



Ohio Board of Professional Conduct

# 2024 Annual Report





# Dear Chief Justice and Justices

## *of the Supreme Court of Ohio:*

On behalf of the commissioners and staff, I present the 2024 Annual Report of the Board of Professional Conduct. The report summarizes the activities of the Board in the past calendar year and provides an accounting of the funds allocated to the Board in fiscal year 2024.

The 2024 Annual Report includes the following items of note:

- Receipt of 48 matters for adjudication, including 45 new cases, and the disposition of 55 cases. The Board closed the year with 31 pending cases, 30 of which were filed or reopened in 2024.
- Issuance of seven advisory opinions, including one new opinion interpreting the mandatory fee dispute resolution provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- A continued emphasis on education and outreach efforts, with the staff serving as presenters at 40 continuing education activities, including several presentations relative to the ethical obligations associated with the emerging use of artificial intelligence.
- A continuing shift of discipline-related activity from certified grievance committees to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Although the share of investigation and prosecution activity undertaken by grievance committees has steadily declined in recent years, the Court-mandated reimbursements to these committees increased by 3.8 percent in fiscal year 2024, exceeding \$2 million for the first time.

The 2024 annual report summarizes the work of the 28 volunteer commissioners and the Board's three-person staff to promote and enforce the high standards of professional ethics established by the Supreme Court. Commissioners and staff are honored to serve the Supreme Court, legal profession, and citizens of Ohio.

Richard A. Dove  
*Director, Ohio Board Of Professional Conduct*



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# Commissioners

The Board consists of 28 volunteer commissioners who are appointed by the Supreme Court from the 12 appellate districts in Ohio. The membership includes four nonlawyer professionals, seven trial and appellate judges, and 17 lawyers from a wide range of practice backgrounds. Each commissioner devotes approximately 30 days per year to his or her board responsibilities, in addition to other professional and personal obligations.



Row One: Matthew T. Kemp, Aletha M. Carver, Hon. Candace C. Crouse, Faith Long, Case Management Clerk  
Row Two: Frank R. DeSantis; Frank C. Woodside III; Margaret M. Murray, Elizabeth E. Cary  
Row Three: Hon. Deborah M. Turner; Richard A. Dove, Director; Vito J. Abruzzino; Lori A. Herf; Hon. Rocky A. Coss;  
Teri R. Daniel; Hon. Adolfo A. Tornichio  
Row Four: Allan Asbury, Senior Counsel; Kenneth E. Peller; Tony J. Shroeder; Patrick M. McLaughlin, Vice-Chair;  
George Brinkman; Kurt A. Kaufman; Hon. D. Chris Cook, Chair; Thomas M. Green  
*Not Pictured: Hon. Kevin P. Braig; Pablo A. Castro; Hon. Eugene A. Lucci; Joseph A. Marinucci; Danielle M. Parker; Peggy J. Schmitz; Carolyn A. Taggart*

## Chair

Hon. D. Chris Cook served his second term as chair of the Board in 2024. He is a judge on the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas, and previously served as bar counsel for the Lorain County Bar Association. He joined the Board in 2018.

## Vice-Chair

Patrick M. McLaughlin served his second term as Board vice-chair in 2024. Commissioner McLaughlin was first appointed to the Board in 2017 and is a member of the Advisory Opinion Committee and one of the Probable Cause Panels. He previously served as a United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

Vito J. Abruzzino was appointed to a vacancy in 2022 as an attorney-commissioner from the Seventh District and serves on the Rules Committee. He is the prosecuting attorney for Columbiana County.

Hon. Kevin P. Braig joined the Board in 2023 and is member of the Budget and Personnel Committee. He has served as a judge of the Logan County Court of Common Pleas since 2019.

George Brinkman was appointed in 2019 and serves as one of four public members of the Board. He is a member of the Budget and Personnel Committee. Commissioner Brinkman is a retired independent insurance adjuster who resides in Cincinnati.

Aletha M. Carver is a mediation attorney with the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Canton who was appointed to the Board in 2021. She is a member of the Rules Committee.

Elizabeth E. Cary joined the Board in 2020 and is a litigation associate with Bailey Cavalieri in Columbus. She is a member of the Budget and Personnel Committee.

Pablo A. Castro joined the Board in 2024. He is a practitioner and former magistrate in Cleveland.

Hon. Rocky A. Coss was first appointed to the Board in 2016 and chairs the Budget and Personnel Committee. Judge Coss has served on the Highland County Court of Common Pleas since 2008, and before taking the bench, he served six terms as the Highland County prosecuting attorney.

Hon. Candace C. Crouse is a judge on the First District Court of Appeals in Cincinnati and previously had a litigation practice focused on immigration, domestic relations, personal injury, and constitutional law. Judge Crouse was appointed in 2021 and serves on the Advisory Opinion Committee.

Teri R. Daniel is the supervising attorney of the appellate division in the Lake County prosecutor's office. Commissioner Daniel was appointed to the Board in 2018 and chairs one of the Probable Cause Panels.

Frank R. DeSantis was appointed as an attorney-commissioner from the Eighth District in 2022. Commissioner DeSantis is a retired partner in the Cleveland office of Thompson Hine and chairs the Advisory Opinion Committee.

Thomas M. Green is a partner with the Dayton law firm of Green & Green. He joined the Board in 2018 and serves as a Probable Cause Panel member.

Lori A. Herf was appointed as a public member of the Board in 2019 and serves on the Rules Committee. She is senior government affairs advisor in the Columbus office of Baker Hostetler.

Kurt A. Kaufman was appointed to the Board in 2023 and is a member of the Budget and Personnel Committee. He is a solo practitioner in Lima.

Matthew T. Kemp is a partner in the Toledo office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick. Commissioner Kemp was appointed in 2022 and serves on the Advisory Opinion Committee.

Hon. Eugene A. Lucci was appointed to the Board in 2023 and is a member of its Rules Committee. Commissioner Lucci was elected to the Eleventh District Court of Appeals in 2022 after serving for 22 years as a common pleas judge in Lake County.

Joseph A. Marinucci is a retired executive from Cuyahoga County. He was appointed to his initial term on the Board in 2024.

Margaret M. Murray joined the Board in 2023 and is a member of the Sandusky firm of Murray and Murray. She formerly served on the grievance committees of the Ohio State and Erie-Huron County Bar Associations and

is a member of the Board's Advisory Opinion Committee.

Danielle M. Parker joined the Board in 2020 as a representative of the Fourth District. Commissioner Parker is an assistant prosecuting attorney in Scioto County and serves on the Advisory Opinion Committee.

Kenneth E. Peller was appointed as a commissioner in 2020 and served on the Rules Committee. Before joining the Board, Commissioner Peller served as bar counsel for the Warren County Bar Association.

Peggy J. Schmitz joined the Board in 2016 as an attorney-commissioner from Wayne County. Commissioner Schmitz is of counsel with Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston where her practice focuses on labor and employment law. She serves on one of the Probable Cause Panels.

Tony J. Schroeder was appointed as a public member of the Board in 2024. He is the owner of an independent insurance agency in Putnam County.

David I. Shroyer is a partner in the Columbus firm of Colley, Shroyer and Abraham. He commenced his Board service in 2024.

Carolyn A. Taggart has served on the Board since 2017. Commissioner Taggart is a litigation attorney in the Cincinnati office of Porter Wright and previously served as chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association's certified grievance committee. She serves on one of the Probable Cause Panels.

Hon. Adolfo A. Tornichio was appointed to the Board in 2019 and chairs the Rules Committee. He is a judge of the Greene County Court of Common Pleas.

Hon. Deborah M. Turner has served on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas since 2019. Judge Turner joined the Board in 2022 and is a member of the Budget and Personnel Committee.

Frank C. Woodside III was appointed to the Board in 2016 as a lawyer member from Cincinnati. He is of counsel with Dinsmore & Shohl and a licensed physician. Commissioner Woodside chairs a Probable Cause Panel.

# Board Staff

The Board staff consists of four full-time positions. The director is the Board's chief legal, administrative, and fiscal officer and is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board. The director is responsible for employing staff to assist the Board in executing its responsibilities. Staff positions include senior counsel, counsel, and case management clerk.

## Richard A. Dove

DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD

Mr. Dove has served as director of the Board since 2011 and is the Board's chief legal, administrative, and fiscal officer. Mr. Dove is recognized in Ohio and nationally for his work in the area of judicial ethics, with a focus on judicial campaign conduct. In 2021, he authored an article on Ohio's judicial campaign conduct rules that was published in *The Judges' Journal*. He is a past president and board member of the National Council of Lawyer Disciplinary Boards and the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, and his public service has been recognized by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, Columbus Bar Association, and Capital University Law School. Mr. Dove is a graduate of Wittenberg University and Capital University Law School and is admitted to practice in Ohio, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, and the United States Supreme Court.

## Faith Long

CASE MANAGEMENT CLERK

Ms. Long joined the staff in 2008 and has served as case management clerk since 2018. Ms. Long is responsible for the review, docketing, and distribution of case filings, maintenance of case files, preparation of materials for review by the Board's probable cause panels, scheduling hearings, and monitoring compliance with financial disclosure requirements by more than 1,800 judges, magistrates, and judicial candidates. She also is responsible for processing reimbursement requests from commissioners, vendors, and certified grievance committees.

