair. The panels preside over the hearing of disciplinary, disability, and reinstatement cases.

Appointment of Kenn Brotman as Chairperson of the Hearing Board



Effective March 1, 2022, Kenn Brotman of Chicago, was appointed Chairperson of the Hearing Board, for a three-year term expiring February 28, 2025. He is counsel at K&L Gates where he practices in the areas of product liability, biometric data compliance and defense, mass tort, and complex commercial litigation. Mr. Brotman was appointed to the Hearing Board in 2006, served as a Hearing Board Panel Chair since 2008, and was appointed Vice Chairperson of the Hearing Board in 2016. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Miami and earned his J.D. from Northern Illinois College of Law.

He replaces Brigid A. Duffield of Wheaton, who served as Chairperson of the Hearing Board since 2016. She previously was Vice Chairperson of the Hearing Board between 2011 and 2016 and has served on the Hearing Board since 2001. Effective March 1, 2022, Ms. Duffield was re-appointed to the Hearing Board as a Panel Chair for a term expiring February 28, 2023.

Appointment of Janaki H. Nair as Vice Chairperson of the Hearing Board



Effective March 1, 2022, Janaki H. Nair of Peoria, was appointed Vice Chairperson of the Hearing Board, for a three-year term expiring February 28, 2022. She is a member at Elias, Meginnes & Seghetti, P.C., a business law firm located in Peoria, and practices in the area of business litigation and environmental law. Ms. Nair was appointed to the Hearing Board in 2010 and has served as a Panel Chair since 2016. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from the University of Illinois.

2021 Financial Report

The ARDC engaged the services of Legacy Professionals LLP to conduct an independent financial audit as required by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 751(e)(6). The audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, including comparative data from the 2020 audited statements are attached. In addition, a five-year summary of revenues and expenditures as reported in the audited statements appears after the text in this section.

The ARDC has successfully maintained its operations through careful expense management, which has more than offset the negative revenue impact from historically low interest rates and fee reallocations to other Illinois Supreme Court agencies; specifically, the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism (\$5 in 2012), the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program (\$10 effective July 1, 2021) and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice (\$10 effective July 1, 2021).

The \$5 fee reallocation in 2012 reduced ARDC's revenues by approximately \$370,000/year. The two fee reallocations in 2021 will reduce ARDC's revenues by an additional \$1.5 million/year. The combined impact of the three fee reallocations is approximately \$1.9 million/year.

The number of fee-paying attorneys did not change materially from 2020 to 2021.

The Court approved a \$3 increase in the registration fee structure effective with the 2017 registration season. This increase applied to attorneys admitted for more than three years and was allocated in full to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program. The Lawyers' Assistance Program is a not-for-profit organization that helps attorneys, judges and law students get confidential assistance with substance abuse, addiction and mental health issues.

Prior to the \$3 increase in 2017, the last fee increase was made effective with the 2015 registration year.

The total fee paid by attorneys admitted for more than three years was \$385 in calendar 2021. The \$385 fee was allocated as follows:

- ARDC \$230 from January 1 through June 30 and \$210 from July 1 through December 31;
- Lawyers Trust Fund \$95;

- Commission on Professionalism \$25;
- · Client Protection Program \$25;
- Lawyers' Assistance Program \$10 from January 1 through June 30 and \$20 from July 1 through December 31; and
- Commission on Access to Justice \$0 from January 1 through June 30 and \$10 from July 1 through December 31.

The fee paid to the ARDC by inactive attorneys, Rule 707 attorneys and attorneys admitted between one and three years was \$121 in 2021.

Since 2007, funding for Client Protection Program (Program) 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 2021 and 2020, the Client Protection Fund reimbursed the Disciplinary Fund \$367,778 and \$341,150 respectively for the administrative costs of the Program.



of the Supreme Court of Illinois

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u> 2019</u>		<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>
Revenue									
Investment income - net	\$ 287,153	\$	1,234,207	\$ 1	,508,366	\$	701,496	\$	435,633
Registration and program fees	21,781,609		21,716,237	21	,945,876	2	1,954,971	2	1,725,223
Cost reimbursements collected	36,852		40,547		34,542		81,675		89,142
Client Protection Program reimbursements	 10,864		53,621		37,157		216,158		260,049
Total revenue	 22,116,478		23,044,612	23	,525,941	_ 22	2,954,300	_ 22	2,510,047
Expenses									
Salaries and related expenses	11,759,924		11,942,876	11	,649,421	1	1,997,483	12	2,153,114
Travel	89,551		72,515		152,301		147,652		111,074
Continuing education	87,080		137,014		235,971		158,995		201,888
General expenses and office support	3,135,976		2,652,280	2	,393,115	2	2,461,422	4	2,346,941
Computer	985,325		1,225,495		658,217		504,532		515,197
Other professional and case-related expenses	536,845		512,827		545,027		590,756		602,010
Client Protection Program direct expenses	716,052		1,096,556	1	,394,147	4	2,327,765		1,776,951
Depreciation and amortization	 267,012		215,045		218,542		258,203		379,888
Total expenses	 17,577,765		17,854,608	17	,246,741	13	8,446,808	18	8,087,063
Change in net assets	4,538,713		5,190,004	6	,279,200	4	4,507,492	2	4,422,984
NET ASSETS WITHOUT MEMBER RESTRICTIONS									
Beginning of year	 49,561,120		44,371,116	38	,091,916	_ 33	3,584,424	_ 29	9,161,440
End of year	\$ 54,099,833	<u>\$</u>	49,561,120	<u>\$ 44</u>	,371,116	\$ 38	8,091,916	\$ 33	3,584,424
Other information at year end									
Number of active and registered attorneys	96,679		96,114		95,687		94,608		94,997
Registration fees	,		,		,		,		
More than one year and less than three years	\$ 121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121
More than three years	\$ 230/210 *	\$	230	\$	230	\$	230	\$	230
Inactive/out of state	\$ 121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121

^{*} See Note 1.



REGISTRATION

Chart 1 Registration Categories for 2021

Category	Number of Attorneys
Admitted between January 1, 2020, and October 31, 2021	
Admitted between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2019	3,253
Admitted before January 1, 2018	73,225
Serving active military duty	378
Spouse of active military attorney under Rule 719	4
Serving as judge or judicial clerk	
In-House Counsel under Rule 716	568
Foreign Legal Consultant under Rule 713	13
Legal Service Program Counsel under Rule 717	18
Pro Bono Authorization under Rule 756(k)	157
Pro Hac Vice under Rule 707	1,693
Inactive status	
Total Active and Inactive Attorneys Currently Registered	95,480

Chart 1A

Age, Gender and Years in Practice (2017-2021)

	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY
2017	61.8%	38.2%	0.01%
2018	61.6%	38.4%	0.01%
2019	61.3%	38.7%	0.02%
2020	60.7%	39.3%	0.06%
2021	60.3%	39.7%	0.07%

AGE	21-29 YRS.	30-39 YRS.	40-49 YRS.	50-59 YRS.	60-69 YRS.	70-79 YRS.	80-89 YRS.	90+ YRS.
2017	2.8%	48.9% 30-49		44.8% 50-74		3.5% 75+		
2018	4.0%	49.4% 30-49		43.5% 50-74		3.1% 75+		
2019	3.6%	49.1% 30-49		44.1% 50-74		3.2% 75+		
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%

YRS. IN PRACTICE	<5 YRS.	5-10 YRS.	11-20 YRS.	21-30 YRS.	30-40 YRS.	40-50 YRS	51+ YRS.
2017	8.8%	15.1%	26.3%	21.7%	28.1% 30+		
2018	11.0%	14.9%	26.0%	21.4%	26.7% 30+		
2019	10.0%	14.8%	26.7%	21.4%	27.1% 30+		
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%

Chart 1B

Comparison of Female and Male Lawyers By Years in Practice (2021)

YEARS IN PRACTICE	%FEMALE	%MALE	%DIFFERENCE
Less than 5 years	48.7%	51.3%	2.6%
Between 5 and 10 years	46.2%	53.8%	7.6%
Between 11 and 20 years	46.8%	53.2%	6.4%
Between 21 and 30 years	41.4%	58.6%	17.2%
Between 31 and 40 years	32.1%	67.9%	35.8%
Between 41 and 50 years	15.6%	84.4%	68.8%
51+ years	2.1%	97.9%	95.8%

