

2023

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



The Full 2023
ARDC Annual Report

ARDC
ATTORNEY REGISTRATION &
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

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.

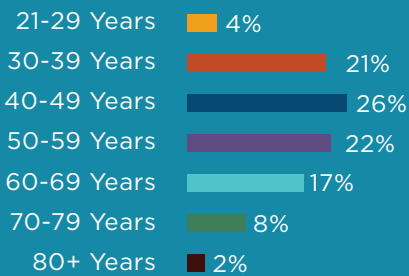


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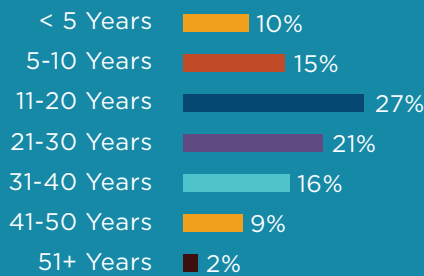
2023 ILLINOIS LAWYERS

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

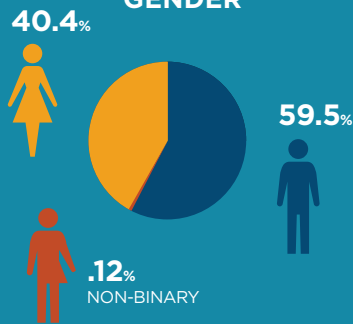
AGE



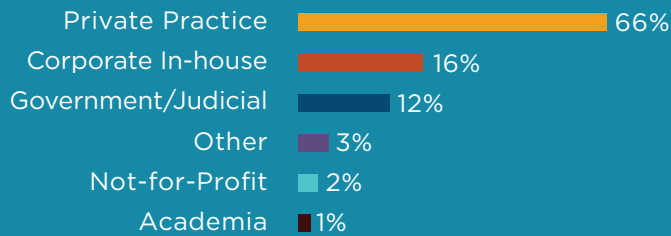
YEARS IN PRACTICE



GENDER



PRACTICE SETTING



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

in Illinois practice in six counties

Cook (46,733)
 DuPage (4,513)
 Lake (3,127)
 Kane (1,131)
 Will (1,063)
 McHenry (562)



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

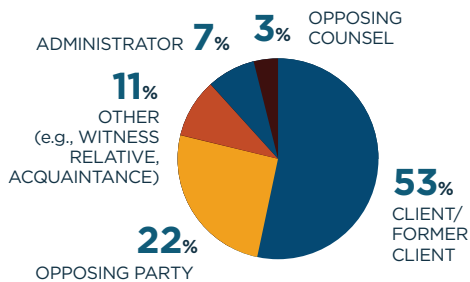
89% carry malpractice insurance
87% maintain a trust account
39% have a succession plan

2023 REGULATORY ACTION

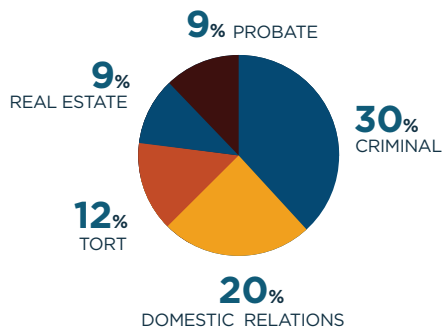
4,575 grievances involving **3,250** lawyers representing **3.4%** of all registered lawyers.
66% of grievances stem from a breakdown in attorney-client relations.
100 grievances led to disciplinary prosecution.