## D. Allan Asbury

SENIOR COUNSEL

Since joining the staff in 2014, Mr. Asbury's work has focused on researching and drafting advisory opinions and ethics guides, providing ethics advice to Ohio judges, lawyers, and judicial candidates, and leading the Board's education efforts. His extensive legal experience includes more than nine years on the administrative staff of the Supreme Court and 12 years as an employment and labor counsel for the Central Ohio Transit Authority. Mr. Asbury received his undergraduate and law degrees from Capital University, and he is admitted to practice in Ohio, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Asbury is a certified court manager through a program sponsored by the Institute for Court Management and the Ohio Judicial College.

## Kristi R. McAnaul

COUNSEL

Ms. McAnaul served as counsel to the Board through February before resigning to return to the private sector.



# Responsibilities

The Board of Professional is the second oldest board created to assist the Supreme Court in executing its plenary and constitutional authority to regulate the practice of law in Ohio. The Supreme Court established the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline in 1957 and renamed it as the Board of Professional Conduct in 2014.

The Board consists of 28 volunteer commissioners who are appointed to three-year terms by the Supreme Court. The membership includes four nonlawyers who represent the public, seven trial and appellate judges, and 17 lawyers from varying practice backgrounds. Each commissioner devotes approximately 30 days per year to his or her Board responsibilities, in addition to other professional and personal obligations.

The Board derives its authority from Rule V of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio and Rules II and III of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio. The primary responsibility of the Board is to adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct and make recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding the appropriate sanction to be imposed when a lawyer or judge is found to have engaged in professional misconduct. The Board also considers petitions from lawyers who are seeking to be reinstated to the practice of law following indefinite or impairment suspensions and conducts hearings in expedited judicial campaign misconduct cases. Commissioners are asked to make factual findings, reach legal conclusions, and evaluate

expert testimony from medical professionals and treatment providers. In crafting the appropriate sanction to be recommended to the Supreme Court, commissioners must balance the competing interests of protecting the public, sanctioning a lawyer or judge who has strayed from his or her professional obligations, and charting a path by which a suspended lawyer or judge may return to the competent, ethical, and professional practice of law.

The Board also plays a significant role in promoting and enhancing compliance with the standards of professional ethics by members of the Ohio Bench and Bar. The Board has authority to issue nonbinding advisory opinions regarding prospective or hypothetical application of the rules governing the professional conduct of lawyers and judges. The legal staff of the Board makes numerous presentations each year at professional conferences and continuing education seminars and responds daily to telephone and email inquiries from lawyers, judges, judicial candidates, the media, and members of the public.

## Committees & Panels

The Board has established five standing committees or panels that facilitate the performance of its adjudicatory and administrative responsibilities.

### Two Probable Cause Panels

*Responsible for reviewing the sufficiency of formal misconduct allegations and certifying new complaints to the Board.*

### Advisory Opinion Committee

*Considers requests for written advice on application of professional conduct standards and reviews draft advisory opinions prior to their presentation to the full Board.*

### Rules Committee

*Considers and recommends proposed amendments to rules governing disciplinary procedures and the conduct of Ohio lawyers and judges.*

### Budget and Personnel Committee

*Approves an annual budget to fund the operation of the Board, provides reimbursements to certified grievance committees, and reviews the performance of disciplinary counsel and the director.*



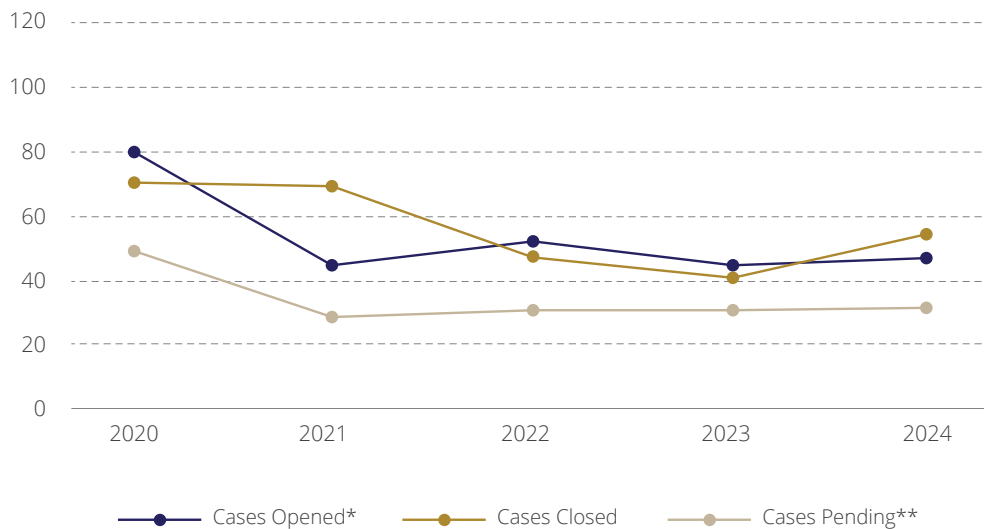
# Adjudicatory Responsibilities

In 2024, the Board opened 45 new cases and received three petitions from attorneys seeking reinstatement from indefinite suspensions.

