



INFORMATION RELEASE MONDAY MAY 1, 2023

ANNUAL ILLINOIS LAWYER REPORT RELEASED

The Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC), the administrative agency that regulates Illinois lawyers, has filed its year 2022 Annual Report with the Supreme Court of Illinois. The report will be released to the public on May 1 when a copy is posted on the ARDC website: www.iardc.org. A summary of the Annual Report entitled **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT** is attached to this information release.

The ARDC was created in 1973 and is now in its 50th year of assisting the Supreme Court in regulating the legal profession in Illinois. Since 1973, the number of lawyers in Illinois has grown from approximately 26,500 to over 95,000. The ARDC has also evolved, broadening its focus beyond registration and discipline to providing lawyers with a number of remedial and educational services, and other resources, so that they may practice law ethically and effectively in these changing times. The Annual Report's appendix includes a 50th Year Anniversary Timeline noting the important milestones and developments in Illinois lawyer regulation.

Additionally, 2023 will mark the final year of ARDC Administrator Jerome Larkin's stewardship of the agency. Mr. Larkin is retiring at the end of this year, having served as Administrator since 2007 and having worked at the ARDC for 45 years. His forward-thinking leadership, together with that of the Supreme Court, has been one of the reasons the agency is at the forefront of lawyer regulation in the nation. The Annual Report highlights the ARDC's many accomplishments during his tenure as Administrator.

The Annual Report further provides complete and comprehensive statistics concerning the ARDC's disciplinary caseload, financial health, and progress on various initiatives. Few professions account for their regulatory activity in such detail.

On the lawyer-discipline front, there were 4,359 requests for investigation received by the ARDC concerning 3,257 lawyers in 2022. The ARDC filed 52 formal disciplinary complaints before the ARDC's Hearing Board, while 16 disciplinary and regulatory proceedings were filed directly in the Illinois Supreme Court. The Court disbarred 12 lawyers in 2022, placed 48 lawyers on suspension (with or without a term of probation), and censured three lawyers.

The 2022 Annual Report includes a summary of the ARDC's progress on its Education Initiative. In 2022, the ARDC's website contained 36 on-demand, recorded webcasts providing 25.25 free hours of professional responsibility Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit. The ARDC issued 87,438 certificates of MCLE completion to Illinois lawyers in 2022, totaling 65,038 hours of professional responsibility MCLE credit earned. Additionally, ARDC staff lawyers gave 113 presentations to bar associations and law-related organizations during 2022 and provided research assistance and guidance regarding ethical issues in 2,540 calls to its Ethics Inquiry Program.

In its Annual Report, the ARDC also accounts to the Supreme Court for money received and spent. No tax money is used to fund the agency. All operating funds are taken from an annual registration fee paid by Illinois attorneys. By Supreme Court rule, lawyers pay an annual fee of \$385. Of that amount, \$95 is remitted to the Lawyers Trust Fund to fund legal services for low-income persons; \$25 funds the ARDC Client Protection Program to indemnify victims of lawyer misconduct; \$25 is submitted to the Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism to help that entity's efforts to promote civility and inclusion in the legal profession; \$20 is sent to the Lawyers' Assistance Program, an organization that helps lawyers, judges, law students, and their families with alcohol abuse, drug dependency, or mental health problems; \$10 is remitted to the Supreme Court's Commission on Access to Justice to facilitate access to civil courts and administrative agencies for low-income and vulnerable Illinoisans; and the balance of the registration fee, \$210, is used by the ARDC to pay for lawyer regulation. The ARDC's Client Protection Program paid out \$1,098,821 on 53 claims in 2022.

There are seven ARDC Commissioners – four members of the Illinois Bar and three non-lawyers, all appointed by the Supreme Court. The ARDC Chair is Timothy L. Bertschy of Dunlap. The Vice Chair is John H. Simpson of Chicago. The Commissioners, who receive no compensation for their services, create ARDC policies, establish an operating budget, appoint members of the Inquiry and Hearing Boards, and manage the Client Protection Program. Subject to the approval of the Supreme Court, the Commissioners appoint the ARDC’s chief executive and regulatory officer, the Administrator. As noted, the Administrator is Jerome Larkin.

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

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ATTORNEY REGISTRATION &
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS



The Full 2022
ARDC Annual Report

WHO WE ARE

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.



