

A DAY WITH THE LAW

Allan operates a 'pure street practice'

Anchorage Attorney Dan Allan has always figured his practice is designed for the man on the street. In 1981, he obtained kiosk space in the Dimond Center mall's large aisleway, and operated his law practice in much the same manner as H. & R. Block did for tax accounting services.

"We did pretty well doing that," said Allan of his unusual practice during those boom years. Nine months later, though, Allan opted for more traditional digs in an East Dimond Boulevard office building.

He still operates what he calls a "pure street practice," for cases such as divorce, bankruptcy, foreclosure, wills, estate planning, and credit problems. But in recent years, he's taken on more work for small companies with credit problems (both payables and receivables), contractual needs and, more recently, guiding operations that have been cited for fish and game violations.

"We first started seeing foreclosure and bankruptcy actions in 1984,"

said Allan, who's been practicing in the state for 6½ years.

That's not the only change in his practice. Two years ago, Allan moved back into the Dimond Mall. His offices in the new professional building tower are decidedly compatible with a growing trend in the professions for convenience and unstructured (often home-based) work environments.

Allan shares office space with Bill Azar, among the members of the Alaska Bar who were the first to advertise for their practices. Allan's wife Paula works in the law practice daily as secretary and administrative assistant. The office in the mall affords the Allans all the conveniences of...well, out of home.

Under the roof of the mall, said Allan, are "day care facilities, a grocery store, recreation and health club facilities, restaurants, our bank, the Post Office, and we even can get our dry cleaning done—about the only thing 'my office' doesn't have is a school."

"I liked practicing in the mall in

1981, where people are, and I was real happy to move back" when the new professional tower opened in March of 1986, Allan said, complete with an ice-skating rink and bowling alley.

Even so, most of his clientele does not derive from mall walk-ins. "Most of our practice is from referrals," said Allan, although his clients seem to like the convenience of the Dimond Center's parking and other facilities.

"I believe we're the only law firm practicing in a shopping mall," says Allan. "We like it much better" than traditional office locations.



Paula & Dan Allan