Three-commissioner panels conducted 30 formal hearings, spanning 39 hearing days. The Board held six bimonthly meetings to consider reports from hearing panels and review recommendations from Board committees. The standing committees of the Board met in person or via teleconference on multiple occasions throughout the year.

The Board ended the year with 31 pending cases, 30 of which were filed or reopened in 2024. Four cases are awaiting panel reports and 16 cases are scheduled for hearing in early 2025. The remaining cases are stayed due to pending criminal proceedings involving the respondent or are awaiting answers or hearing dates.

Board Cases Opened, Closed, and Pending, 2020-2024



\* Includes new complaints and cases remanded by the Supreme Court.

\*\* Excludes cases on inactive status at the end of the year.

## 2024 Case Dispositions

Cases certified to the Supreme Court following a hearing, waiver of hearing, or recommendation to accept a consent-to-discipline agreement.	43
Dismissals due to the Supreme Court's acceptance of the respondent's resignation from the practice of law with disciplinary action pending.	5
Dismissals following the Supreme Court's imposition of an indefinite suspension against a respondent who was in default.	4
Dismissals on motion of the relator or due to the death of the respondent.	2
Dismissals on the merits, following a hearing.	1
<b>Total Case Dispositions</b>	<b>55</b>

*Appendix A contains a list of Board case dispositions in 2024.*

### Felony and Child Support Default Certifications

When a lawyer is convicted of a felony offense under state or federal law and upon receipt of a court order, the Board is required to certify the conviction to the Supreme Court. The Board is also responsible for certifying to the Supreme Court a notice that a lawyer is in default of a child support order. In either instance, the Supreme Court imposes an interim suspension against the lawyer.

The Board certified two felony convictions and one notice of child support default to the Supreme Court in 2024.

### Judicial Misconduct Cases

Among the most significant matters that come before the Board are complaints alleging misconduct by judicial officers. Because of the position of authority and trust attendant to judicial office, violations of professional ethics by judges and magistrates are considered especially serious and sanctions are recommended and imposed accordingly.

The Board opened seven judicial misconduct cases and adjudicated three judicial misconduct cases in 2024. The Supreme Court decided four judicial misconduct cases, including the acceptance of a former judge's resignation from the practice with disciplinary action pending. Two judicial discipline cases are pending before the Court, and five are pending before the Board.



#### *Of the 43 cases certified to the Supreme Court:*

- 33 were reports from the Board following a hearing or waiver of a hearing.
- 6 contained a Board recommendation to accept a consent-to-discipline agreement.
- 2 recommendations to reinstate a petitioner from an indefinite suspension.
- 2 recommended imposition of an impairment suspension.
- 1 recommendation of disbarment for a lawyer who failed to respond to a disciplinary complaint.

## 2024 Judicial Misconduct Decisions and Adjudications

### Supreme Court Decisions

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Jason D. Warner, 2024-Ohio-511 (decided February 16)*

Adopting a February 2023 report and recommendation from the Board of Professional Conduct, the Supreme Court imposed an indefinite suspension against a former Marion County judge. While serving as a judge, the respondent was convicted of two felony offenses for complicity in leaving the scene of an automobile accident and tampering with evidence. The respondent received an interim felony suspension and resigned from judicial office in 2021.

*Ohio State Bar Assn. v. Hon. Ralph E. Winkler, 2024-Ohio-3141 (decided August 21)*

The Supreme Court publicly reprimanded a Hamilton County judge who permitted his staff to make inaccurate comments to the media about a pending guardianship case and posted similar comments on the court's social media page.

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. Kim R. Hoover, 2024-Ohio-4608 (decided September 24)*

The Supreme Court adopted the findings contained in a February 2023 Board report that

a Summit County judge committed 64 ethical violations arising from his improper use of threats of incarceration to coerce payment of outstanding fines and court costs. The Court reduced the Board's recommendation of a two-year suspension in favor of an 18-month suspension with six months stayed and a corresponding suspension from judicial office without pay.

