



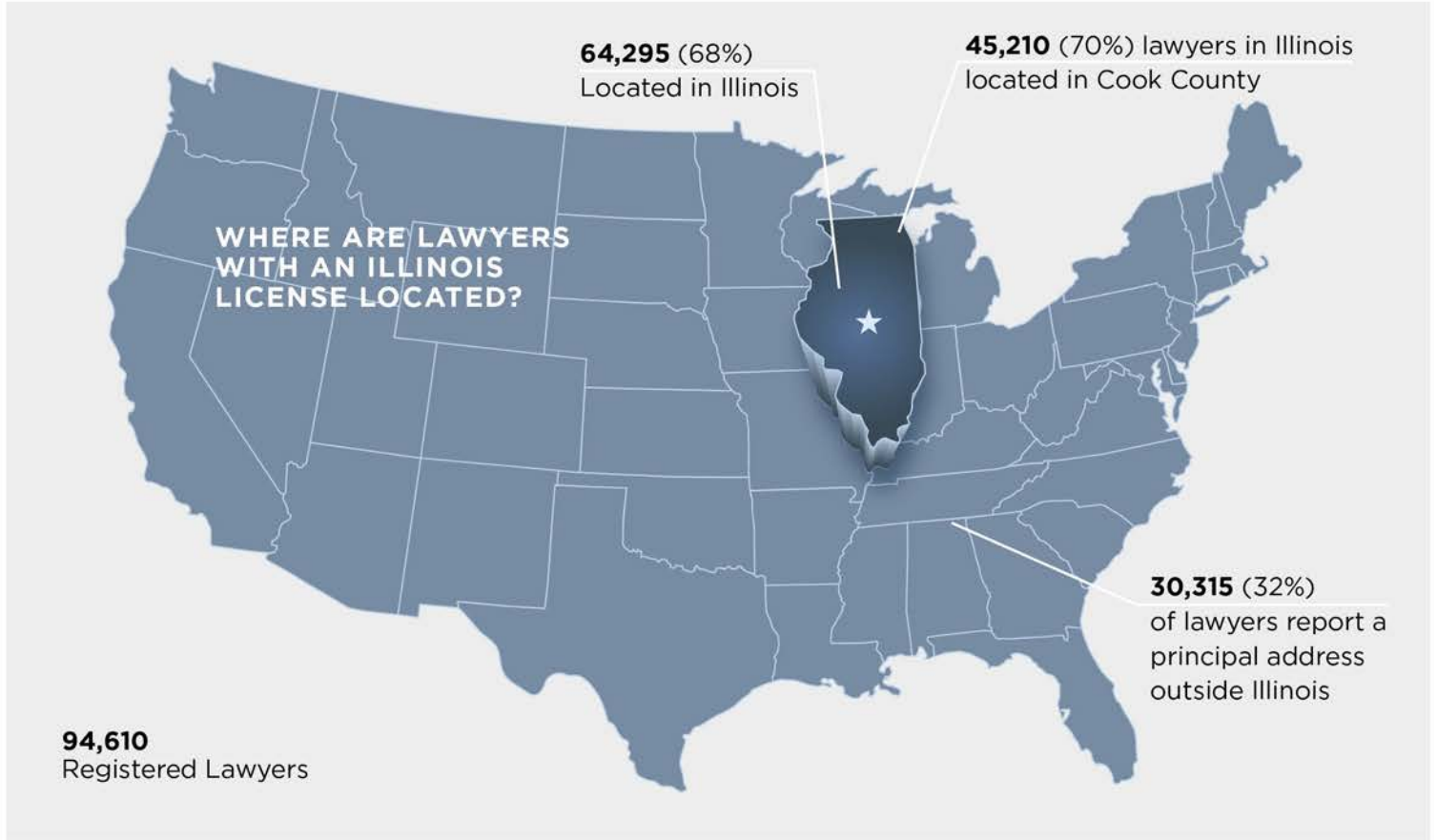
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ARDC Annual Report

2016
ANNUAL REPORT

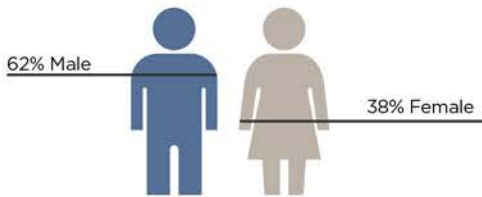
ATTORNEY REGISTRATION & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

HIGHLIGHTS

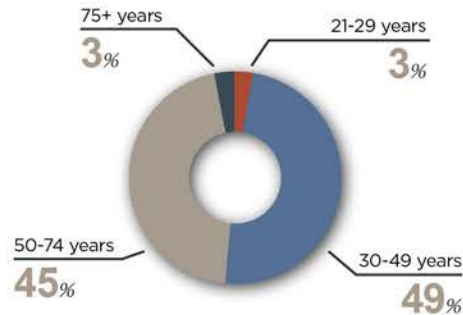
ILLINOIS LAWYER POPULATION



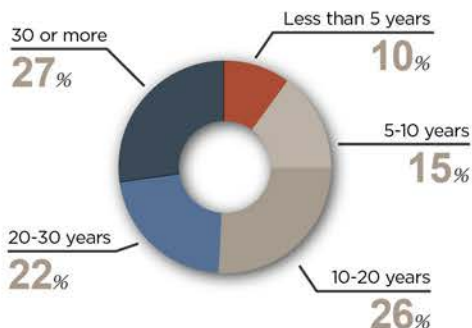
WHO ARE THEY?