Chart 1C

Principal Business Location: In-State vs. Out-of-State Lawyers 2000-2021

Year	Out-of- State Lawyers		In-State Illinois Lawyers		Total # of Registered Lawyers
2021	28,964	30.3%	66,516	69.7%	95,480
2020	29,184	30.7%	65,723	69.3%	94,907
2019	29,555	31.2%	65,107	68.8%	94,662
2018	29,929	31.6%	64,679	68.4%	94,608
2017	30,603	32.2%	64,175	67.8%	94,778
2016	30,315	32.0%	64,295	68.0%	94,610
2015	29,379	31.2%	64,749	68.8%	94,128
2014	28,317	30.5%	64,439	69.5%	92,756
2013	26,373	29.0%	64,710	71.0%	91,083
2012	24,095	27.0%	65,235	73.0%	89,330
2011	23,667	26.9%	64,276	73.1%	87,943
2010	23,019	26.6%	63,638	73.4%	86,657
2009	22,303	26.3%	62,474	73.7%	84,777
2008	21,466	25.6%	62,442	74.4%	83,908
2007	20,914	25.4%	61,466	74.6%	82,380
2006	20,776	25.6%	60,370	74.4%	81,146
2005	18,911	23.6%	61,130	76.4%	80,041
2004	18,274	23.4%	59,827	76.6%	78,101
2003	17,860	23.3%	58,811	76.7%	76,671
2002	17,470	23.2%	57,951	76.8%	75,421
2001	17,175	23.1%	57,136	76.9%	74,311
2000	17,201	23.4%	56,460	76.6%	73,661

Chart 2A

Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by Judicial Districts: 2017-2021

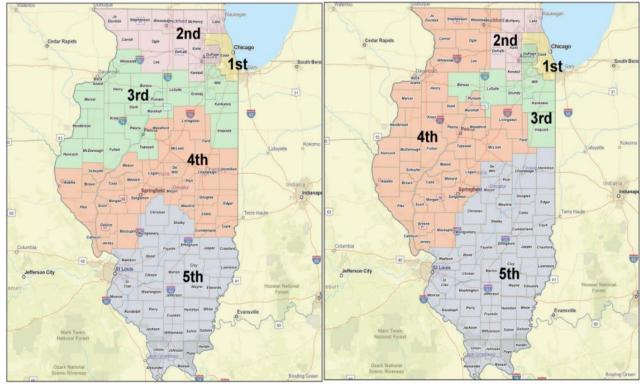
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
First District											
Cook County	45,292	45,834	46,345	46,951	47,210						
Second District						Fourth District					
15 th Circuit	185	186	189	191	189	5 th Circuit	223	225	225	220	217
16 th Circuit	1,144	1,140	1,139	1,135	1,158	6 th Circuit	820	825	821	802	810
17 th Circuit	784	787	763	768	791	7 th Circuit	1,265	1,256	1,249	1,245	1,266
18th Circuit	4,299	4,307	4,312	4,331	4,505	8 th Circuit	176	177	176	172	180
19th Circuit	3,021	2,986	3,023	3,032	3,186	11th Circuit	<u>673</u>	<u>669</u>	646	648	<u>668</u>
22 nd Circuit	572	569	568	562	572	Total	3,157	3,152	3,117	3,087	3,141
23 rd Circuit+	<u>263</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>275</u>						
Total	10,268	10,243	10,262	10,289	10,676						
+circuit eff. 12/3/12											
Third District						Fifth District					
9 th Circuit	170	168	159	159	159	1st Circuit	432	435	439	442	441
10 th Circuit	890	875	858	856	845	2 nd Circuit	288	291	274	277	288
12th Circuit	957	964	981	996	1,074	3 rd Circuit	762	761	739	737	748
13th Circuit	306	304	306	305	306	4 th Circuit	248	245	236	240	243
14 th Circuit	470	460	460	454	466	20 th Circuit	801	808	<u>799</u>	800	778
21st Circuit	<u>134</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>130</u>	138	Total	2,531	2,540	2,487	2,496	2,498
Total	2,927	2,910	2,896	2,900	2,988						
						Grand Total	64,175	64,679	65,107	65,723	66,516

Chart 2B

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

Judicial District Map - Before P.A.102-0011

Judicial District Map - After P.A.102-0011



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. It will stretch from Cairo to Champaign, a distance of close to 250 miles.

Chart 3

Registered Active and Inactive Attorneys by County: 2019-2021

Increase Decrease

Principal Office	2019	2020	2021	Principal Office	2019	2020	2021	Principal Office	2019	2020	2021
Adams	111	109	111	Hardin	3	3	2	Morgan	39	38	41
Alexander	7	7	6	Henderson	9	9	7	Moultrie	13	13	11
Bond	14	14	11	Henry	45	44	43	Ogle	52	54	50
Boone	45	47	52	Iroquois	21	20	22	Peoria	722	720	699
Brown	11	9	11	Jackson	189	190	188	Perry	23	21	21
Bureau	28	27	29	Jasper	9	8	8	Piatt	23	23	22
Calhoun	5	5	4	Jefferson	109	108	120	Pike	11	11	12
Carroll	13	13	11	Jersey	17	18	20	Pope	5	5	5
Cass	9	9	11	Jo Daviess	34	32	37	Pulaski	3	4	4
Champaign	539	525	541	Johnson	11	10	9	Putnam	9	9	10
Christian	35	38	39	Kane	1,139	1,135	1,157	Randolph	27	26	27
Clark	13	13	13	Kankakee	111	110	116	Richland	22	23	22
Clay	11	12	12	Kendall	100	99	111	Rock Island	330	327	340
Clinton	23	20	23	Knox	51	52	53	Saline	43	43	43
Coles	84	83	82	Lake	3,023	3,032	3,186	Sangamon	1,137	1,133	1,152
Cook	46,345	46,951	47,210	LaSalle	205	204	208	Schuyler	9	8	8
Crawford	19	19	18	Lawrence	13	15	13	Scott	5	6	6
Cumberland	7	7	7	Lee	37	39	37	Shelby	16	17	16
DeKalb	168	171	164	Livingston	43	43	39	St. Clair	694	698	672
DeWitt	17	17	15	Logan	22	23	23	Stark	6	6	7
Douglas	19	18	17	Macon	210	206	205	Stephenson	53	53	54
DuPage	4,312	4,331	4,507	Macoupin	34	32	32	Tazewell	112	112	118
Edgar	20	20	19	Madison	725	723	737	Union	29	27	27
Edwards	4	6	4	Marion	42	41	41	Vermilion	101	97	95
Effingham	56	58	58	Marshall	9	9	9	Wabash	14	13	14
Fayette	22	22	24	Mason	10	10	10	Warren	19	17	17
Ford	13	12	15	Massac	15	16	16	Washington	21	21	20
Franklin	49	48	52	McDonough	38	38	37	Wayne	12	12	11
Fulton	29	28	30	McHenry	568	562	572	White	12	12	13
Gallatin	7	7	8	McLean	543	544	568	Whiteside	79	78	78
Greene	17	18	16	Menard	10	11	13	Will	981	996	1,074
Grundy	73	74	70	Mercer	6	5	5	Williamson	137	140	143
Hamilton	10	11	11	Monroe	34	34	38	Winnebago	718	721	740
Hancock	13	15	15	Montgomery	22	24	22	Woodford	25	26	24

Chart 4

Attorney Removals from the Master Roll: 2011 – 2021 Registration Years

Reason for Removal	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Registration non-compliance	1,186	1,019	833	1,228	1,155	1,135	1,644	1,286	981	946	1,009
Deceased	304	318	277	348	475	288	223	287	238	237	245
Retired	822	853	815	833	1,334	1,354	1,262	1,458	1,331	1,419	1,369
Disciplined	75	81	74	68	57	52	52	61	62	46	47
MCLE General non-compliance	133	75	76	70	109	111	128	120	148	197	292
MCLE Basic Skills non-compliance	20	18	15	7	33	24	22	16	14	0	27
Total	2,540	2,364	2,090	2,554	3,163	2,964	3,331	3,228	2,774	2,845	2,989

Pro Hac Vice Admission: 2014*-2021

Chart 5

	Number of Lawyer Pro Hac Vice Submissions	Number of Lawyers Registered	Number of Proceedings	Total AJC Per-Proceeding Fees	Total ARDC Per-Proceeding Fees
2014	772	864	1,097	\$159,540	\$70,800
2015	782	1,078	1,199	\$184,508	\$78,379
2016	946	1,500	1,084	\$190,988	\$81,750
2017	925	1,592	1,134	\$187,283	\$80,471
2018	898	1,617	1,060	\$171,021	\$73,471
2019	977	1,780	1,221	\$215,433	\$92,325
2020	899	1,640	1,109	\$196,000	\$83,925
2021	1,172	2,065	1,489	\$259,666	\$111,012

^{* 2014} was the first full calendar year after amended Supreme Court Rule 707 became effective July 1, 2013.

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 an annual registration fee (\$121) as well as a \$250 per-proceeding fee to the ARDC. \$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 2014-2021, including the total AJC and ARDC per-proceeding fees collected.

Practice Demographics: 2017-2021

Chart 6A
2017-2021 Practice Setting: Active Status Lawyers and Currently Practicing Law

Practice Setting	Practice Size % of Total Active Status and Currently Practicing									
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021					
Private	68.6%	68.5%	67.8%	66.7%	66.1%					
Practice	49,444	49,970	49,996	48,798	48,650					
Corporate In-	14.0%	14.3%	14.8%	15.4%	15.5%					
house	10,080	10,423	10,901	11,231	11,379					
Government/	11.4%	11.4%	11.6%	12.1%	12.4%					
Judge	8,209	8,321	8,607	8,874	9,164					
Other	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%					
	2,297	2,233	2,220	2,177	2,271					
Not-for-profit	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%					
	1,428	1,544	1,607	1,628	1,728					
Academia	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%					
	604	461	456	448	434					
Total	72,062	72,952	73,787	73,156	73,626					

Chart 6B
2017-2021 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										
Tractice	2017	2017 2018 2019 2020									
Solo Firm	27.9%	27.4%	26.9%	27.4%	27.2%						
	13,798	13,699	13,443	13,356	13,244						
Firm of 2-10 Attys.	26.9%	26.5%	26.0%	25.6%	25.4%						
	13,282	13,224	12,985	12,513	12,376						
Firm of 11- 25 Attys.	9.8%	9.6%	9.7%	9.4%	9.4%						
	4,854	4,817	4,848	4,575	4,555						
Firm of 26-100	10.4%	11.2%	11.5%	11.6%	11.7%						
Attys.	5,150	5,605	5,779	5,662	5,668						
Firm of 100 + Attys.	25.0%	25.3%	25.9%	26.0%	26.3%						
	12,360	12,625	12,941	12,692	12,807						
Total	49,444	49,970	49,996	48,798	48,650						

Chart 7A

Succession Planning of Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice (2017-2021)

		% Succession Planning Responses By Practice Size													
			Yes			No				Not Sure					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Solo Firm	2,369	2,425	2,563	2,657	2,812	10,587	10,431	10,104	9,954	9,647	842	843	776	745	785
	17.2%	17.7%	19.1%	19.9%	21.3%	76.7%	76.1%	75.1%	74.5%	72.8%	6.1%	6.2%	5.8%	5.6%	5.9%
Firm of 2-10	3,372	3,497	3,642	3,565	3,639	4,926	4,921	4,725	4,511	4,354	4,984	4,806	4,618	4,437	4,383
Attys.	25.4%	26.4%	28.0%	28.5%	29.4%	37.1%	37.2%	36.4%	36.1%	35.2%	37.5%	36.4%	35.6%	35.4%	35.4%
Firm of 11-	1,535	1,521	1,510	1,467	33.0%	850	851	876	810	787	2,469	2,445	2,462	2,298	2,264
25 Attys.	31.6%	31.5%	31.1%	32.1%	1,504	17.5%	17.7%	18.1%	17.7%	17.3%	50.9%	50.8%	50.8%	50.2%	49.7%
Firm of 26-	1,867	2,212	2,311	2,312	41.6%	770	806	815	850	856	2,513	2,587	2,653	2,499	2,452
100 Attys.	36.2%	39.5%	40.0%	40.9%	2,360	15%	14.4%	14.1%	15.0%	15.1%	48.8%	46.1%	45.9%	44.1%	43.3%
Firm of 100 +	7,101	7,475	7,751	7,757	61.6%	963	999	997	979	1,011	4,296	4,151	4,193	3,956	3,906
Attys.	57.5%	59.2%	59.9%	61.1%	7,890	7.7%	7.9%	7.7%	7.7%	7.9%	34.8%	32.9%	32.4%	31.2%	30.5%
Total	16,244	17,130	17,777	17,758	18,205	18,096	18,008	17,517	17,104	16,655	15,104	14,832	14,702	13,935	13,790
	32.9%	34.3%	35.6%	36.4%	37.4%	36.6%	36.0%	35.0%	35.0%	34.2%	30.5%	29.7%	29.4%	28.6%	28.4%

Chart 7B

Solo Practitioners, Active Status, Currently Practicing Law and In Private Practice with No Succession Planning and No Malpractice Insurance (2021)

YRS. IN PR. % OF 4,122		AGE % OF 4,122 TOTAL			
>5 YRS.	3.8% 156	21-29	0.3% 12		
5-10 YRS.	6.2% 255	30-39	7.2% 297		
11-20 YRS.	16.3% 673	40-49	13.1% 538		
21-30 YRS.	19.9% 821	50-59	19.9% 821		
30-40 YRS.	26.2% 1,078	60-69	29.5% 1,218		
40-50 YRS	22.4% 924	70-79	25.4% 1,046		
51+ YRS.	5.2% 215	80 or more	4.6% 190		

Report on Trust Accounts

Chart 8A 2021 Trust Account Disclosure Reports

A. Lawyers with Trust Accounts:	47,736
% with IOLTA trust accounts	81.8%
% with non-IOLTA trust accounts	18.2%
. Lawyers without Trust Accounts:	47,744
Full-time employee of corporation or	
governmental agency (including cour	ts)
with no outside practice	23,870
Not engaged in the practice of law	13,198
Engaged in private practice of law	
(to any extent), but firm handles	
no client or third-party funds	8,117
Other explanation	2,559

Chart 8B Trust Account Reports: 2017-2021 Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice

	"Yes" Trust Account Responses										"No" Trust Account Responses				
Practice Size	IOLTA Trust Account					Non-IOLTA Trust Account									
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Solo Firm	8,727	8,554	8,301	8,913	8,726	610	762	884	169	241	4,461	4,383	4,258	4,274	4,277
	63.3%	62.4%	61.7%	66.7%	65.9%	4.4%	5.6%	6.6%	1.3%	1.8%	32.3%	32.0%	31.7%	32.0%	32.3%
Firm of 2-	10,903	10,403	9,897	11,246	10,923	952	1,466	1,855	232	234	1,427	1,355	1,233	1,035	1,219
10 Attys.	82.1%	78.7%	76.2%	89.9%	88.3%	7.2%	11.1%	14.3%	1.9%	1.9%	10.7%	10.2%	9.5%	8.2%	9.8%
Firm of 11-	4,137	3,880	3,694	4,173	4,119	418	665	832	100	87	299	272	322	302	349
25 Attys.	85.2%	80.6%	76.2%	91.2%	90.4%	8.6%	13.8%	17.2%	2.2%	1.9%	6.2%	5.6%	6.6%	6.6%	7.7%
Firm of 26-	4,370	4,452	4,352	5,139	5,204	475	837	1,077	247	112	305	316	350	276	352
100 Attys.	84.9%	79.5%	75.3%	90.8%	91.8%	9.2%	14.9%	18.6%	4.4%	2.0%	5.9%	5.6%	6.1%	4.8%	6.2%
Firm of 100 + Attys.	10,234 82.8%	9,855 78.1%	9,444 73.0%	11,493 90.6%	11,870 92.7%	1,590 12.9%	2,301 18.2%	2,996 23.1%	794 6.3%	352 2.7%	536 4.3%	469 3.7%	501 3.9%	405 3.1%	585 4.6%
Total	38,371	37,144	35,688	40,964	40,842	4,045	6,031	7,644	1,542	1,026	7,028	6,795	6,664	6,292	6,782
	77.6%	74.3%	71.4%	83.9%	84.0%	8.2%	12.1%	15.3%	3.2%	2.1%	14.2%	13.6%	13.3%	12.9%	13.9%

Chart 9A

Malpractice Disclosure Reports: 2017-2021

Lawyer Malpractice Insurance	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Yes	50,664	51,538	51,940	51,748	52,030
	53.5%	54.5%	55.0%	54.5%	54.5%
No	44,114	43,070	42,559	43,159	43,450
	46.5%	45.5%	45.0%	45.5%	45.5%

Chart 9B

Malpractice Disclosure Reports: 2017-2021

Active Status Lawyers, Currently Practicing Law and in Private Practice

Practice		% Malpractice Responses										
Size			Yes			No						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
Solo Firm	8,074	8,187	8,346	8,138	8,249	5,724	5,512	5,097	5,218	4,995		
	58.5%	59.8%	62.1%	60.9%	62.3%	41.5%	40.2%	37.9%	39.1%	37.7%		
Firm of 2-10	12,070	12,288	12,209	11,730	11,596	1,212	936	776	783	780		
Attys.	90.9%	92.9%	94.0%	93.8%	93.7%	9.1%	7.1%	6.0%	6.2%	6.3%		
Firm of 11- 25	4,695	4,713	4,750	4,477	4,451	159	104	98	98	104		
Attys.	96.7%	97.8%	98.0%	97.9%	97.7%	3.3%	2.2%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%		
Firm of 26-100	5,007	5,484	5,643	5,532	5,515	143	121	136	130	153		
Attys.	97.2%	97.8%	97.6%	97.7%	97.3%	2.8%	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%		
Firm of 100 +	11,985	12,445	12,738	12,463	12,476	375	180	203	229	331		
Attys.	97.0%	98.6%	98.4%	98.2%	97.4%	3.0%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%	2.6%		
Total	84.6%	86.3%	87.4%	86.7%	42,287 86.9%	15.4%	13.7%	12.6%	13.3%	6,364 13.1%		

