



Ohio Board of Professional Conduct

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TO: Disciplinary Counsel, Bar Counsel, Certified Grievance Committees, and Respondents' Counsel

FROM: Rick Dove

DATE: December 2024

RE: Bimonthly Update

December Board Meeting

The Board of Professional Conduct held its final meeting of 2024 on December 13 and approved [seven case reports](#), including one judicial discipline matter and six attorney misconduct cases.

The Board has 29 pending cases, 25 of which have been opened or reopened since Labor Day. Five of the pending matters are judicial misconduct cases. As of this writing, the Board opened 43 cases this year and disposed of 55 matters.

Advisory Opinions

Also on December 13, the Board approved two advisory opinions addressing judicial disqualification. [Adv. Op. 2024-6](#) replaces former Adv. Op. 1989-34 and reminds judges that they are required to disqualify from cases in which a lawyer representing a party is simultaneously representing the judge. [Adv. Op. 2024-7](#) addresses the situation in which a lawyer appearing before the judge is the judge's campaign opponent. This opinion replaces Adv. Op. 1987-23.

2025 Board Leadership

The Board selected Commissioners Patrick McLaughlin and Teri Daniel to serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively, in 2025. Commissioner McLaughlin joined the Board in 2017 and served as vice-chair in 2023-2024. Commissioner Daniel has served on the Board since 2018,

when she was appointed to an unexpired term. Commissioners McLaughlin and Daniel have both served on the Board's Advisory Opinion Committee and as probable cause panel members.

Departures and Arrivals

December 13 marked the final meeting for four commissioners whose Board service ends this month. Frank Woodside and Peggy Schmitz each completed nine years of Board service that together included participation in more than 200 probable cause reviews and panel hearings. Matt Kemp and Judge Deborah Turner also leave the Board after three years of service.

The Supreme Court appointed four new commissioners who will join the Board on January 1, 2025. Judge Andrew King (Fifth District) and attorneys Rich Creighton (First District), Lee Johnson (Sixth District), and Ted Lesiak (Ninth District) will complete new commissioner orientation in January and attend their first meeting on February 7.

Probable Cause Deadlines

The [2025 probable cause schedule](#) is posted on the Board's website and includes filing deadlines of January 3 and 24. New complaints with probable cause waivers may be e-Filed at any time.

Reporting Requirements

Please remember that statistical reports for the final quarter of 2024 are due on or before January 15, 2025. Each grievance committee is required to file an annual report with the Board on or before February 1, 2025. The reimbursement policy adopted by the Board in October 2024 requires grievance committees with employed personnel to file job descriptions for each employee who devotes time to disciplinary-related work. Those job descriptions are also due February 1, 2025.

More information about these and other reporting requirements can be found on the [realtor/respondents' counsel page](#) of the Board's website.

Miller-Becker Seminar Videos

The videos from the 2024 Miller-Becker Seminar will be posted to the [seminar archive page](#) prior to the end of the year. The update will include the course materials and Power point presentations from the seminar.

Happy Holidays

On behalf of commissioners and staff, I thank you for your contributions to the disciplinary process in 2024 and extend best wishes for a happy holiday season and the new year.