



## WHO WE ARE

### ARDC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the ARDC is to promote and protect the integrity of the legal profession, at the direction of the Supreme Court, through attorney registration, education, investigation, prosecution and remedial action.

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.

## ILLINOIS LAWYERS

96,440 registered lawyers

**84,353** are Active status **12,087** are Inactive status

65,515 or 68% located in Illinois

30,925 or 32% located outside Illinois

# Cook (46,733) DuPage (4,513)

**57,129** or **87%** of lawyers

in Illinois practice in six counties

Lake (3,127) Kane (1,13<u>1)</u>

Will (1,063)

McHenry (562)

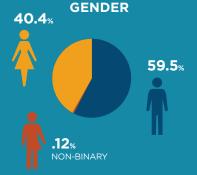


### **AGE**



### YEARS IN PRACTICE





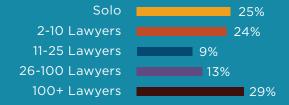
### **PRACTICE SETTING**



### YEARS IN PRACTICE BY GENDER

YEARS IN PRACTICE	%FEMALE	%MALE	NON-BINARY
Less than 5 yrs.	50.5%	49.0%	0.50%
Between 5 & 10 yrs.	46.6%	53.4%	0.20%
Between 11 & 20 yrs.	46.6%	53.4%	0.10%
Between 21 & 30 yrs.	42.7%	57.3%	0.03%
Between 31 & 40 yrs.	34.1%	65.9%	0.03%
Between 41 & 50 yrs.	18.5%	81.5%	0.01%
51+ yrs.	3.1%	96.9%	0.00%

### LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE



### LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

89% carry malpractice insurance87% maintain a trust account39% have a succession plan

# REGULATORY ACTION

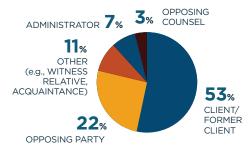
4,575 grievances involving 3,250 lawyers representing 3.4% of all registered lawyers.

66% of grievances stem from a breakdown in attorney-client relations.

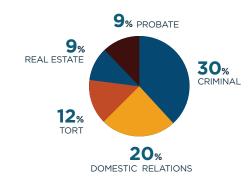
100 grievances led to disciplinary prosecution.

### **INVESTIGATIONS**

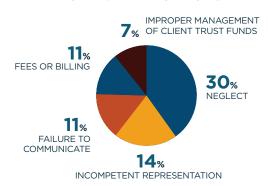
### **TOP FIVE COMPLAINANT TYPES**



### **TOP FIVE PRACTICE AREAS**



### **TOP FIVE ALLEGATIONS**

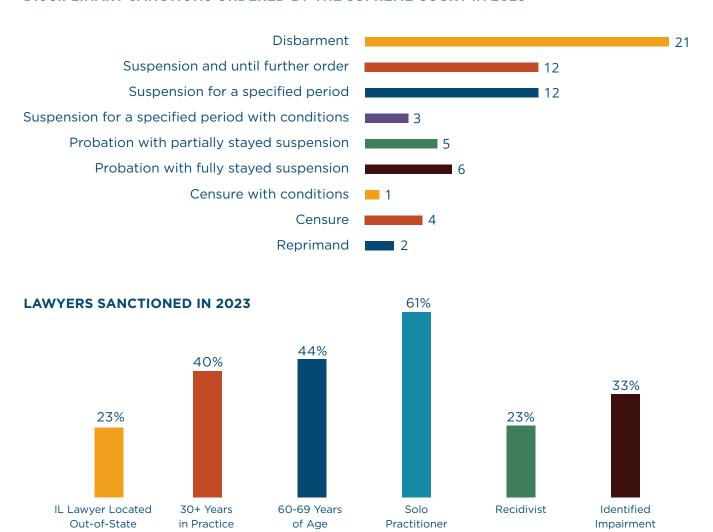


### **PROSECUTIONS**

- **42** formal disciplinary complaints filed in 2023 before the Hearing Board
- **23** disciplinary and regulatory proceedings filed directly with the Illinois Supreme Court
- **67%** 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
- **43%** of formal disciplinary complaints were filed against lawyers 30 years or more in practice
- **31%** of formal disciplinary complaints arose out of the lawyer's criminal conduct or conviction
- **53** cases were concluded by the Hearing Board in 2023
- **21** cases were closed without hearing by the filing of discipline on consent
- 18 cases were concluded after a contested hearing
- 10 cases were concluded by a default hearing

# 66 sanctions entered by the Illinois Supreme Court against 66 lawyers 32 sanctions entered were discipline on consent 11 sanctions entered were reciprocal to sanctions entered by another jurisdiction 50% of sanctions were either disbarment or suspension until further order of the Court

### **DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT IN 2023**



# NEDUCATION NO AND OUTREACH

### ARDC CLE ON-LINE LEARNING

**38** on-demand CLE learning courses available in 2023 offering **27** hours free Illinois professional responsibility credit

**53,857** CLE certificates issued in 2023

**41,155** hours in professional responsibility CLE earned in 2023

### **ARDC WEBSITE**

1.2 million visits in 2023 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.

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

114 speeches made by ARDC lawyers in 2023 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

**2,536** calls received in 2023 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.



# REMEDIAL ACTION

### **CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM**

\$562,699 payment on 46 approved claims involving 25 different lawyers

**60%** of approved claims involved claims of unearned and unrefunded fees

All approved claims below the \$100,000 maximum were paid the full eligible amount of the claimed loss

18 claims approved paid out \$2,500 or less; 3 claims approved were for the \$100,000 maximum per-award limit

**30%** arose out of a domestic relations representation

60 claims were denied

## REFERRALS TO LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LAP)

**38** lawyers to LAP, accounting for 11% of LAP's referrals.

### **RECEIVERSHIPS**

- **12** investigations in 2023 for possible receivership of a lawyer's law practice
- 4 appointments in 2023 of the ARDC as receiver of a lawyer's law practice

### PROBATION, DIVERSION AND LAWYER WELL-BEING PROGRAM

- **211** lawyers were required to fulfil certain conditions in order to practice law
- 78 Reciprocal discipline
- **43** Suspension pending restitution
- **26** Probation
- 27 Supervision/108
- **31** Diversion
- 5 Conditional Reinstatement
- **1** Conditional Admission
- **90** lawyers in Illinois were required to fulfill requirements arising out of substance or mental illness impairments, law office management issues or both
- 35 lawyers were monitored for substance abuse or mental health conditions
- 38 lawyers were monitored for law office management or ethics training
- 17 lawyers were monitored for both

### **INTERMEDIARY PROGRAM**

12 lawyers contacted successfully by ARDC intermediaries employed to contact lawyers unresponsive to ARDC investigations or disciplinary proceedings

