

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB 104  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:15:39 AM

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Dear Senator Dunbar and the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 104, and urging you to move forward with this important proposed legislation. I am a member of the ALSC board of directors, a volunteer and also a past staff member. In particular, I was the staff attorney tasked with re-establishing the Kenai ALSC office back in 2008. I cannot overemphasize the enormous need for civil legal services that exists on the Peninsula, nor the ongoing lack of resources to meet that need. There are so many people who need help with critical issues such as housing, domestic violence, and child custody here. So much of the work ALSC does addresses basic human rights and needs that impact all Alaskans. SB 104 would offer financial support that brings us closer to meeting that need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Leduc  
[REDACTED]  
Kenai, AK 99611  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB 104, Civil Legal Services Fund  
**Date:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 10:07:21 AM

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Good morning (March 23, 2023).

Approving amending AS 37.05.590 to provide 25% of court filing fees be allowed to assist low-income Alaskans with civil legal needs, moves toward improving low-income Alaskans' ability to procure civil legal services.

Of course, no one generally wants to have civil legal issues, but if circumstances warrant, access to professional legal services, regardless of whether or not you have the financial means, is critical to all Alaskans.

Regards, Karen Lambert

Karen L Lambert  
LAMBERT LAW LLC

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)  
**Subject:** Support of SB 104  
**Date:** Saturday, March 25, 2023 2:19:35 PM

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Dear Senators Dunbar and Giessel and Senate Judiciary Committee,

I write in support of SB 104 and thank you for your sponsorship of this important legislation. I had the honor of serving on the Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) board of directors for over thirty years, having recently retired. ALSC advocated for the creation of the Civil Legal Services Fund, AS 37.05.590 with the original intent of receiving a modest 25% of court filing fees to help stabilize State funding. My recollection of the reduction to 10% was nothing more than a compromise to get the bill passed. I don't recollect a justification tied to any economic calculation. The intention was to revisit this percentage in the future. It made sense to relate legal aid funding to Court filing fees due to the nature of ALSC's work. Over my 39-year legal career in Alaska, I've seen ALSC constantly balance its combination of private donations, local, State and Federal funding to try and meet the complex legal needs of poverty level Alaskans. Even with ALSC's work, Alaska continues to suffer a "justice gap" where the poorest Alaskans facing serious and life-threatening legal challenges are unable to obtain that "equal justice under law" promised in our Constitution.

ALSC does not do criminal legal work. Instead, ALSC represents Veterans dealing with a broken system of medical care, Alaska's wounded warriors. Victims of domestic violence can get legal advice and representation from ALSC to help protect themselves and their children from one of Alaska's worst scourges. ALSC works to ensure fair housing opportunities are not abused to help prevent homelessness. In rural Alaska, Alaska Native citizens can use technology to contact ALSC lawyers for help. With a hub system of legal aid located in 12 locations across Alaska, ALSC provides face to face services in Native language to meet the constant need for legal aid. Alaska Legal Services lawyer work to avoid people having to go to court to address a dispute about food security, housing needs etc. With a board comprised of both client eligible non-lawyers and public service minded lawyers ALSC implements a five-year strategy to increase service to poverty-level Alaskans.

Finally, you should know that ALSC has been innovative through "[Medical Legal Partnerships](#)" which free health care professionals from spending valuable time doing patient's paperwork for Medicaid and otherwise. Instead, ALSC staff deals with the patient paperwork and other technical needs, while doctors and nurses deal with the medicine. Justice is always best provided at the community level, in my opinion. ALSC is at the forefront in the nation with its "[Community Justice Worker Program](#)" which is changing how legal needs are met in Alaska. ALSC is authorized to establish legal advocates in rural Alaska communities to provide certain legal services with ALSC's training and supervision. I consider my time with ALSC to have been time well spent. The Legislature can rest assured that from the visionary leadership of Nikole Nelson on down through its small but mighty staff, government funding is well spent resulting in \$5 in savings to the State for every dollar spent. I see people who work there making the choice to receive lower pay and benefits than any other legal professionals simply because of their commitments to our community and those in greatest need.

Please support SB 104 and know that your support provides one important solution to Alaska's many needs.

Respectfully,

Gregory Razo  
Anchorage, Alaska