



# Alaska State Legislature

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**Sponsor:** Senator Ralph Seekins  
**Current Version:** CSSB 19 (JUD)  
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## Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 19

**Short Title:** CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND

### Summary:

- Establishes a civil legal services fund into which the Legislature can appropriate the state's share of punitive damages awards.
- Allows the legislature to appropriate money from the fund to organizations that provide civil legal services for low income Alaskans.
- Defines low income as equal to or less than the maximum income levels for Alaska set by the federal Legal Services Corporation.

### Benefits:

- Gives low income Alaskans greater access to legal services.
- Addresses the current inadequate funding of organizations that provide legal services.
- Provides funding for these legal services using punitive damages for egregious offenses rather than draining other sources of funding.

### Background:

- State statute provides that 50 percent of punitive damages in tort cases go to the general fund. Under this bill, that money could be placed in the civil legal services fund, which could then be appropriated to organizations that provide civil legal services for low income Alaskans.