INVESTIGATIONS, PROSECUTIONS and SANCTIONS

Investigations

Chart 10

Types of Investigations Docketed (2013-2021)

Type of Investigation	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Disciplinary charge against Illinois lawyer	5,410	5,168	4,925	4,788	4,592	4,419	4,195	3,375	3,344
Overdraft notification of client trust account	336	357	283	241	265	321	282	194	204
Unauthorized Practice of Law	104	112	104	104	105	74	224	56	42
Monitoring disciplinary compliance	N/A	N/A	71	88	83	73	67	57	49
Disciplinary charge against out-of-state lawyer	67	65	44	44	48	53	52	138	167
Receivership	13	20	14	31	33	21	17	28	29
Reciprocal	12	22	13	32	21	44	30	24	19
Impairment	N/A	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Conditional Admission monitoring	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
Investigation related to Petition for Reinstatement	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	0	1	0	3	0
Total: New Docketed Investigations	5,943	5,746	5,460	5,332	5,147	5,007	4,867	3,875	3,858
Reopened investigations	130	89	94	69	52	22	70	61	23
TOTAL:	6,073	5,835	5,554	5,401	5,199	5,029	4,937	3,936	3,881

Chart 11

Demographics of Lawyers the Subject of Investigations Docketed in 2021

Investigations per Attorney	Number of Attorneys
1	2,507
2	331
	80
4 or more	<u>61</u>
	Total: 2,979
Gender	Years in Practice
Female 28.0%	Fewer than 5 3.0%
Male72.0%	Between 5 and 10 12.5%
Non-Binary 0%	Between 10 and 20 25.7%
	Between 20 and 30 21.9%
	30 or more 36.9%

Chart 12

Classification of Charges Docketed in 2021 by Allegations

Type of Misconduct	Number*	Type of MisconductNumber
Neglect (Rule 1.3)	1,199	Practicing in a jurisdiction where not authorized (Rule 5.5) 7
Failing to communicate with client, including fail communicate the basis of a fee	ing to	Failing to comply with S.Ct.Rule following discipline5
(Rule 1.4(a)(1)-(5) and (b), and 1.5(b))		Not abiding by a client's decision concerning the representation or improperly limiting scope of representation
Excessive or improper fees, including failing to re unearned fees (Rule 1.5 and 1.16(e))		(Rule 1.2(a))
Failing to provide competent representation (Rule	e 1.1) 363	Improper commercial speech (Rules 7.1-7.3)
Fraudulent or deceptive activity including misrep to a tribunal, clients, and non-clients	resentation	Failing to preserve client confidences or secrets
(Rules 3.3(a)(1) and (3), 3.4(a)-(b), 4.1(a), 8.4((c))350	(Rule 1.6(a) and 1.18(b))
Improper management of client or third-party fun	ds,	Failing to report misconduct of another
including commingling, conversion, failing to		lawyer or judge (Rule 8.3(a)-(b))
promptly pay litigation costs or client creditors issuing NSF checks (Rule 1.15)		Failing to supervise subordinates (Rules 5.1and 5.3)
Filing frivolous or non-meritorious claims or plea (Rule 3.1)		False statements about a judge, judicial candidate or public official (Rule 8.2(a))
Criminal conduct, assisting a client in a crime or	fraud,	Threatening criminal prosecution or disciplinary proceedings to gain advantage in a civil matter (Rule 8.4(g))
and counseling illegal or fraudulent conduct (Rules 1.2(d) and 8.4(b))	138	Incapacity due to chemical addiction or mental condition (S.Ct. Rules 757-758)
Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justic		Stating or implying ability to improperly
including conduct that is the subject of a conte finding or court sanction (Rule 8.4(d))	mpt 124	influence authority (Rule 8.4(e))
Failing to properly withdraw from representation	,	False statements in bar admission or
including failing to return client files or docum		disciplinary matter (Rule 8.1(a)-(b))
(Rule 1.16(a)(1), (3), (c) and (d))	111	Improper communication with an unrepresented person (Rule 4.3)
Improper trial conduct, including using means to embarrass, delay or burden another or suppress	sino	
evidence where there is a duty to reveal (Rules 3.5(a), (b) & (d), 3.6, 3.7 and 4.4(a))	3.4(c) & (d),	Failing to maintain appropriate attorney-client relationship with client with diminished capacity (Rule 1.14)
Prosecutorial misconduct (Rule 3.8)		Improper practice after failure to register under Rule 756
Conflict of Interest:		Violation of anti-discrimination statute/ordinance (Rule 8.4(j))
Rule 1.7: Concurrent clients		Improper agreement limiting client's right to
Rule 1.8(a): Improper business transaction with clien	t7	pursue ARDC grievance (Rule 8.4(h))
Rule 1.8(b): Improper use of information related to re		
Rule 1.8(c): Improper gift from client		No allegation of misconduct warranting investigation
Rule 1.8(1): Improper interest in client matter		* Totals exceed the number investigations docketed in 2021
Rule 1.9: Successive conflicts		because in many more than one type of misconduct is alleged.
Rule 1.10(a): Imputed disqualification	2	because in many more than one type of misconduct is alleged.
Rule 1.11: Public lawyer's violation of Rule 1.7 or 1.		
Rule 1.13: Organizational client		
Rule 1.18: Representation adverse to prospective clie	nt3	

Chart 13
Classification of Charges Docketed in 2021 by Area of Law*

Area of Law	Number
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal	1,031
Domestic Relations	644
Tort (Personal Injury/Property Damage).	298
Real Estate/Landlord-Tenant	293
Probate	266
Labor Relations/Workers' Comp	156
Contract	
Immigration	63
Bankruptcy	
Civil Rights	
Debt Collection	
Local Government Problems	
Corporate Matters	
Patent and Trademark	
Tax	9
Social Security	
Adoption	
Mental Health	

Chart 14
Investigations Docketed* and Concluded: 2017-2021
* includes reopened investigations

Year	Pending January 1 st	Docketed During Year*	Concluded During Year	Pending December 31st
2017	1,731	5,199	5,102	1,828
2018	1,828	5,029	4,958	1,899
2019	1,899	4,937	4,802	2,034
2020	2,034	3,936	4,284	1,686
2021	1,686	3,881	4,245	1,322

Chart 15
Investigations Concluded in 2021

	1
Concluded by the Administrator:	ľ
Closed after initial review	
Closed after investigation3,004	
Filed at Supreme Court pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 757, 762(a), and 76324	
Concluded by the Inquiry Board:	
Closed after panel review44	
Complaint or impairment petition voted69	
Closed upon completion of conditions of Rule 108 supervision	
Total4,245	

Chart 16
Timeliness of Investigations Concluded in 2021

1,097 Investigations Closed After Initial Review in 2021					
Number of Days Pending Prior to Closure:					
Fewer than 10 days	10 - 20 days	21 - 60 days	More than 60 days		
942 (85.9%)	46 (4.2%)	79 (7.2%)	30 (2.7%)		

2,368 Investigations Concluded in 2021 by the Intake Staff After Investigation				
Number of Days Pending Prior to Closure:				
Fewer than 90 days	Between 90 - 180 days	Between 180 - 365 days	More than 365 days	
1,767 (74.6%)	373 (15.8%)	147 (6.2%)	81 (3.4%)	

636 Investigations Concluded in 2021 by the Litigation Staff After Investigation				
Number of Days Pending Prior to Closure:				
Fewer than 90 days	Between 90 - 180 days	Between 180 - 365 days	More than 365 days	
122 (19.2%)	85 (13.4%)	103 (16.2%)	326 (51.2%)	

Chart 17

Overdraft Trust Account Notification Investigations (2017-2021)

Overdraft Notification Investigations	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Opened	265	321	282	194	204
Closed	255	321	266	161	212
Formal Complaints Filed	6	3	3	2	2

Chart 18A

Rule 779 Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations (2017-2021)

Туре	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
UPL by unlicensed person	94	63	69	44	29
UPL by unlicensed entity	4	11	14	5	8
UPL by out-of-state lawyer	8	16	22	1*	4*
UPL by disbarred lawyer	6	15	9	4	1
UPL by suspended lawyer	1	9	3	0	0
Total	113	114	117	54	42

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

Chart 18B

Area of Law Involved in the 42 Rule 779(b) UPL Investigations in 2021
(Unlicensed Persons or Entities and Disbarred Lawyers)

Subject Area	Number of 779(b) Investigations*	Subject Area	Number of 779(b) Investigations*	
Real Estate	7	Tax	1	2%
Contract	5	Debt Collection	1	2%
Immigration	4 10%	Bankruptcy	1	2%
Probate				
Criminal		Patent and Trademark	1	2%
Corporate Matters		Local Government	1	2%
•				
* Total less than 42	2 investigations because 11 investiga	ations did not arise out of an a	rea of law.	

