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NEWS RELEASE

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Rasmuson Foundation Awards \$55,934 to Alaska Legal Services Corporation for Technology Upgrade and Expansion Project

FAIRBANKS — The Rasmuson Foundation has selected Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) to receive \$55,934 in funding for a statewide technology upgrade and expansion project. Funding awarded by the Foundation will allow ALSC, the sole statewide provider of free civil legal assistance to low-income Alaskans, to replace computer equipment that has been in constant service for the past five and a half years, purchase servers for its Anchorage and Fairbanks offices, and obtain the networking components needed to set up a virtual private network to facilitate information exchange within the organization.

ALSC operates offices in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, and Nome and provides basic civil legal assistance to Alaskans who live at or below the poverty level. ALSC Executive Director Andy Harrington stated, "Declining operating revenues have made it difficult for ALSC to undertake technology upgrade projects. This upgrade and expansion project will enable our staff to assist clients in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Without dedicated funding such as that provided by the Rasmuson Foundation we would be in the difficult position of having to choose between upgrading computer equipment or maintaining existing staffing levels. The Foundation's support for our program, its activities, and our technology expansion project comes at an opportune time, and we are grateful beyond words for this gift."

Work on the technology upgrade and expansion project will begin in January. The grant to ALSC was part of a total of \$19 million in grant funding awarded by the Rasmuson Foundation in December to non-profit organizations throughout the state. The Foundation was created in May of 1955 by Jenny Rasmuson to honor her late husband, "E.A." Rasmuson, and is a private foundation that invests in well-managed 501(c)(3) organizations which provide a unique public service, thereby ensuring that basic human needs are met and that the quality of life for all Alaskans is enhanced.