INVESTIGATIONS

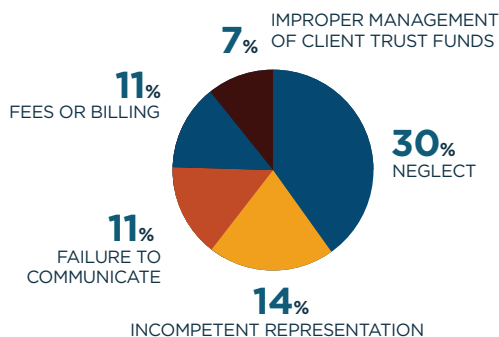
TOP FIVE COMPLAINANT TYPES



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

2023 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

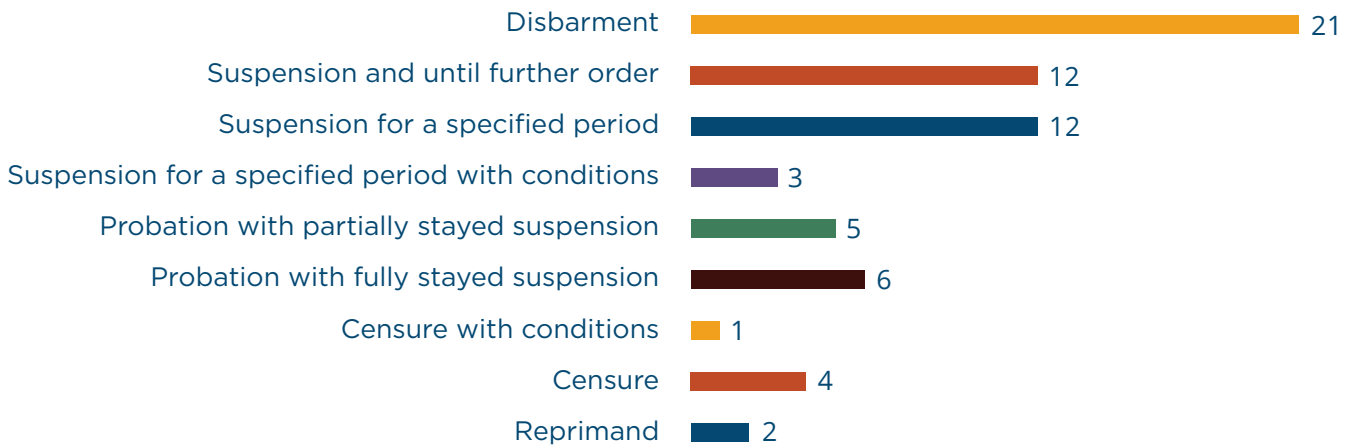
66 sanctions entered by the Illinois Supreme Court against 66 lawyers

32 sanctions entered were discipline on consent

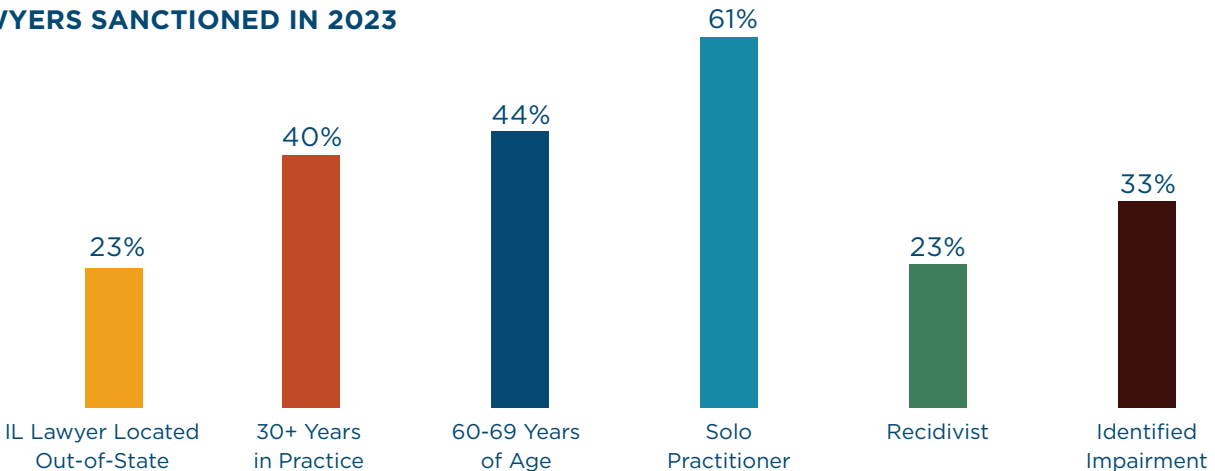
11 sanctions entered were reciprocal to sanctions entered by another jurisdiction

50% of sanctions were either disbarment or suspension until further order of the Court

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT IN 2023



LAWYERS SANCTIONED IN 2023



2023 EDUCATION 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.



2023 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



ARDC

ATTORNEY REGISTRATION &
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

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