

ALFA In A Nutshell

Basics: ALFA International is an international network of independent law firms. Founded in 1980, ALFA International is the oldest legal network of its kind and remains one of the largest. Our membership is comprised of 125 law firms, 85 in the United States and 40 in major cities throughout Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Australia. The United States membership collectively maintains offices in virtually every major American metropolitan area. Over 8,000 lawyers and another 10,000 support staff are employed by the entire membership.

Members: Membership is by invitation only. Candidates must submit to a rigorous application and evaluation process. ALFA member firms typically engage in broad general practices. All members are required to maintain good standing within their legal communities and to participate actively in ALFA's seminars, legal publications, and other programs. Since only one ALFA membership is granted for each metropolitan area, ALFA Members view one another as partners, pooling their resources and fully cooperating to deliver the best legal service to their clients.

Practice Groups: ALFA lawyers participate in one or more Practice Groups. The Practice Groups focus on specific subject matter areas, including products liability, insurance, transportation, healthcare, intellectual property, workers compensation, labor/employment, construction, and international law. The Practice Groups are the "heart and soul" of ALFA, conducting seminars, publishing reference materials, coordinating the pooling of resources among Members, and facilitating the referral of legal work. Many of the Practice Groups maintain Client Advisory Boards that enable ALFA clients to greatly influence the direction of Practice Groups (e.g., recommending seminar topics and speakers).

Benefits: Clients and lawyers alike reap many benefits from their association with ALFA. The ALFA network enables lawyers and clients to more easily retain excellent counsel in unfamiliar jurisdictions. ALFA member firms accord referrals from other Members the utmost attention since their reputations within the ALFA network are at stake. Clients also benefit from the combined resources of ALFA firms throughout the United States and the World. On virtually a daily basis, ALFA Members are assisting one another, sharing legal research, forwarding non-proprietary work product, supplying expert referrals, and simply providing a few words of wisdom from someone "who's been there before." ALFA lawyers and clients may also partake of the myriad educational opportunities provided by the organization, including on-site seminars, tele-seminars, and an array of legal reference materials. New educational programs are constantly under review and consideration.

Questions: More information about ALFA International and its lawyers may be obtained through many sources. Our website is located at www.alfainternational.com and provides a comprehensive description of ALFA, including a directory of member firms. Additional information is available by contacting our Chicago headquarters at 312-642-2532 or rhetke@alfainternational.com. Any ALFA member firm will also be happy to assist in introducing you to the ALFA International network.