Chart 18C

Rule 779(b) UPL Actions Filed in the Circuit Court: 2012-2021

Rule 779(b) UPL Complaints	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Filed Against Disbarred Lawyer	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Filed Against Non-Lawyer	5	6	4	2	5	4	4	2	0	0	32
Filed Against Out-of-State Lawyer	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	6	7	4	4	7	4	4	2	0	0	38

Chart 19

Proceedings Filed Directly with the Illinois Supreme Court: 2017-2021

Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rule 762(a) Motion for Disbarment on Consent	13	12	7	6	7
Rule 763 Petitions for Reciprocal Discipline	24	20	31	26	34
Rule 757 Transfer to Disability Inactive Status	0	2	1	0	0
Total	37	34	39	32	41

Chart 20A

Matters Before the Hearing Board in 2021

Cases Pending on January 1, 2021
Cases Filed or Reassigned in 2021:
Disciplinary Complaints Filed:*
> Rules 753, 761(d)
Reinstatement Petition Filed:
> Rule 7675
Total New Cases Filed or Reassigned
Cases Concluded During 2021
Cases Pending December 31, 2021
* 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 2021

	# of Complaints Filed	% of Complaints Filed	% of Lawyer Population
Years in Practice			
Fewer than 5			
Between 5 and 10			
Between 11 and 20			
Between 21 and 30	12	25.0%	20.8%
Between 31 and 40			
Between 41 and 50	3	6.3%	8.5%
50+	0	0.0%	1.8%
Age:			
21-29 years old	1	2.1%	3.5%
30-39 years old			
40-49 years old	13	27.1%	24.9%
50-59 years old	13	27.1%	22.3%
60-69 years old	8	16.6%	17.4%
70-79 years old	4	8.3%	7.7%
80 or more years old	0	0.0%	1.2%
Gender:			
Female			
Male	37	77.1%	60.3%
Non-binary	0	0.0%	0.07%

Chart 20C

Types of Misconduct Alleged in the 48 Disciplinary Complaints* Filed Before Hearing Board in 2021

Type of Misconduct	Number of Cases*	% of Cases Filed**	Type of Misconduct	Number of Cases*	% of Cases Filed**
Fraudulent or deceptive activity (Neglect (1.3)		33% 25% 23% 23% 15% 15% 13% 8%	False/reckless statement about a j Excessive or unauthorized legal fallure to provide competent representation (1.1) Unauthorized practice after remo Master Roll for failure to regi comply with MCLE requirem Assertion of frivolous pleadings (Improper communication with a represented person (4.2) Assisting a client in a crime or fra *Based on complaint initially filed at **Totals exceed 48 disciplinary case most complaints allege more than	rees (1.5)2 2 val from ister and nents (5.5)2 (3.1)	

Chart 20D

Subject Area Involved in the 48 Disciplinary Complaints Filed Before Hearing Board in 2021

Subject Area	Number of Cases*	% of Cases Filed*	Subject Area	Number of Cases*	% of Cases Filed*
Criminal Conduct/Conviction	8	17%	Bankruptcy	4	8%
Tort	8	17%	Probate		
Personal Misconduct	8	17%	Immigration	3	6%
Real Estate	7	15%	Patent/Trademark		
Domestic Relations	6	13%	Civil Rights	1	2%
Criminal	5	10%	Contract		

Chart 20E
Activity Before the Review Board in 2021

Cases filed in 2021	
Exceptions filed by Respondent	3
Exceptions filed by Administrator	9
Exceptions filed by both	0
Total	12
Cases concluded in 2021	
Cases concluded in 2021 Hearing Board affirmed	3
	3 3
Hearing Board affirmed	

Chart 21A
Disciplinary Sanctions Ordered by the Supreme Court in 2021

Disbarment
Suspension until further order of Court
Suspension for a specified period
Suspension for a specified period & conditions 14
Probation with partially stayed suspension
Probation with fully stayed suspension7
Censure5
Censure with conditions <u>1</u>
Total 84*
*In addition to the 43 suspensions above, the Court also ordered seven interim suspensions, as reported in Chart 22 at (I).

Chart 21B

County of Practice of 84 Lawyers Disciplined in 2021

Number County Disciplined	Number County Disciplined
Out-of-State31	Bureau 1
Cook29	Cass 1
DuPage4	Christian1
Rock Island3	Coles 1
Lake2	Henry 1
McLean2	Macon 1
Sangamon2	Madison 1
Will2	Saint Clair 1
	Winnebago 1

Chart 21C

Years in Practice, Age and Gender of 84 Lawyers Disciplined in 2021

Years in Practice	# of Lawyers Disciplined	% of Lawyers Disciplined	% of Lawyer Population
Fewer than 5	3	3.6%	9.9%
Between 5 and 10			
Between 10 and 20			
Between 20 and 30			
Between 30 and 40			
Between 40 and 50	10	11.9%	8.5%
50 or more			
Age: 21-29 years old	12		23.0% 24.9% 22.3% 17.4% 7.7% 1.1%
Gender: Female Male Non-binary	14	16.6%	39.7% 60.3%

Chart 21D
Practice Setting of 84 Lawyers Disciplined in 2021

Practice Setting	Solo Firm	Firm 2-10	Firm 11-25	Firm 26+	Gov't/ Judicial	In-House Corporate	Academia	Not Engaged in Practice
84 Lawyers	59	9	1	6	5	0	0	4
Sanctioned	70.2%	10.7%	1.2%	7.1%	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%

Chart 21E
Impairments Identified for 84 Lawyers Disciplined in 2021, By Practice Setting

Practice Setting	Solo Firm	Firm 2-10	Firm 11-25	Firm 26+	Gov't/ Judicial	In-House Corporate	Academia	Not Engaged in Practice
22 Lawyers* with Impairments	13 59.0%	2 9.1%	0 0.0%	4 18.2%	1 4.6%	0	0	2 9.1%
Impairment								
Substances:								
Alcohol	7	1		2				1
Cocaine	1	1						
Cannabis	1	1						
Amphetamine								1
Opioids	1							
Other Substance	1							
Mental Illness:								
Depression	5	1		4	1			1
Bipolar								
Schizophrenia	1							
Personality Disorder								
Gambling	2							
Sexual Disorder								
Cognitive Decline								
Other	3			1				1

^{*}Ten lawyers had more than one impairment identified.

Chart 21F

Demographics of 22 Disciplined Lawyers with Identified Impairments in 2021

22 Lawyers with Impairments by Age		Solo Firm	Firm 2-10	Firm 11-25	Firm 26+	Gov't/ Judicial	Not engaged in practice
21-29 years old							
30-39 years old	5	2	1		2		
40-49 years old	8	5			2		1
50-59 years old	2					1	1
60-69 years old	7	6	1				
70-79 years old							
80-89 years old							
90+ years old							

22 Lawyers with Impairments by Sanction	ı
Disbarment	4
Suspension, UFO	9
Suspension and seminar	1
Suspension stayed in part by probation	6
Suspension fully stayed by probation	2

22 Lawyers with Impairments by Practice Location				
Cook County	12			
Outside of Cook County	6			
Out-of-State	4			

Chart 22

Orders Entered by Supreme Court in Disciplinary Cases in 2021

Motions for disbarment on consent: Rule 762(a)	D. Motions to approve and confirm report of
Allowed9	Review Board: Rule 753(e)(6) Allowed
Denied0	Total
Total9	10tai
	E. Motions to approve and confirm report of
Petitions for discipline on consent: Rule	Hearing Board: Rule 753(d)(2)
<u>762(b)</u>	Allowed
Allowed:	Denied
Suspension8	Total
Suspension until further order of Court6	
Suspension stayed in part,	F. Petitions for reciprocal discipline: Rule 763
probation ordered6	Allowed
Suspension stayed in its entirety,	Denied
probation ordered2	Total
Censure 2	
Total 24	G. Petitions for reinstatement: Rule 767
Denied <u>0</u>	Petition denied
Total 24	Total
Petitions for leave to file exceptions to report	H. Motions to revoke probation: Rule 772
and recommendation of Review Board: Rules	Allowed, probation revoked and respondent
753(e)(1) and 761	suspended
Denied and same discipline imposed as	Total
recommended by Review Board	1041
Allowed and more discipline imposed	I. Petitions for interim suspension: Rules 761
than recommended by Review Board2	& 774
Allowed and less discipline imposed	Rule enforced and lawyer suspended
as recommended by Review Board 0	Total
Tota13	1011