2022

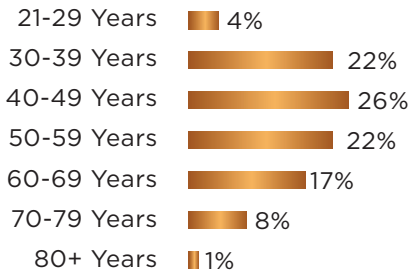
ILLINOIS LAWYERS



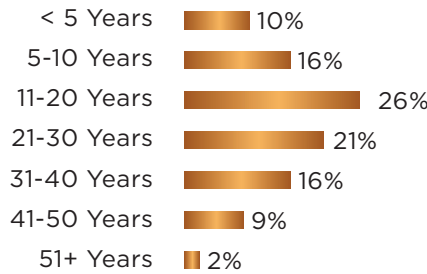
95,711 registered lawyers
65,839 located in Illinois
29,872 located outside Illinois

83,425 are Active status
12,286 are Inactive status

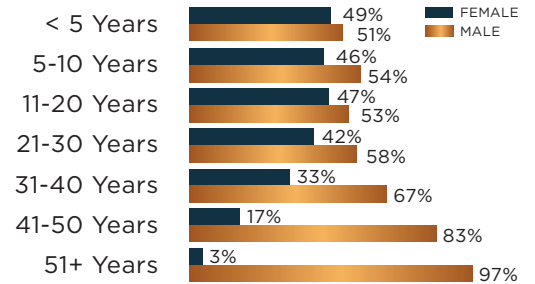
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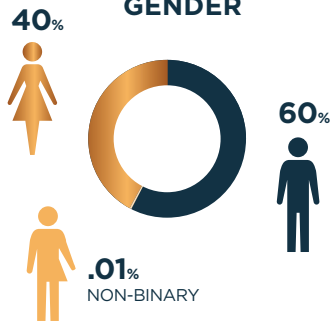
YEARS IN PRACTICE



YEARS IN PRACTICE BY GENDER



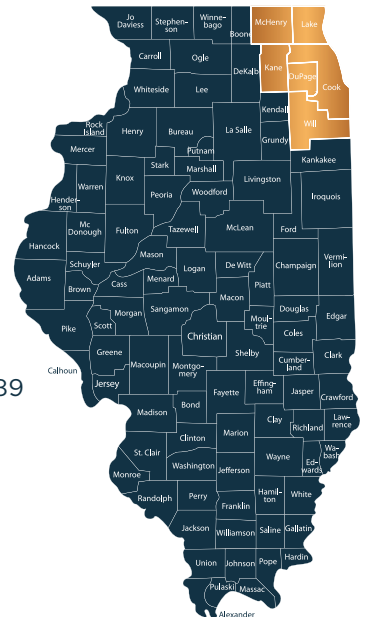
GENDER



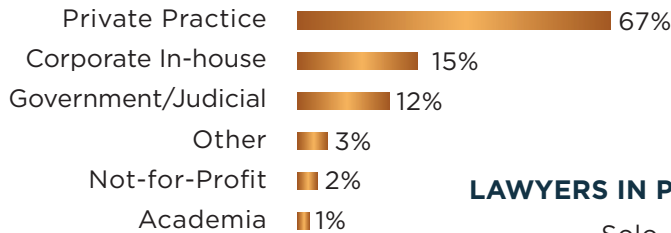
67% of lawyers are in private practice
88% carry malpractice insurance
87% maintain a trust account
39% have a succession plan

87% of lawyers in Illinois practice in six counties

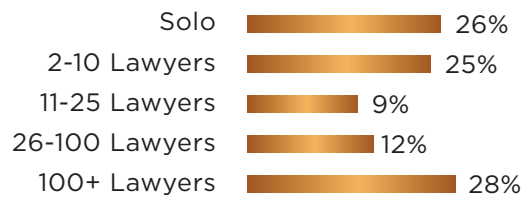
Cook: 46,809
DuPage: 46,812
Kane: 1,152
Lake: 3,157
McHenry: 570
Will: 1,089



