

From: Steiner, Quinlan G (DOA) [<mailto:quinlan.steiner@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:54 AM
To: Jim Pound
Subject: Re: Ombudsman draft

These changes do not address the concerns I raised during hearings on this bill last session.

If the ombudsman's office has jurisdiction over the Alaska Bar Association, Agency responses to bar complaints, which include attorney-client confidences, will be made available to the ombudsman's office.

Under the rules of professional conduct, attorneys would then be prohibited from disclosing client confidences in our responses to bar complaints. This would eliminate an avenue for indigent clients to raise concerns about their attorney and it would prohibit the bar association from conducting a meaningful review of our conduct on a case.

My concerns could be addressed by either removing the bar association from the ombudsman's jurisdiction or making it clear that the ombudsman's office was not entitled to a copy of our response to a bar complaint or any other documents containing attorney-client privileged material.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Quinlan Steiner
Public Defender