

*Anchorage Equal Rights Commission
Darrel W. Hess, Commission Chair
Report to Assembly Rules Committee
Thursday, January 11, 2024*

Commissioners

Seat 1: Timothy Baranov-Kaderman, term expires 10/14/25.
Seat 2: Vacant
Seat 3: Darrel Hess, term expired 10/14/23.
Seat 4: Michael Maberry, term expires 10/14/25.
Seat 5: Vacant
Seat 6: Ryan Roley, term expires 10/14/25.
Seat 7: Kevin Klump, term expired 10/14/23.
Seat 8: Vacant
Seat 9: Vacant

Staffing

The AERC currently has 3 investigators, and executive assistant, and an executive director. There is funding for one more investigator – the request to post for the position was sent to Human Resources two weeks ago.

Case Status

Inquiries and New Complaints

The agency received 16 inquiries and perfected 1 new complaint in December 2023.

Inquiries and New Complaints

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	YTD
Inquiries	442	523	498	516	408	385	363	333
New Complaints	111	134	119	130	82	72	73	55

Pending Cases

As of December 31, 2023, the agency has 45 open cases. 28 cases (62%) are over 240 days.

Case Closures

In December 2023, 16 cases were closed. One case was closed by settlement. Fifteen cases were closed for no cause.

Case Closures

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	YTD
Total Closures	107	126	126	108	83	97	71	85

Backlog Cases

The agency has processed all the 2020 backlog cases. 1 of the 2021 backlog cases remains to be processed. 16 of the 2022 backlog cases remain to be processed. 11 of the 2023 backlog cases remain to be processed. In December of 2023, the agency processed 16 of the backlog cases starting with the oldest. Now that we have a new Executive Assistant and new Investigators that have had appropriate training, the backlogged cases are getting completed much more quickly. They are also getting completed in an extremely thorough and professional manner.

The agency anticipates processing the 2021, 2022 and 2023 backlog cases by the end of March 2024. It is anticipated that the current staffing level will allow the agency to stay current on complaints.

Administration

The Executive Director and Lead Investigator, Gita Franklin, in conjunction with MOA IT chose a new case management program. It is part of the Microsoft Platform and can be customized in house for our department. The great news is that it is significantly more affordable than everything else we have been looking at. It costs approximately \$20.00 per user per month. This is a total of approximately \$1,200.00 per year. In addition, there is no installation fee. When compared to Wingswept at \$23,000 per year, CityView at \$67,000.00 the first year and \$13,000 per year after that, CaseLegal at \$15,000.00 the first year and approximately \$9,500.00, this is a significant savings.