PRACTICE SETTING



LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE





2022

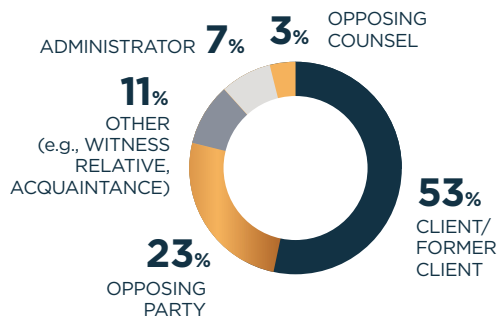
REGULATORY ACTION

INVESTIGATIONS

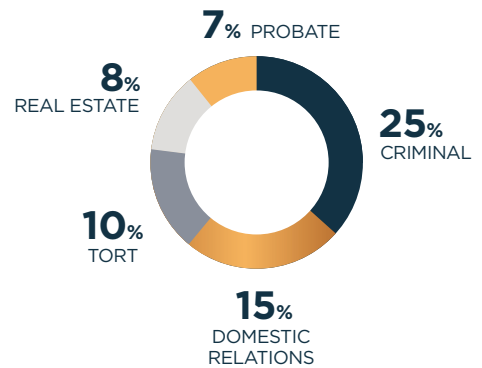
4,359 grievances against **3,257** lawyers representing **3.4%** of all registered lawyers.

68% of grievances stem from a breakdown in attorney-client relations.

TOP FIVE INVESTIGATIONS BROUGHT BY COMPLAINANT TYPE



TOP FIVE PRACTICE AREAS OF INVESTIGATIONS



PROSECUTIONS

52 formal disciplinary complaints filed in 2022 before the Hearing Board

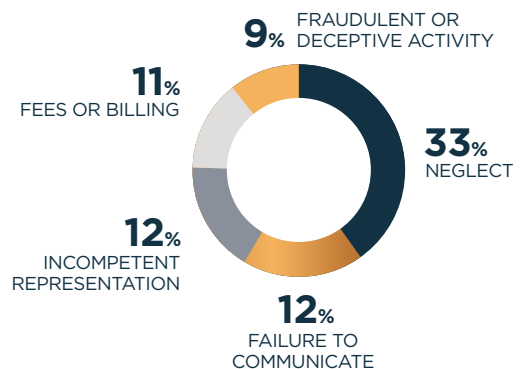
16 disciplinary and regulatory proceedings filed directly with the Illinois Supreme Court

66% of proceedings before the Hearing Board were uncontested

69% of formal disciplinary complaints charged fraudulent or deceptive activity in connection with alleged misrepresentation to clients, a tribunal or others, or the conversion of trust funds

48% of disciplinary complaints were concluded by the filing of discipline on consent

TOP FIVE ALLEGATIONS IN INVESTIGATIONS





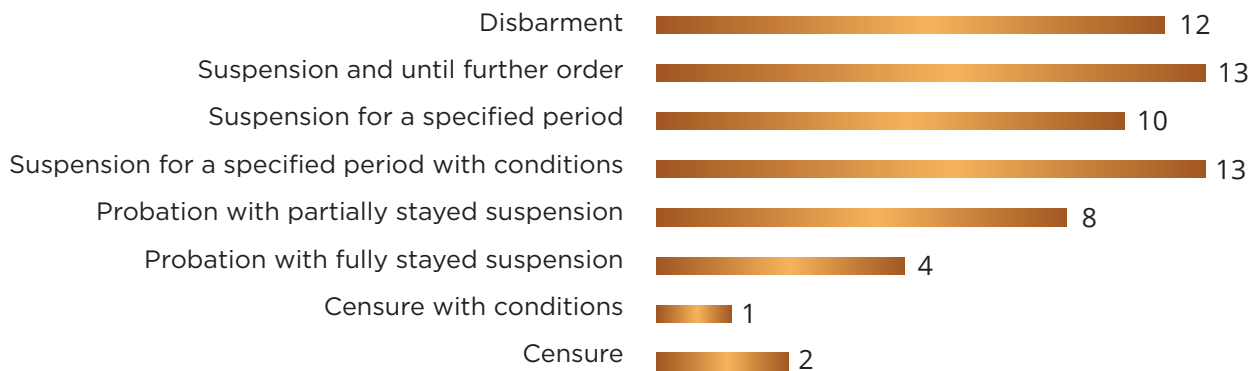
DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