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Michael T. Brandt, Supreme Court Case No. 2024-1181 (resignation accepted September 9)*

Formal disciplinary proceedings against a former Franklin County judge were terminated following the Supreme Court's acceptance of the respondent's resignation from the practice of law with disciplinary action pending. In a formal complaint certified to the Board of Professional Conduct in August, the respondent was accused of misconduct arising from his theft of more than \$65,000 from a judicial association for which he served as treasurer. The thefts occurred while the respondent was a sitting judge and continued through his service as a retired assigned judge

### Board Adjudications

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Timothy J. Grendell, pending, Supreme Court Case No. 2024-1409*

In a report issued October 4, the Board recommended an 18-month suspension with six months stayed for a Geauga County judge. After conducting nine days of hearing, a Board hearing panel found that the judge engaged in misconduct in three unrelated matters, including conduct constituting impropriety, displaying bias, lacking integrity and fairness, and abusing the prestige of judicial office. The respondent objected to the Board's findings of misconduct and recommended sanction, and the matter is scheduled to be argued to the Supreme Court in February 2025.

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. Russell D. Kegley, pending, Supreme Court Case No. 2024-1721*

In a report filed with the Supreme Court on December 13, the Board recommended imposition of a public reprimand for a Scioto County judge. The respondent's son was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic violence and resisting arrest. Following the arrest, the respondent contacted jail personnel to secure his son's release from jail. The parties waived objections to the Board's report and recommendation.

### Cases Pending Before the Board

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. John W. Rudduck, Board Case No. 2024-015 (heard November 8; awaiting panel report)*

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. Richard S. Skelton, Board Case No. 2024-021 (scheduled March 6-7, 2025)*

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. Leslie A. Celebrezze, Board Case No. 2024-024 (scheduled March 31-April 1, 2025)*

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. Jon M. Ickes, Board Case No. 2024-032 (hearing date pending)*

*Disciplinary Counsel v. Dominic R. Leone (former judge), Board Case No. 2024-037 (hearing date pending)*

# Budget and Expenditures

The Board of Professional Conduct receives two annual budgetary allocations from the Supreme Court Attorney Services Fund, a fund that consists primarily of the biennial registration fees paid by Ohio lawyers and cost reimbursements assessed against disciplined attorneys. No state general revenue funds are expended in direct support of the operation of the Board.

## Operations Budget

The Operations Budget funds the costs associated with day-to-day functions of the Board of Professional Conduct, including staff salaries and benefits, expenses associated with Board hearings and meetings, commissioner per diems, travel reimbursements to commissioners and staff, and routine office expenses such as software licensing and maintenance, telephone, postage, and supplies.

In fiscal year 2024 [July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024], the Board expended \$740,964 to support its operations, a 1.1 percent reduction from the previous fiscal year. This amount represented 6.8 percent of the total annual expenditures from the Supreme Court Attorney Services Fund in FY 2024.

## Reimbursement Budget

The Reimbursement Budget is used to compensate certified grievance committees for expenses incurred in performing their disciplinary responsibilities under Gov. Bar R. V.

Committees are reimbursed throughout the year for direct expenses incurred in connection with a specific disciplinary investigation or prosecution. Committees may request and receive reimbursement on a quarterly or annual basis for ten separate categories of indirect expenses including personnel costs, costs of bar counsel, postage, telephone, books and subscriptions, equipment, and a portion of overhead expenses attributable to performance of disciplinary activities.

Reimbursements to certified grievance committees in fiscal year 2024 totaled \$2,009,722, a 3.8 percent increase from the preceding fiscal year. The reimbursements paid to certified grievance committees in fiscal year 2024 represented 18.6 percent of total Attorney Services Fund expenditures.

## Budget and Expenditures (FY 2022 – 2025)

	FY 2022 (Actual)	FY 2023 (Actual)	FY 2024 (Actual)	FY 2025 (Budgeted)
Board Operations	\$694,015	\$748,976	\$740,964	\$929,120
Grievance Committee Reimbursements*	\$1,925,054	\$1,936,729	\$2,009,722	\$2,000,000

*\*Appendix B details the Board's operations expenditures and reimbursements provided to individual certified grievance committees.*

## Operations Budget and Expenditures

FY 2024 (JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024)

	Allocated	Spent
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 684,469	\$ 616,285
Commissioner Per Diems	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,664
Maintenance	\$ 198,000	\$ 119,015
Telephone	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,022
Postage	\$ 2,000	\$ 747
Supplies and Materials	\$ 2,000	\$ 712
Books and Subscriptions	\$ 1,000	\$ 0
Commissioner Travel Reimbursement	\$ 65,000	\$ 33,316
Hearing Expenses	\$ 85,000	\$ 53,858
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 40,000	\$ 29,358
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 902,469</b>	<b>\$ 740,964</b>

# Education and Outreach

The Board engages in a variety of efforts to promote a greater understanding of and compliance with the ethical standards that govern the conduct of Ohio lawyers and judges.

