



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

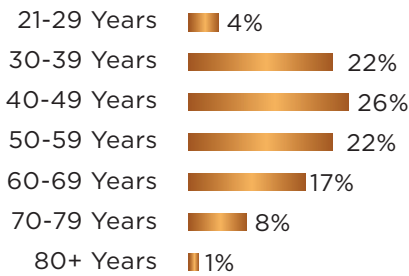
# ILLINOIS LAWYERS



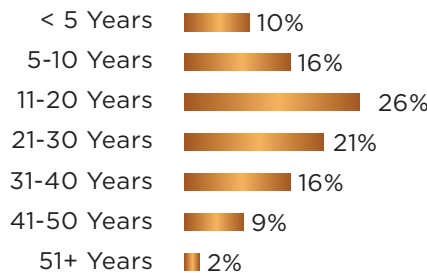
**95,711** registered lawyers  
**65,839** located in Illinois  
**29,872** located outside Illinois

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

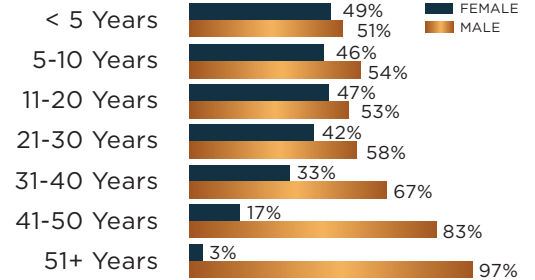
## AGE



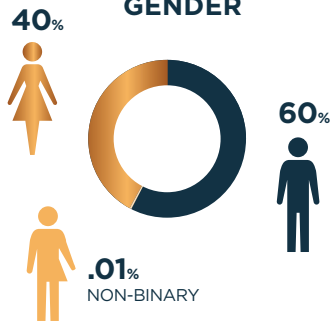
## YEARS IN PRACTICE



## YEARS IN PRACTICE BY GENDER



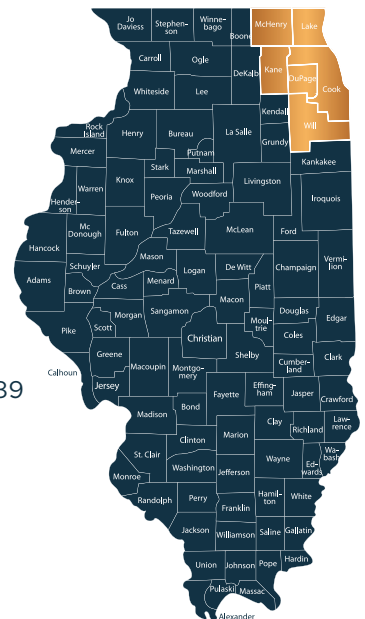
## GENDER



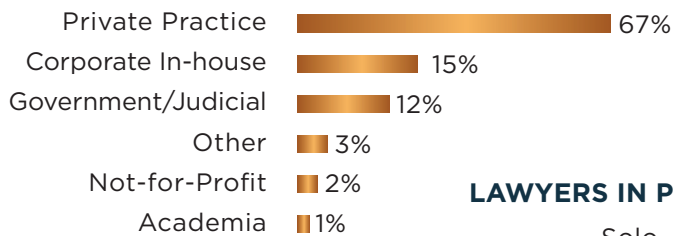
**67%** of lawyers are in private practice  
**88%** carry malpractice insurance  
**87%** maintain a trust account  
**39%** have a succession plan

**87%** of lawyers in Illinois practice in six counties

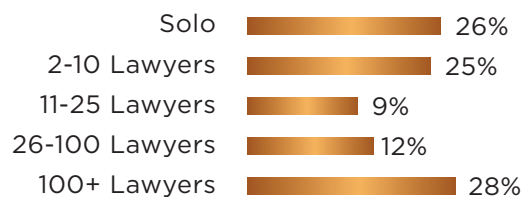
**Cook:** 46,809  
**DuPage:** 4,485  
**Kane:** 1,152  
**Lake:** 3,157  
**McHenry:** 570  
**Will:** 1,089



## PRACTICE SETTING



## LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE





2022

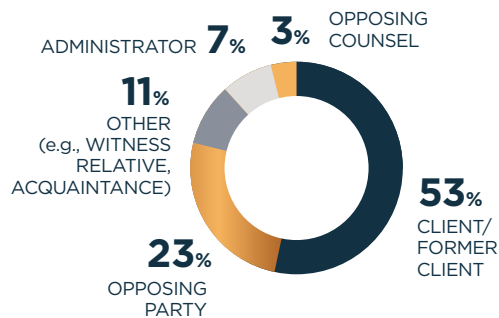
# REGULATORY ACTION

## INVESTIGATIONS

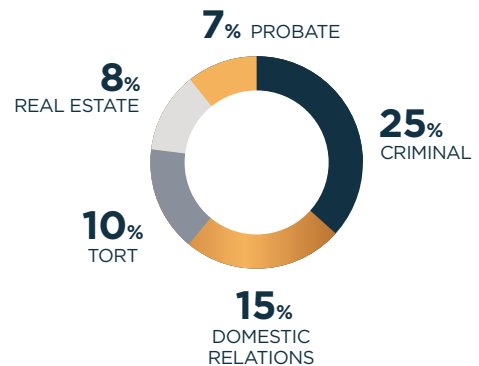
**4,359** grievances against **3,257** lawyers representing **3.4%** of all registered lawyers.