63 sanctions entered by the Illinois Supreme Court against **63** lawyers

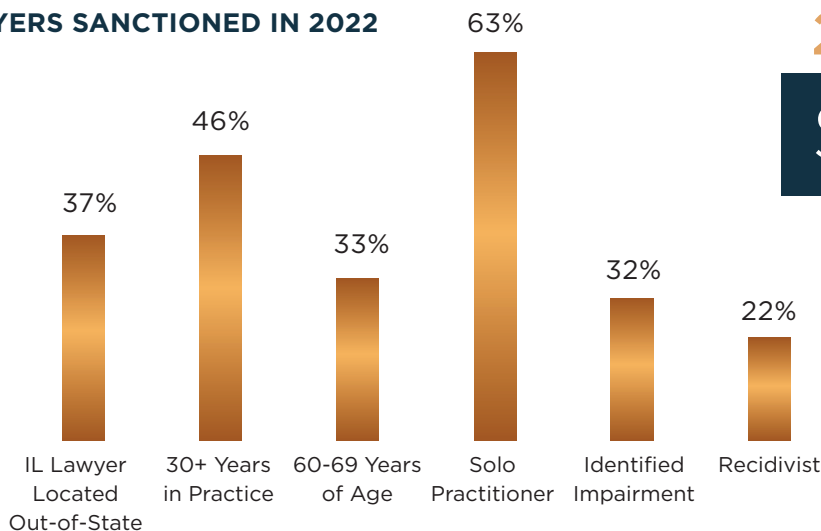
22 sanctions were discipline on consent

18 sanctions were discipline reciprocal to sanctions entered by another jurisdiction

40% of sanctions were either disbarment or suspension until further order of the Court



LAWYERS SANCTIONED IN 2022



2022

SANCTIONS



2022

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

ARDC CLE ON-LINE LEARNING

36 on-demand CLE learning courses available in 2022

87,438 CLE certificates issued in 2022

65,038 hours earned in 2022 of free IL MCLE professional responsibility credit

PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT-BASED REGULATION (PMBR) PROGRAM

A four-hour interactive, law office management self-assessment course for practicing lawyers who do not carry malpractice insurance; since its launch in 2018, over **15,000** lawyers have completed the program. Open to all lawyers, over **36,000** CLE certificates were issued in 2022.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

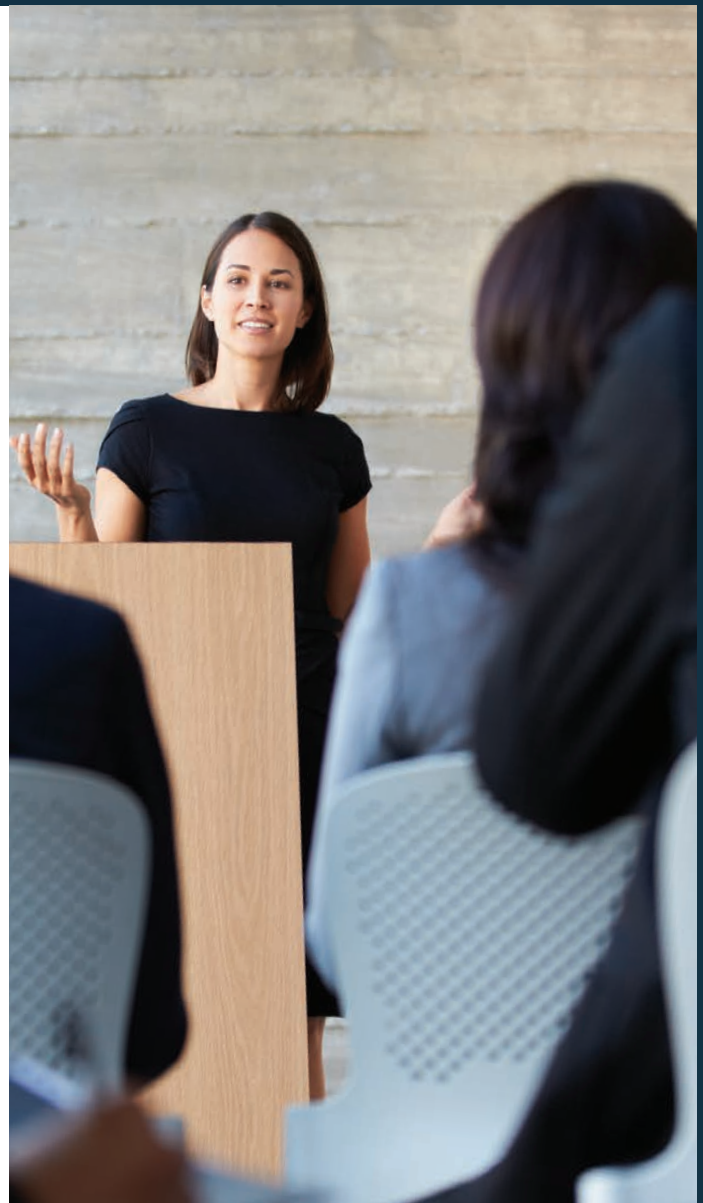
113 speeches made by ARDC lawyers in 2022 at CLE seminars for bar associations, government agencies, law firms, law schools, public interest groups and other organizations, at no charge.