## Advisory Opinions: Updating Prior Opinions

The Board is authorized to issue advisory opinions involving prospective or hypothetical questions that arise under the Rules of Professional Conduct, Code of Judicial Conduct, and Rules for the Government of the Bar and Judiciary. Advisory opinion requests are reviewed by a Board committee, and the committee presents draft opinions to the full Board for review and approval.

Beginning in 2016, the Board has issued advisory opinions that update and replace prior opinions that were based on the former Code of Professional Responsibility or former versions of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Through 2024, the Board has issued 55 new opinions, replacing 68 former opinions.

In 2024, the Board issued seven formal advisory opinions, six of which replaced prior opinions issued under the former Code of Judicial Conduct or former Code of Professional Responsibility. In Advisory Opinion 2024-4, the Board held that a conduct rule mandating arbitration or mediation of fee disputes between lawyers does not apply to

disputes that arise between a lawyer who leaves a law firm and that lawyer's former firm.

## Staff Opinion Letters

When a request for written advice does not satisfy the criteria for issuance of a formal advisory opinion, the Board may direct the staff to respond via letter. Staff opinion letters are most often used when the response is dictated by Supreme Court case law or prior opinions of the Board, or where advice is sought on a narrow issue of concern to the requesting party. Staff opinion letters are not published but are maintained in the Board office. The staff authored 14 opinion letters in 2024.

## Education and Compliance Activities

The legal staff of the Board are frequent presenters at professional education seminars throughout Ohio and devote a significant portion of each day to responding to telephone and email inquiries from lawyers, judges, and judicial candidates.

The Board staff made 40 education presentations in 2024, primarily to audiences of judicial officers, attorneys, and judicial candidates.

## Advisory Opinion Guidelines

The Board's regulations set forth guidelines that govern the Board's consideration of advisory opinion requests. These guidelines provide that a request:

- 1 Should pose a question of broad interest or importance to the Ohio bar or judiciary;
- 2 Should not involve the proposed conduct of someone other than the person requesting the opinion;
- 3 Should not involve completed conduct, questions of law, questions pending before a court, questions that are too broad, questions that lack sufficient information, or questions of narrow interest.

Advisory opinions issued by the Board are published on the Board's website and distributed to an array of legal and professional organizations within and outside Ohio.

Staff also continued regular presentations at annual orientation sessions for new judges and magistrates, education programs mandated for all candidates for judicial office, and programs designed specifically for public practice attorneys.

The Board continued its co-sponsorship of the annual Miller-Becker Seminar that is hosted for the benefit of persons who are involved in Ohio's disciplinary process. The October 25 seminar was held at the University of Akron Law School and featured presentations on the intersection of artificial intelligence and legal ethics, alternatives to formal disciplinary proceedings, attacks on the judiciary, and an update on disciplinary case trends.

Each year, the Board's legal staff assists lawyers, judges, and judicial candidates who have questions regarding compliance with the Rules of Professional Conduct, Code of Judicial Conduct, or Ohio Ethics Law. Staff responded to an estimated 1,500 telephone and email inquiries. The staff also responded to public inquiries regarding the disciplinary process and inquiries from attorneys, the public, and media regarding disciplinary cases pending before the Board.

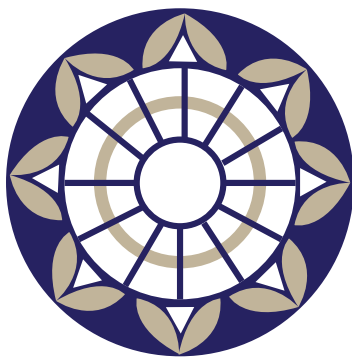
## Financial Disclosure

Ohio law and the Code of Judicial Conduct require each judge, magistrate, and candidate for judicial office to file an annual financial disclosure statement with the Board of Professional Conduct. The Board receives and retains more than 1,800 statements each year through an online filing portal maintained in cooperation with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

## Conclusion

The commissioners and staff of the Board of Professional Conduct perform an essential role in assisting the Supreme Court of Ohio in its constitutional responsibility to regulate the practice of law. The activities and accomplishments detailed in this report reflect the diligence and devotion with which commissioners and staff approach their duties on behalf of the Supreme Court, legal profession, and citizens of Ohio.