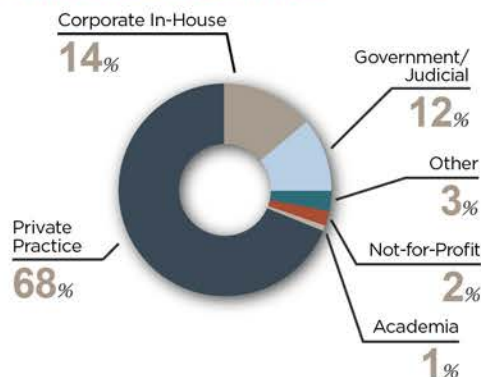
AGE



YEARS IN PRACTICE



PRACTICE SETTING



LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE (47,456)*

	SOLO LAW FIRMS 13,705	2-10 LAW FIRMS 13,086	11-25 LAW FIRMS 4,552	26-100 LAW FIRMS 4,740	100+ LAW FIRMS 11,567
% IN PRIVATE PRACTICE	29%	27%	10%	10%	24%
GENDER	25% FEMALE 75% MALE	28% FEMALE 72% MALE	29% FEMALE 71% MALE	31% FEMALE 69% MALE	32% FEMALE 68% MALE
30+ YEARS IN PRACTICE	46%	29%	23%	19%	18%
% WITH TRUST ACCOUNTS	68%	89%	95%	95%	97%
% WITH MALPRACTICE	59%	90%	96%	96%	97%
% WITH NO SUCCESSION PLANNING	77%	36%	16%	14%	8%

*Of the 69,572 Active status lawyers currently engaged in the practice of law, 68% or 47,456 are actively engaged in the practice of law in a private setting.

PRO BONO SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS



18,691 lawyers donated
\$16,005,396 to
pro bono legal service
organizations

31,972 lawyers
performed **1,855,763**
hours of *pro bono*
legal services



INVESTIGATIONS, PROSECUTIONS AND SANCTIONS



11% of grievances were received from an attorney report (aka "Himmel" report).

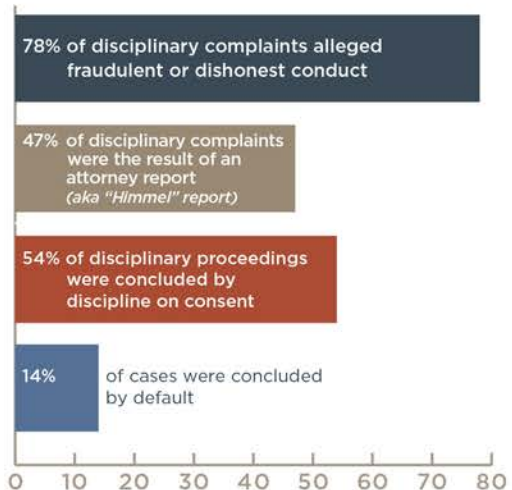
241 overdraft investigations, 4% of all grievances.

113 UPL investigations, 97 of which were made against unlicensed persons or entities.

PROSECUTIONS

117 disciplinary and regulatory filings including 79 disciplinary complaints.

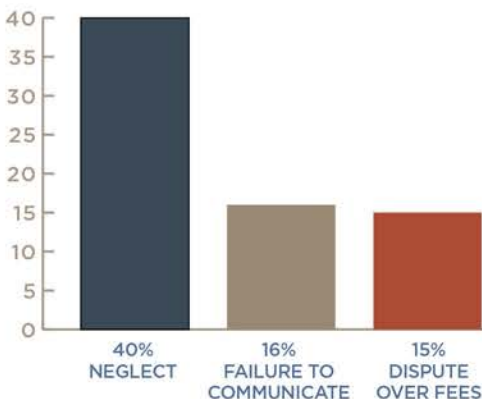
3 disciplinary complaints were filed against out-of-state lawyers.



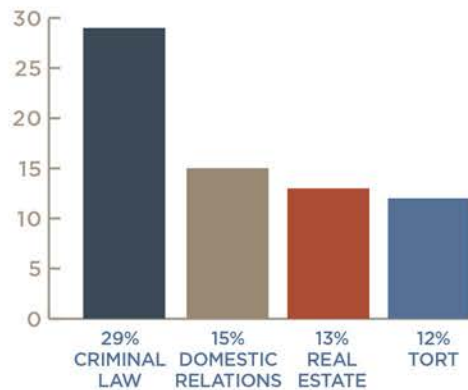
INVESTIGATIONS

5,401 grievances, the fourth consecutive year of decline and the lowest number since 1988.