ARDC ETHICS INQUIRY HOTLINE

2,540 calls received in 2022 from lawyers, providing research assistance and guidance regarding ethics issues and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, free of charge.

ON-LINE PUBLICATIONS

Alerts, e-blasts, newsletters and articles on a wide range of legal ethics topics and emerging trends including bi-monthly articles published on the ARDC website at www.iardc.org.



ARDC WEBSITE

1.4 million visits in 2022 to the newly-designed ARDC website, including the Lawyer Search function, which provides ready access to the public, the profession, and the judiciary to lawyers' credentials and contact information on the Master Roll.



2022

REMEDIAL ACTION

PROBATION, DIVERSION AND LAWYER WELL-BEING PROGRAM

213 lawyers monitored for substance or mental illness impairments, law office management issues or restitution conditions

60% were monitored with substance abuse or mental conditions

33% were monitored with law office management conditions

REFERRALS TO LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LAP)

48 lawyers referred to LAP, accounting for 11% of LAP's referrals.

INTERMEDIARY PROGRAM

12 lawyers contacted successfully by intermediaries

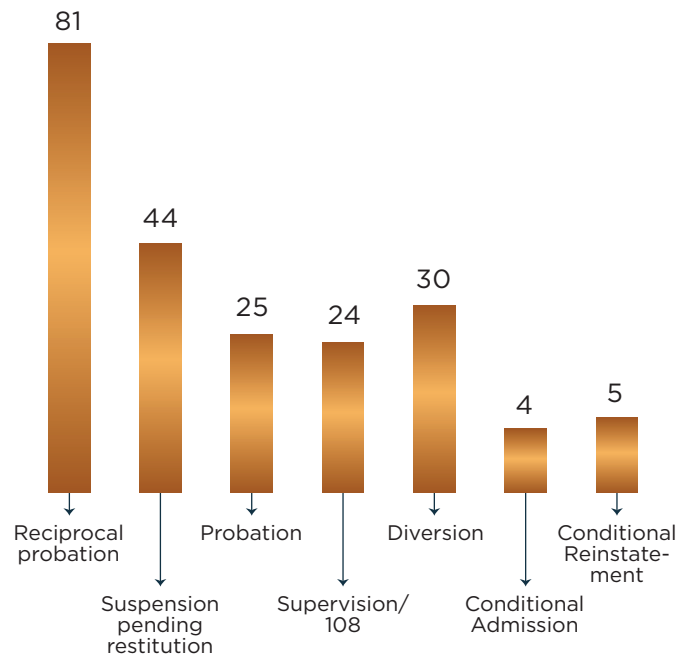
RECEIVERSHIPS

24 investigations in 2022 for possible receivership of a lawyer's law practice

2 appointments in 2022 of the ARDC as receiver of a lawyer's law practice

PERMANENT RETIREMENT

3 lawyers transferred voluntarily to permanent retirement status





CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

\$1,098,821 in reimbursements on **53** approved claims involving **32** different lawyers

62% of approved claims involved failure to refund unearned fees

34% of approved claims paid out \$2,500 or less; **6%** of approved claims were for the \$100,000 maximum per-award limit

32% arose out of a criminal representation

63 claims were denied



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The Full 2022
ARDC Annual Report