Chart 23
ARDC-Appointed Receiverships: 2017-2021

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	4	4	2	2

Age at Time of Receivership 20172021				
60-69 years old	7			
70-79 years old	3			
50-59 years old	1			
40-49 years old	1			
80-89 years old	1			

Receiverships By Lo 2017-2021	cation
Cook County	7
Madison	2
DuPage	1
Kane	1
Lake	1
Rock Island	1

Chart 24

Non-Disciplinary Actions by the Supreme Court in 2021

(/ (/	Permanent Retirement Status fer to permanent retirement status allowed	
D 1 555 T	C D III I C C	
	sfer to Disability Inactive Status	
Motion to trans	fer allowed	
Rule 759 Resto	ration to Active Status	
After Transfe	r to Disability Inactive Status	
	oration to active status allowed	

Chart 25A

Registration Growth and Disciplinary Investigations (2007-2021)

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	Complaint Voted By Inquiry Board*
2007	82,380	1.5%	5,988	1,508	4,117	125	279
2008	83,908	1.9%	5,897	1,441	4,305	104	228
2009	84,777	1.0%	5,834	1,322	3,891	79	226
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	0.17%	5,199	1,191	3,657	97	118
2018	94,608	-0.18%	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	70

^{*}Totals are higher than number of complaints filed because a complaint may be based on more than one investigation.

Chart 25B

Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings (2007-2021)

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
2007	37	144	121	32	29	120
2008	36	134	137	31	26	135
2009	39	137	135	30	31	130
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

Chart 26

Attorney Reports: 2007-2021

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
2007	5,988	525	8.8%	284	82	28.9%
2008	5,897	542	9.1%	228	69	30.2%
2009	5,837	489	7.7%	226	60	26.5%
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%
Totals for 2007- 2021	81,736	7,808		2,498	819	
Average For 2007- 2021	5,449	521	9.5%	167	55	35.8%

CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

Chart 27A

Client Protection Program Claims: 2007-2021

		W 000 A		For Claims	
Year	Claims filed	# Claims Approved	# Claims Denied	Approved, # Respondent Attys	Total Amounts Paid
2007	217	90	138	44	\$697,358
2008	224	102	122	56	\$1,029,220
2009	188	81	125	35	\$1,091,473
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

Chart 27B

Classification of Approved Client Protection Claims in 2021

Type of Misconduct:
Failure to refund unearned fees
Area of Law
Real Estate/Loan Modification
Criminal/Quasi criminal12
Tort9
Domestic Relation7
Bankruptcy6
Labor/Workers' Comp5
Probate/Trusts5
Debt Collection1

ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2021



REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

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, 2021 and 2020, 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 in the first paragraph 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, 2021 and 2020, 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.

Management's Responsibility 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. Management is also responsible 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.
- 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.

Westchester, Illinois

Legacy Professionals LLP

April 22, 2022

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

Assets		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	1,618,563	\$	1,949,132
Short-term investments		42,603,861		42,245,568
Accrued interest receivable		108,472		131,260
Accounts receivable - net		600		4,428
Prepaid expenses and deposits		270,952		184,721
Total current assets		44,602,448		44,515,109
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - net		2,105,887		1,859,295
Long-term investments		32,461,435		28,199,184
Total assets	\$	79,169,770	\$	74,573,588
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Current liabilities				
Accounts payable and other accruals	\$	729,212	\$	458,672
Amounts held for others		4,691,760		4,016,677
Accrued vacation		578,408		658,438
Deferred registration and program fees		15,146,020		16,238,226
Postretirement benefit obligation - current portion		44,016		38,259
Deposits		14,003		11,002
Total current liabilities		21,203,419		21,421,274
Long-term liabilities				
Postretirement benefit obligation - net of current portion		2,358,871		1,870,052
Deferred rent expense		1,507,647		1,721,142
Total long-term liabilities		3,866,518		3,591,194
Total liabilities		25,069,937		25,012,468
NET ASSETS WITHOUT MEMBER RESTRICTIONS		54,099,833		49,561,120
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	79,169,770	\$	74,573,588
Total Habilities and not assets	Ψ	17,107,110	Ψ	, 1,5 / 5,500

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020 WITH BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM FOR 2021

		2020		
	Registration			
	and	Protection		
	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue				
Investment income - net	\$ 289,541	\$ (2,388)	\$ 287,153	\$ 1,234,207
Registration and program fees	19,899,749	1,881,860	21,781,609	21,716,237
Cost reimbursements collected	36,852	-	36,852	40,547
Client Protection Program reimbursements		10,864	10,864	53,621
Total revenue	20,226,142	1,890,336	22,116,478	23,044,612
Expenses				
Salaries and related expenses	11,759,924	-	11,759,924	11,942,876
Travel	89,551	-	89,551	72,515
Continuing education	87,080	-	87,080	137,014
General expenses and office support	3,135,976	-	3,135,976	2,652,280
Computer	985,325	-	985,325	1,225,495
Other professional and case-related expense	536,845	-	536,845	512,827
Client Protection Program direct expenses				
Awards	-	712,798	712,798	1,094,454
Administrative	-	3,254	3,254	2,102
Depreciation and amortization	267,012		267,012	215,045
Total expenses	16,861,713	716,052	17,577,765	17,854,608
Change in net assets	3,364,429	1,174,284	4,538,713	5,190,004
NET ASSETS WITHOUT MEMBER RESTRICTIONS				
Beginning of year	47,968,720	1,592,400	49,561,120	44,371,116
End of year	\$ 51,333,149	\$ 2,766,684	\$ 54,099,833	\$ 49,561,120

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
Cash flows from operating activities				
Change in net assets	\$	4,538,713	\$	5,190,004
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to				
net cash provided by operating activities				
Net (gain) loss on investments		216,797		(298,453)
Depreciation and amortization		267,012		215,045
Changes in assets and liabilities				
Accounts receivable and accrued interest receivable		26,616		66,521
Prepaid expenses and deposits		(86,231)		16,802
Accounts payable and other accruals		270,540		107,073
Amounts held for others		675,083		52,150
Accrued vacation		(80,030)		190,208
Deferred registration and program fees		(1,092,206)		(530,121)
Deposits		3,001		5,500
Postretirement benefit obligation		494,576		105,848
Deferred rent expense		(213,495)		(194,320)
Net cash provided by operating activities	_	5,020,376		4,926,257
Cash flows from investing activities				
Purchases of investment securities	(27,154,077)	(29,757,060)
Maturities of investment securities		22,316,736		24,874,451
Purchases of property and equipment		(513,604)		(290,670)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(5,350,945)		(5,173,279)
NET (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		(330,569)		(247,022)
Cash and cash equivalents - net				
Beginning of year		1,949,132		2,196,154
End of year	\$	1,618,563	<u>\$</u>	1,949,132

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

NOTE 1. GENERAL PURPOSE DESCRIPTION

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.

Recent 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. 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 is \$25 per month for every month that fees are delinquent. 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, \$10 to the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 and \$20 from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, and \$0 to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 and \$10 from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The Commission's share of the \$385 full fee was \$230 from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 and \$210 from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
- Rule 780(b) provided for the establishment of the Client Protection Program (the Program) and set forth that the purpose of the Program "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. Since the Program's inception, the Commission has administered the Client Protection Program and has maintained a separate Client Protection Fund account. Amended Rule 756 provides that \$25 of the \$385 registration fee be set aside for the Client Protection Program to fund awards made by the Client Protection Program. Prior to the Rule 756 amendment, the Commission funded payment of awards by making an annual allocation from the Disciplinary Fund. The Commission includes in its general budget allocations for administrative expenses of the Program to be paid from the Disciplinary Fund. The Program reimburses the Commission for the cost of administering the Program.

NOTE 1. GENERAL PURPOSE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

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.

NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Method of Accounting - The accompanying financial statements of the Commission have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis of Presentation - In order to conform to provisions of generally accepted accounting principles, the Commission is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities in two classes of net assets: without member restrictions and with member restrictions.

Net Assets without Member Restrictions - Net assets that are not subject to member-imposed restrictions are available to finance the general operations of the Commission. The only limits on the use of net assets without member restrictions are the broad limits resulting from the nature of the Commission, the environment in which it operates and the purposes specified in its governing rules.