71% of grievances arises out of a breakdown in attorney-client relations:



Top four areas of law involved in grievances were criminal law, domestic relations, real estate and tort.



3,936 lawyers were the subject of a grievance in 2016 and 19% of those were the subject of more than one grievance docketed in 2016.

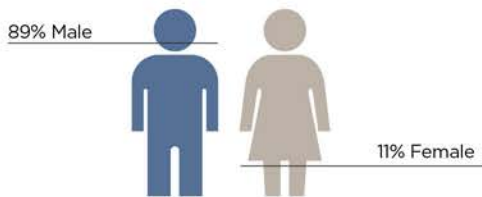
INVESTIGATIONS, PROSECUTIONS AND SANCTIONS

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT IN 2016

In 2016, the Court entered **104** sanctions against **103** lawyers (one lawyer was disciplined twice in 2016).



DISCIPLINED LAWYERS IN 2016



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



A significant part of the ARDC's activities is the education of Illinois lawyers and the public through seminars, publications and outreach on the ethical duties of lawyers. Education and outreach efforts are vital elements in the ARDC's efforts to help lawyers serve their clients effectively and professionally, avoid potential harm to clients and minimize possible grievances later. Those efforts include:

- **Proactive Management Based Regulation (PMBR) Initiative** — a CLE-accredited, on-line, law office management self-assessment course designed to assist lawyers in building an ethical law practice to be launched in late 2017.
- **Speaking Engagements** — over **290** in-person presentations made by ARDC staff lawyers to bar associations, government agencies, law firms, law schools, public interest groups and other organizations, at no charge.
- **MCLE Accredited Seminars** — over **24,000** hours of CLE credit earned by lawyers from ten ARDC-produced accredited webcasts in 2016.
- **Ethics Inquiry Program** — more than **4,200** calls received from lawyers to the ARDC Ethics Inquiry Program, a telephone inquiry resource for attorneys seeking help in resolving hypothetical, ethical dilemmas.
- **ARDC Website** — over **1.4 million** visits in 2016 to the ARDC website, a leading on-line resource for public information concerning all aspects of lawyer regulation.
- **ARDC Diversity and Inclusion Initiative** — an ARDC initiative intended to provide leadership and direction for diversity and inclusion at the ARDC and to ensure that the ARDC serves all members of the legal profession and the public with fairness and transparency.

REMEDIAL ACTION

The protection of the public can be accomplished not just in the form of discipline but also through other methods the ARDC has utilized to restore the public's trust and meaningfully address some of the causes of lawyer misconduct in order to prevent future harm.

CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

- **\$3,094,187** approved payment on **146** claims against **48** lawyers, reimbursing clients who lost money as the result of the dishonest conduct of an Illinois lawyer
- **\$1.4** million was paid in 2016 as the result of the misconduct of two disciplined lawyers
- **13** approvals were for the **\$100,000** maximum and **37** were for **\$2,500** or less.

PROBATION

- Over **100** disciplined lawyers are being monitored by the ARDC Probation Unit for substance abuse and mental health impairments, law office management issues or restitution conditions.

REFERRALS TO LAP

- **11** referrals made to the Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) to provide help to lawyers that may be abusing drugs or alcohol or experiencing a mental health condition impairing the lawyer's ability to practice law.

PERMANENT RETIREMENT/ DISABILITY INACTIVE STATUS

- Permanent Retirement and Disability Inactive status sought for lawyers with cognitive issues facing minor misconduct charges as a way of providing a reasonable and dignified option for lawyers who need to retire from the practice of law. In 2016, five lawyers were transferred to permanent retirement status and three to disability inactive status.

EDUCATIONAL RETRAINING

- Trust account compliance education required for those lawyers with overdraft investigations needing assistance with understanding the requirements of **Rule 1.15** of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- ARDC Professionalism Seminar attendance required for lawyers with law office management issues to provide an overview of a lawyer's ethical duties in operating a law office.

RESTITUTION

- **\$96,285** in restitution ordered in 2016 as part of a disciplinary sanction, making repayment to clients and others harmed by the disciplined lawyer's misconduct a condition for the lawyer's readmission.

DIVERSION PROGRAM

- ARDC Diversion Program under Com. **Rule 54** allows for closure of an investigation in certain matters if the lawyer agrees to complete one or more activities, services or programs that address the issues that may be causing grievances.

RECEIVERSHIPS

- **5** court-ordered receiverships appointing the ARDC receiver of a lawyer's law practice in 2016 because of the lawyer's death, disability or abandonment of the law practice.





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