# Appendices



APPENDIX A  
2024 Board Case Disposition Index

Case Name and Number	County	Board Disposition Type	Board Disposition or Recommendation	Supreme Court Disposition or Status
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Amanda A. Carmen-Andrews, 2023-020</i>	Ottawa	Dismissal (default)	n/a	Indefinite default suspension, 2024-Ohio-87
<i>Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. Phyllis E. Brooks, 2022-018</i>	Cuyahoga	Dismissal (default)	n/a	Indefinite default suspension, 2024-Ohio-88
<i>Lorain Cty. Bar Assn. v. James T. Robinson, 2023-05</i>	Lorain	Hearing	Indefinite suspension	Indefinite suspension, 2024-Ohio-1657
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Brian N. Gernert, 2023-013</i>	Crawford	Hearing	Two-year suspension, stayed	Two-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-1946 <sup>1</sup>
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Jo E. Kaiser 2023-017</i>	Franklin	Hearing	One-year suspension, stayed	One-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-2788
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Walter C. Boyuk, 2023-016</i>	Franklin	Dismissal (resignation)	n/a	Resignation accepted, 2024-Ohio-524
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Jason L. George, 2023-006</i>	Franklin	Dismissal (resignation)	n/a	Resignation accepted, 2024-Ohio-767
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Carolyn K. Ranke, 2022-049</i>	Cuyahoga	Hearing	Permanent disbarment	Permanent disbarment, 2024-Ohio-5491
<i>Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. Robert Smith III, 2023-007</i>	Cuyahoga	Hearing	Two-year suspension	Two-year suspension, 18 months stayed, 2024-Ohio-4502
<i>Columbus Bar Assn. v. Amanda M. Burgess &amp; Michael D. Christensen, 2023-008</i>	Franklin	Dismissal on merits	Dismissal	n/a
<i>Toledo Bar Assn. v. Joseph W. Westmeyer III, 2023.022</i>	Lucas	Hearing	Six-month suspension, stayed	Eighteen-month suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-5196
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Calvin S. Tregre, Jr., 2023-025</i>	Hamilton	Hearing	Two-year suspension	Two-year suspension, 2024-Ohio-3173
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Frank M. Payson, 2023-027</i>	Montgomery	Impairment suspension	Impairment suspension	Impairment suspension imposed, Case No. 2024-0481
<i>Columbus Bar Assn. v. Teresa A. Villarreal, 2023-031</i>	Franklin	Hearing	One-year suspension, six months stayed	Eighteen-month suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-5165
<i>Ohio State Bar Assn. v. Hon. Ralph E. Winkler, 2023-032</i>	Hamilton	Hearing	Public reprimand	Public reprimand, 2024-Ohio-3141
<i>Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. Joanne Brown, 2023-042</i>	Cuyahoga	Stipulations; hearing waived	Six-month suspension, stayed	Six-month suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-2789
<i>Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. Brian M. Taubman, 2023-033</i>	Cuyahoga	Consent-to-discipline	Public reprimand	Public reprimand, 2024-Ohio-1974
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Scott D. Bissell, 2023-037</i>	Montgomery	Consent-to-discipline	Two-year suspension, stayed	Two-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-1974
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Samuel C. Randazzo, 2024-009</i>	Franklin	Dismissal (death of respondent)	n/a	n/a
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Steven S. Fannin, 2023-026</i>	Summit	Dismissal (default)	n/a	Indefinite default suspension, 2024-Ohio-1384
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Owen D. Kalis, 2023-045</i>	Franklin	Dismissal (resignation)	n/a	Resignation accepted, 2024-Ohio-1816
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Vincent A. Dugan, Jr., 2023-023</i>	Franklin	Hearing	One-year suspension, stayed	One-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-5118
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. William A. McClain, 2023-038</i>	Greene	Hearing	Two-year suspension	Two-year suspension, 2024-Ohio-5197
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Eric J. Burkett, 2023-046</i>	Delaware	Consent-to-discipline	Two-year suspension, stayed	Two-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-2718

<sup>1</sup> Stay revoked and two-year suspension imposed, 2024-Ohio-5206.