Net Assets with Member Restrictions - Net assets subject to member or grantor-imposed restrictions. Some member-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the member. Other member-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the member stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Member-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires; that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, there are no net assets with member restrictions.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include all deposits in checking and savings accounts.

Accounts Receivable - Cost Reimbursements and Client Protection Program

Reimbursements - Accounts receivable primarily represent reimbursements owed by attorneys under its Cost Reimbursement Program and the Program. Such reimbursements receivable are net of \$22,005,879 and \$21,752,068 at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively of an allowance for doubtful accounts since the Commission fully reserves reimbursements owed by attorneys under its Cost Reimbursement Program and the Program. Whether the Commission can fully collect all reimbursements is dependent upon each identified attorney's ability to pay and the current economic environment.

NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Property and Equipment - Property and equipment are stated at cost. Major additions are capitalized while replacements, maintenance and repairs which do not improve or extend the lives of the respective assets are expensed currently. 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 income. 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
Library	6 years
Leasehold improvements	5-15 years

Investments - 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 exdividend date.

Amounts Held for Others - Amounts held for others at December 31, 2021 consist of funds collected for the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program in the amount of \$622,357 and \$307,631 respectively; the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois in the amount of \$2,960,221 and \$2,922,910 respectively; the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism in the amount of \$778,932 and \$769,336 respectively; and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice in the amount of \$330,250 and \$16,800 respectively. All amounts were remitted subsequent to year end.

Deferred Registration and Program Fees - The Commission is primarily funded by an annual registration fee assessed on Illinois attorneys which includes a \$25 Client Protection Program fee applied to attorneys admitted for greater than three years. 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 for next year received in the current year.

Deferred revenue as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 was comprised of the following:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Deferred registration fees	\$ 13,678,246	\$ 14,789,517
Deferred program fees - CPP	 1,467,774	 1,448,709
Total	\$ 15,146,020	\$ 16,238,226

NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Deposits - A portion of deposits is the reinstatement deposit that accompanies the petition of any attorney who is filing for reinstatement under Rule 767. The amount the attorney actually owes is assessed at the conclusion of the proceedings. Reinstatement deposits held at December 31, 2021 totaled \$14,003 and \$11,002 respectively.

Deferred Rent Expense - Deferred rent expense consists of a combination of "free rent" and past and future lease incentives from the landlord. The Commission is recognizing operating lease expense on a straight-line basis over the term of its office space lease.

Revenue Recognition - The Commission receives a significant portion of its operating revenue from registration and program fees. Registration and program fee revenue is considered an exchange transaction and is recognized on January 1 or the date of the payment each calendar year, as such fees enable the attorney to practice law for the respective year as defined by Rule 756. Registration and program fees paid in advance are deferred to the calendar year to which they relate. Such amounts deferred are recognized on January 1 of the following year.

Cost and Client Protection Program (the Program) reimbursement revenues represent reimbursements owed by attorneys as a result of discipline imposed by the Court and for the related investigation and disciplinary costs. Amounts owed are fully reserved until time of collection.

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.

Functional Allocation of Expenses - The Commission has allocated certain administrative expenses, such as salary costs, among the various programs 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 are allocated to the benefited programs based on time and effort. The allocation of expenses by function is presented in Note 6.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Commission to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Subsequent Events - Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 22, 2022, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 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 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured certificates of deposit for this purpose. Excess cash is invested in longer-dated U.S. Treasury securities and certificates of deposit with varying maturities designed to fund the Commission's operations beyond the one-year interval and maximize its income over time.

The Commission also maintains sufficient liquidity in the Client Protection Program's financial accounts to fund award payments to the Program'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 U.S. Treasury securities and FDIC insured certificates of deposit with varying maturities designed to meet the Program'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.

Specific investment allocation decisions about the Commission's portfolio are made by a third-party investment manager.

None of the Commission's financial assets are subject to significant member or other restrictions.

The following is a breakdown of the Commission's financial assets available for expenditure within one year as of December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,618,563	\$ 1,949,132
Short-term investments	42,603,861	42,245,568
Accrued interest receivable	108,472	131,260
Accounts receivable	 600	4,428
Total	\$ 44,331,496	\$ 44,330,388

NOTE 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 FDIC up to \$250,000 per financial institution. Although balances may at times exceed federally insured limits, management believes this credit risk to be minimal.

NOTE 5. COST REIMBURSEMENTS

The Commission receives reimbursements from disciplined attorneys for costs incurred as a result of the investigative and disciplinary process. 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 \$1,000 in cost reimbursements for each discipline case, absent exceptional circumstances. During the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Commission regularly sought entry of judgments by the Court. Interest accrues upon the unsatisfied portions of those judgments at a rate of 9% per annum, from the date of judgment until satisfied, as provided by 735 ILCS 5/2-1303. The Commission has also established payment plans for certain disciplined attorneys.

NOTE 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, 2021 and 2020:

			2021	
	Program	Services	Supporting Services	
	Registration		Administration	
	and	Client	and	
	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Protection</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries and related expenses	\$ 9,146,868	\$ 271,178	\$ 2,341,878	\$ 11,759,924
Travel	70,139	1,190	18,222	89,551
Continuing education	75,081	1,158	10,841	87,080
General expenses and				
office support	2,497,609	64,536	573,831	3,135,976
Computer	781,789	19,640	183,896	985,325
Other professional and				
case-related expenses	476,696	5,804	54,345	536,845
Client Protection Program				
direct expenses:				
Awards	-	712,798	-	712,798
Administrative	-	3,254	-	3,254
Depreciation and amortization	211,837	5,341	49,834	267,012
Total	\$ 13,260,019	\$ 1,084,899	\$ 3,232,847	\$ 17,577,765
	Drogram	Services	2020 Supporting Services	
	Registration	1 Sci vices	Administration	•
	and	Client	and	
	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Protection</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Total</u>
C-1	_			
Salaries and related expenses Travel	\$ 9,462,450 54,372	\$ 258,007 1,014		\$ 11,942,876 72,515
Continuing education	107,987	2,459		137,014
General expenses and	107,507	2,437	20,300	137,014
office support	2,109,128	48,122	495,030	2,652,280
Computer	965,861	21,998	3 237,636	1,225,495
Other professional and				
case-related expenses	448,690	5,434	58,703	512,827
Client Protection Program				
direct expenses:				
Awards	-	1,094,454		1,094,454
Administrative	160 467	2,102		2,102
Depreciation and amortization	169,467	3,879		215,045
Total	<u>\$ 13,317,955</u>	\$ 1,437,469	\$ 3,099,184	<u>\$ 17,854,608</u>

NOTE 7. INVESTMENTS

The following summary presents the fair value of each of the investment categories at December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Short-term		
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 14,131,180	\$ 11,581,970
Certificates of deposit	12,697,000	14,984,000
Money market funds	13,566,802	13,648,978
Mutual funds and exchange traded funds	2,208,879	2,030,620
	42,603,861	42,245,568
Long-term		
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	16,628,435	17,743,184
Certificates of deposit	15,833,000	10,456,000
	32,461,435	28,199,184
Total	\$ 75,065,296	\$ 70,444,752

The following presents a summary of net investment income for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Interest income	\$ 613,60	7 \$ 1,028,956
Net gain (loss) on investments	(216,79	7) 298,453
Investment fees	(109,65	7) (93,202)
Total	\$ 287,15	<u>\$ 1,234,207</u>

NOTE 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. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

Basis of Fair Value Measurement

Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities
Level 2	Quoted prices in markets that are not considered to be active or financial instruments for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly
Level 3	Prices or valuations that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable

NOTE 8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Commission's investment assets at fair value as of December 31, 2021 and 2020. As required, assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

	Fair Value Me Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets Total (Level 1)		Measurements at 1 Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 30,759,615	\$ 30,759,615	\$ -	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	28,530,000	-	28,530,000	<u>-</u>
Money market funds	13,566,802	13,566,802	-	-
Mutual funds and				
exchange traded funds				
Fixed income	1,261,045	1,261,045	-	-
Equity:				
Small cap	124,439	124,439	-	-
Mid cap	126,792	126,792	-	-
Large cap	518,090	518,090	-	-
Emerging market	60,258	60,258	-	-
International	118,255	118,255		
Total	\$ 75,065,296	<u>\$ 46,535,296</u>	\$ 28,530,000	<u>\$</u> -
	Total	Fair Value M Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
U.S. Treasury notes and bills	\$ 29,325,154	\$ 29,325,154	\$ -	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	25,440,000	-	25,440,000	-
Money market funds	13,648,978	13,648,978	-	-
Mutual funds and				
exchange traded funds				
Fixed income	1,128,789	1,128,789	-	-
Equity:				
Small cap	131,875	131,875	-	-
Mid cap	124,070	124,070	-	-
Large cap	469,436	469,436	_	_
Emerging market		409,430		
	57,198	57,198	-	-
International			<u>-</u>	

NOTE 8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

Level 1 Measurements

U.S. Treasury notes and bills are traded in active markets on national and international securities exchanges and are valued at closing prices on the last business day of each period presented.

