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ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The Corporation:

Alaska Legal Services Corporation was formed in 1966 as a private, non-profit corporation to provide legal services to the poor. It is governed by a 15 member board of directors in consultation with local client groups.

ALSC operates eleven offices with a combined staff of 40 attorneys, 27 paralegals, and 25 clericals. Offices are located in:

Anchorage	Fairbanks	Kotzebue
Barrow	Juneau	Nome
Bethel	Ketchikan	Unalaska
Dillingham	Kodiak	

ALSC Clients:

Only those persons at or below the federal poverty guideline (adjusted for Alaska) are accepted as clients.

Maximum Income Guidelines

One person	\$5900/year
Two persons	\$7800/year
Three persons	\$9700/year
Four persons	\$11600/year
Five persons	\$13500/year

Each additional person add \$1900/year.

Over 70% of ALSC clients are Alaska Natives.

Services Provided:

Census figures estimate between 50,000-70,000 Alaskans live in poverty. Although ALSC handles no criminal matters, at the present funding level it is able to provide only "minimum access" to the legal system for those unable to pay. Approximately 6000 cases are open at any given time, for an average caseload of 150 cases per attorney. However, this represents, at best, only one-fourth of the demand for legal services for the poor.

Eighty percent (80%) of the services provided by ALSC are routine matters dealing with divorce, adoption, child custody, landlord-tenant disputes, welfare, unemployment, wills/probate, fishing claims, Native allotments and others. Although a few controversial cases have captured headlines, the bulk of ALSC's services address immediate crises in Alaskans' lives. The success rate of the agency is high. Of the 57 cases which have gone to the Supreme Court, ALSC has won 48; in 39 of these, the court's decision was unanimous.

Funding:

The total ALSC budget for 1981 is \$2.2 million. Approximately 85%, or \$1.9 million, comes from the federal government through grants from the Legal Services Corporation, the CETA program, VISTA, and the Community Food and Nutrition Project.

ALSC also received approximately \$300,000 from the State of Alaska, administered by the Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs.