

New ALS Director—

Wolfe Picked to Head 20 Attorneys

Where is Alaska Legal Services going in the next few years? What villages will get resident attorneys? Where will they expand?

All of these questions concern David Wolfe, new executive director for the public service law firm which begins this year at the largest law firm in Alaska—with over 20 staff attorneys scattered through Alaska.

Wolfe, who has been with ALS for just under two years—first as supervising attorney in

Fairbanks and then as Deputy Director—was chosen as executive director during the quarterly board meeting of Alaska Legal Services last week in Fairbanks.

In an interview with the TUNDRA TIMES last week, Wolfe emphasized the opening of new Alaska Legal Services offices in Nome and Bethel in July as the first steps of a new trend in ALS organization. The firm hopes to expand to other central villages as their money and

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staff expands as well as stationing VISTA lawyers in villages where the demand for services warrants a lawyer's full time activity. ALS is funded through the Office of Economic Opportunity.

"It depends on where we've been before and how successful we've been," Wolfe explained about the stationing of attorneys.

Some villages, he said, have taken full advantage of ALS services and provide pressure to place full time lawyers in the village.

Chris Cook, formerly of Anchorage ALS heads the Bethel office and Ethan Windahl, a recent arrival in Alaska with an impressive background in corporate law heads the Nome office. Both will be aided soon, Wolfe expects, by VISTA attorneys assigned in Alaska for one year stints and lawyers on other fellowships or programs.

During his two years in Fairbanks, David Wolfe is perhaps best known for his handling of the 'TAPS case' - the case of Stevens Village, Minto, Allakaket and Bettles in a suit still pending against the Trans Alaska Pipeline.

"I will continue to be the attorney representing these villages," Wolfe explained, despite his move to ALS' offices in Anchorage as of October 1. He replaces executive director Phil Burns who will remain with the firm as a staff attorney specializing in trial cases.

Dickerson Reagan, who arrived September 1 from the Juneau ALS office replaces Wolfe as supervising attorney in Fairbanks.

Alaska Legal Services supplies legal aid to Alaskans unable to afford private lawyers. The firm, which includes about 20 staff lawyers, is supplemented by attorneys in VISTA and on special fellowships. It is governed



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—Members of the Alaska Legal Services board discuss the firm's future policy. They are from the left: board member Eleanor Outz, staffer Hugh Fleischer,

executive director Dave Wolfe and VISTA lawyer Rick Rogers.

Photo by MADELYN SHULMAN

by a board of lawyers and community representatives who meet quarterly at different locations around Alaska to set policy.

Among the board members are Nora Guinn of Bethel, Elea-

nor Outz of Fairbanks and other Alaskan native representatives.

Mr. Wolfe can be reached as of October 1 through the ALS office in Anchorage—308 G Street, Anchorage.