The fair values of the mutual funds and exchange traded funds are determined by reference to the funds' underlying assets, which are principally marketable equity and fixed income securities. Shares held in mutual funds and exchange traded funds are traded on national securities exchanges and are valued at the net asset value on the last business day of each period presented.

Money market funds represent shares held in mutual funds.

Level 2 Measurements

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost, which approximates fair value due to their liquid or short-term nature. At December 31, 2021, the certificates of deposit had interest rates ranging from .10% to 2.55% with maturity dates between February 2022 and December 2024. At December 31, 2020, the certificates of deposit had interest rates ranging from .10% to 2.95% with maturity dates between January 2021 and June 2023.

NOTE 9. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment at December 31, 2021 consisted of the following:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Computer and related equipment	\$ 4,158,916	\$ 3,658,101
Office furniture and equipment	1,092,617	1,093,041
Library	510	1,691
Leasehold improvements	 2,517,502	 2,504,712
	7,769,545	7,257,545
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	 (5,663,658)	 (5,398,250)
Property and equipment - net	\$ 2,105,887	\$ 1,859,295

NOTE 10. LEASE COMMITMENTS

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

In February 2011, the Chicago office lease was extended through May 2027. This lease calls for monthly payments for pro-rata operating expenses and real estate taxes in addition to the scheduled rent payments. In addition, the original lease provided 32 months of "free rent" with the first rent payment made on January 1, 1996. Under the terms of an amendment, base rent was reduced from December 2003 through May 2008, and the landlord provided certain rent concessions which were fully applied as of December 31, 2012. The Commission also received an allowance for leasehold improvements and other rent concessions between January 2012 and December 2017.

Effective November 1, 2012, the Commission entered into a 15 year agreement for office space in Springfield, Illinois. The agreement, which included an allowance of \$20,000 for leasehold improvements, requires escalating rental payments of 2% per annum over the life of the lease. The Commission's scheduled rent payments for this lease include operating expenses and real estate taxes.

Rent expense under all lease agreements was \$1,536,670 in 2021 and \$1,478,618 in 2020.

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

	<u>S</u> 1	oringfield		<u>Chicago</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Year ending December 31,							
2022	\$	116,495	\$	805,457	\$	921,952	
2023		118,825		825,622		944,447	
2024		121,202		846,171		967,373	
2025		123,626		867,327		990,953	
2026		126,098		889,026		1,015,124	
Thereafter		106,827		374,222		481,049	
Total	\$	713,073	<u>\$</u>	4,607,825	<u>\$</u>	5,320,898	

NOTE 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.

NOTE 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, 2021 and 2020.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>		
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 1,908,311	\$ 1,802,463		
Service cost	62,932	52,998		
Interest cost	59,705	70,657		
Benefits paid	(19,842)	(17,807)		
Actuarial loss	391,781			
Benefit obligation at end of year	\$ 2,402,887	\$ 1,908,311		

Net periodic benefit costs for 2021 and 2020 are comprised of the following:

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
Service cost	\$ 62,932	\$	52,998	
Interest cost	59,705		70,657	
Actuarial loss	391,781		-	
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 514,418	<u>\$</u>	123,655	

The key assumptions are as follows:

Actuarial cost method	Projected unit credit method
Mortality table	PriH-2012 Employee and Healthy Retiree
Discount rate	2.60%
Retirement age	Between ages 55 and 75
Medical trend rate ultimate	5%

Assumed health care cost trend rates can have a significant effect on the amounts reported for health care benefits. The actuary noted in its 2021 valuation that the effect of a 1% increase in health care cost trend rates (medical trend ultimate) would be an increase of \$127,432 on total service cost and interest cost components and an increase of \$107,994 on the postretirement benefit obligation, and management believes that the effect of a 1% increase in health care trend rates in 2022 would approximate the estimate made for 2021.

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.

The discount rate used to measure accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO) declined 160 basis points compared to the prior valuation, which increased the net periodic cost and caused the benefit obligation to significantly increase.

Contributions of \$100,000 per year were transferred to the trust account in 2021 and in 2020. Expected transfers of \$100,000 are also expected to be made in 2022.

NOTE 11. POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION (CONTINUED)

The amount expected to be recognized as net periodic benefit cost for the year ending December 31, 2022 is comprised of the following:

Service cost	\$ 54,282
Interest cost	 61,895
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 116,177

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

2022	\$ 44,585
2023	59,545
2024	72,312
2025	82,204
2026	92,043
2027 - 2031	 604,039
Total	\$ 954,728

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 statements of financial position. The fair value of these investments totaled \$3,051,746 and \$2,773,062 at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

NOTE 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 benefits. Employee contributions are not permitted under the plan's provisions. The Commission contributes 18% of compensation for eligible employees, which totaled \$1,559,194 in 2021 and \$1,549,043 in 2020. The Commission also pays the plan's administrative expenses, which totaled \$234,136 in 2021 and \$224,853 in 2020.

The Commission also maintains a Section 457 savings plan which is funded by voluntary pre-tax employee and employer matching contributions. Through December 2019, the Commission matched employee contributions at the rate of 50% of the employee deferral amount, subject to an annual cap of \$500 per employee. Effective January 1, 2020, the Commission matched employee contributions at the rate of 100% of the employee deferral amount, subject to an annual cap of \$1,000 per employee. Effective for deferrals made on or after April 1, 2020, the Commission matches employee contributions equal to 100% of the employee deferral amount, up to a maximum of 5% of salary. Matching contributions totaled \$311,910 in 2021 and \$280,844 in 2020. The Commission also pays the savings plan's administrative expenses, which totaled \$4,266 in 2021 and \$4,444 in 2020.

NOTE 13. LITIGATION

Various complaints and actions are periodically filed against the Commission. At December 31, 2021, the Commission believes that pending matters do not present any serious prospect for negative financial consequences.

NOTE 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 materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of financial position.

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.

NOTE 15. IMPACT OF COVID-19 IMPACT AND NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

As a result of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, economic uncertainties may negatively impact the Commission's operations and financial condition, though the potential impact and duration of the pandemic is unknown as of the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Several major legislative relief packages were enacted in response to the coronavirus outbreak, containing numerous tax, emergency funding and other regulatory provisions. The Commission continues to evaluate the impact of the newly enacted legislation on its operations and cash flows.

The Commission has taken proactive steps to ensure that it continues to operate efficiently and effectively.

ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>
Revenue									
Investment income - net	\$ 287,153	\$	1,234,207	\$ 1	,508,366	\$	701,496	\$	435,633
Registration and program fees	21,781,609		21,716,237	21	,945,876	2	1,954,971	2	1,725,223
Cost reimbursements collected	36,852		40,547		34,542		81,675		89,142
Client Protection Program reimbursements	 10,864		53,621		37,157		216,158		260,049
Total revenue	 22,116,478		23,044,612	23	5,525,941	2	2,954,300	2	2,510,047
Expenses									
Salaries and related expenses	11,759,924		11,942,876	11	,649,421	1	1,997,483	1	2,153,114
Travel	89,551		72,515		152,301		147,652		111,074
Continuing education	87,080		137,014		235,971		158,995		201,888
General expenses and office support	3,135,976		2,652,280	2	2,393,115	,	2,461,422		2,346,941
Computer	985,325		1,225,495		658,217		504,532		515,197
Other professional and case-related expenses	536,845		512,827		545,027		590,756		602,010
Client Protection Program direct expenses	716,052		1,096,556	1	,394,147		2,327,765		1,776,951
Depreciation and amortization	267,012		215,045		218,542		258,203		379,888
Total expenses	 17,577,765		17,854,608	17	7,246,741	13	8,446,808	_1	8,087,063
Change in net assets	4,538,713		5,190,004	6	5,279,200	4	4,507,492		4,422,984
NET ASSETS WITHOUT MEMBER RESTRICTIONS									
Beginning of year	 49,561,120		44,371,116	38	3,091,916	3.	3,584,424	2	9,161,440
End of year	\$ 54,099,833	<u>\$</u>	49,561,120	<u>\$ 44</u>	,371,116	\$ 3	8,091,916	<u>\$ 3</u>	3,584,424
Other information at year end									
Number of active and registered attorneys	96,679		96,114		95,687		94,608		94,997
Registration fees	,		,		,				,
More than one year and less than three years	\$ 121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121
More than three years	\$ 230/210 *	\$	230	\$	230	\$	230	\$	230
Inactive/out of state	\$ 121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121	\$	121

^{*} See Note 1.

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