**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

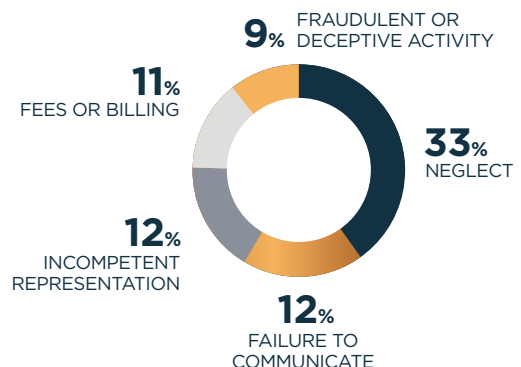
**16** disciplinary and regulatory proceedings filed directly with the Illinois Supreme Court

**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





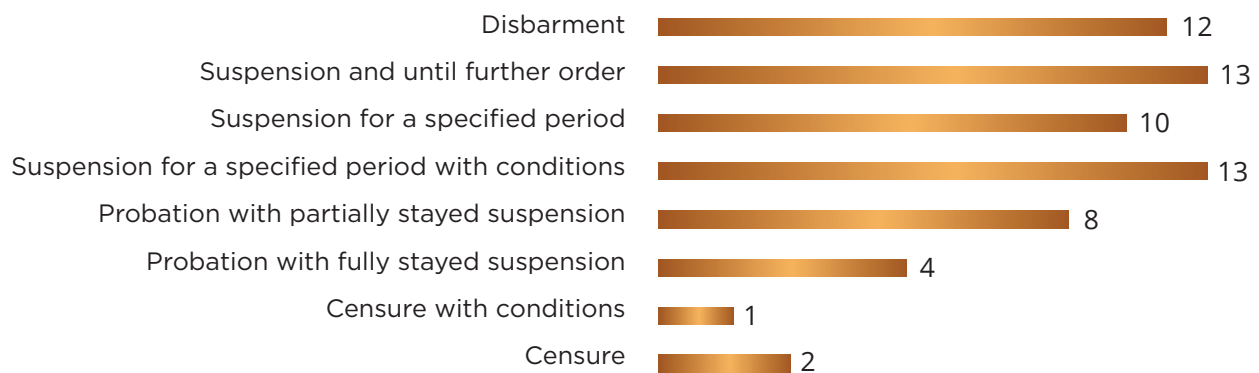
## DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

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

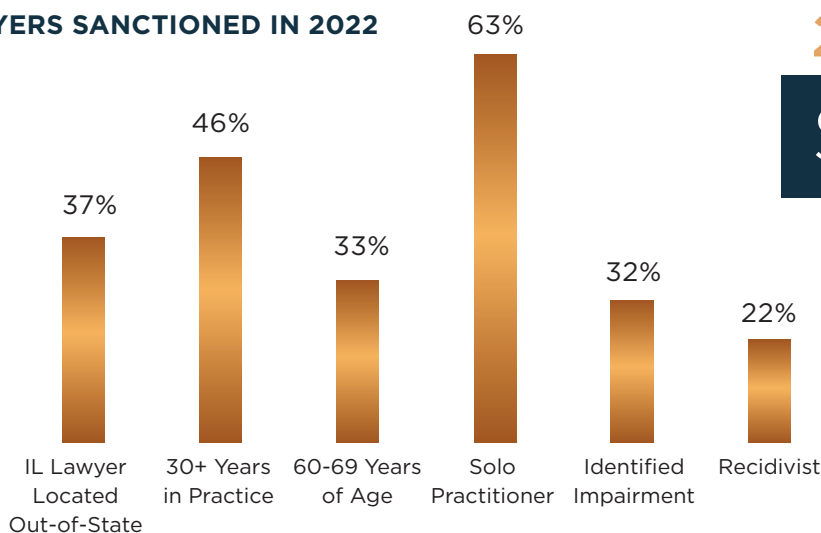
**22** sanctions were discipline on consent

**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](http://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

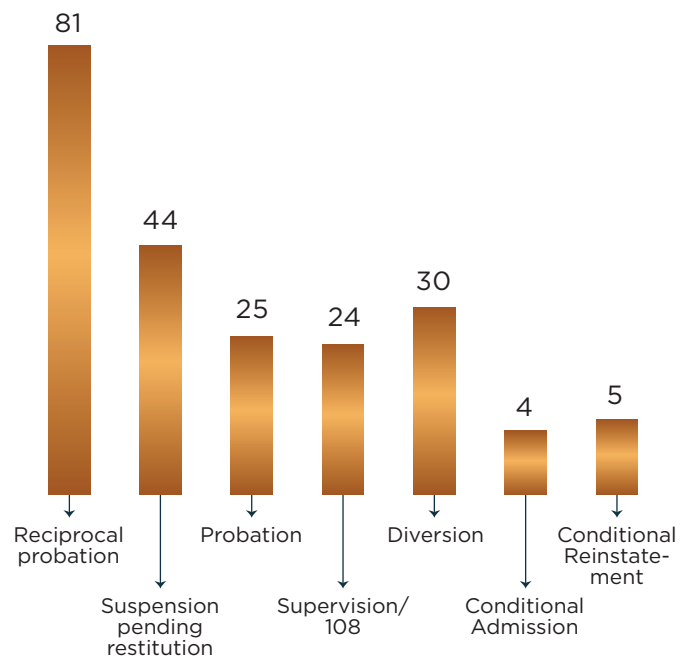
### RECEIVERSHIPS

**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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