**APPENDIX A**  
**2024 Board Case Disposition Index**

Case Name and Number	County	Board Disposition Type	Board Disposition or Recommendation	Supreme Court Disposition or Status
<i>Lorain Cty. Bar Assn. v. Stourton S. Smith, 2024-004</i>	Lorain	Consent-to-discipline	Public reprimand	Public reprimand, 2024-Ohio-2718
<i>Toledo Bar Assn. v. Patricia Horner, 2024-003</i>	Lucas	Dismissal on application of relator	n/a	n/a
<i>Columbus Bar Assn. v. Kevin J. O'Brien, 2019-027</i>	Franklin	Dismissal (resignation)	n/a	Resignation accepted, 2024-Ohio-2662
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Aaron P. Hartley, 2023-001</i>	Montgomery	Hearing	Indefinite suspension	Indefinite suspension, 2024-Ohio-5232
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Evan T. Byron, 2023-028</i>	Cuyahoga	Hearing	One-year suspension, stayed	One-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-5433
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Gregory D. Port, 2023-034</i>	Franklin	Default disbarment	Permanent disbarment	Permanent disbarment, 2024-Ohio-5566
<i>Lorain Cty. Bar Assn. v. Gerald R. Walton, 2023-036</i>	Lorain	Stipulations; hearing waived	18-month suspension, stayed	18-month suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-4975
<i>Columbus Bar Assn. v. Corinne N. Ryan, 2023-039</i>	Franklin	Hearing	One-year suspension, stayed	One-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-5570
<i>Columbus Bar Assn. v. Kevin R. McCarty, 2023-040</i>	Franklin	Hearing	Six-month suspension, stayed	Six-month suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-4940
<i>Toledo Bar Assn. v. Tyrone Riley, 2023-041</i>	Lucas	Hearing	Indefinite suspension	Indefinite suspension, 2024-Ohio-4941
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Jeffrey C. Miller, 2023-043</i>	Cuyahoga	Hearing	One-year suspension, stayed	One-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-4939
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Rodney E. Haven, 2023-044</i>	Wayne	Hearing	One-year suspension	One-year suspension, 2024-Ohio-5278
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Robert L. Moore, 2023-048</i>	Geauga	Hearing	One-year suspension, stayed	One-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-5198
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Tyresha M. Brown-O'Neal, 2024-001</i>	Cuyahoga	Hearing	One-year suspension, six months stayed	One-year suspension, six months stayed, 2024-Ohio-5571
<i>Mahoning Cty. Bar Assn. v. Robert J. Rohrbaugh II, Case No. 2024-002</i>	Mahoning	Hearing	Indefinite suspension	Indefinite suspension, 2024-Ohio-5127
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Rebekah J. Glover, 2024-007</i>	Darke	Consent-to-discipline	One-year suspension, stayed	One-year suspension, stayed, 2024-Ohio-4713
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Ric Daniell, 2024-006</i>	Franklin	Dismissal (default)	n/a	Indefinite default suspension, 2024-Ohio-3437
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Michael T. Brandt, 2024-017</i>	Franklin	Dismissal (resignation)	n/a	Resignation accepted, 2024-Ohio-3438
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. William T. Washington, 1997-036</i>	Out-of-state	Reinstatement	Grant reinstatement	Reinstatement granted, 2024-Ohio-5446
<i>Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. John L. Lemieux, 2011-095</i>	Cuyahoga	Reinstatement	Grant reinstatement	Reinstatement granted, 2024-Ohio-5446
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. Timothy J. Grendell, 2022-045</i>	Geauga	Hearing	18-month suspension, six months stayed	Pending, Case No. 2024-1409
<i>Dayton Bar Assn. v. William T. Daly, 2024-005</i>	Montgomery	Hearing	18-month suspension, stayed	Pending, Case No. 2024-1399
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Anthony J. Fusco, 2024-008</i>	Mahoning	Hearing	One-year suspension	Pending, Case No. 2024-1404
<i>Giovanna V. Bremke v. Daniel F. Petticord, 2024-027</i>	Lorain	Hearing	Public reprimand & attorney fees	Fine & attorney fees, 2024-Ohio-5585
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Jeffrey D. Hunter, 2023-035</i>	Fairfield	Hearing	Two-year suspension, six months stayed	Pending, Case No. 2024-1720
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Edward E. Norton, 2023-047</i>	Cuyahoga	Hearing	Two-year suspension, one year stayed	Pending, Case No. 2024-1723

APPENDIX A  
2024 Board Case Disposition Index

Case Name and Number	County	Board Disposition Type	Board Disposition or Recommendation	Supreme Court Disposition or Status
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Gregg A. Rossi, 2024-010</i>	Mahoning	Hearing	Six-month suspension	Pending, Case No. 2024-1722
<i>Columbus Bar Assn. v. Kristin J. Bryant, Case No. 2024-011</i>	Franklin	Hearing	Public reprimand	Pending, Case No. 2024-1728
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Ryan R. Black, 2024-012</i>	Hocking	Hearing	Two-year suspension, six months stayed	Pending, Case No. 2024-1725
<i>Disciplinary Counsel v. Hon. Russell D. Kegley, 2024-014</i>	Scioto	Hearing	Public reprimand	Pending, Case No. 2024-1721
<i>Cincinnati Bar Assn. v. Yaakov E. Perelmuter, Case No. 2024-018</i>	Out-of-state	Consent-to-discipline	Six-month suspension, stayed	Pending, Case No. 2024-1719

APPENDIX A  
2023 Board Case Disposition Index

**Dispositions by Type**

31	Hearing
2	Stipulations; Hearing Waived
2	Reinstatement
6	Consent to Discipline
5	Resignation
1	Dismissal (on Merits)
4	Dismissal (Default)
1	Dismissal (Other)
1	Impairment Suspension
1	Dismissal (Death of Respondent)
1	On Motion for Default Disbarment
<b>55</b>	<b>Total Dispositions</b>

**APPENDIX B**  
**Certified Grievance Committee Reimbursements**

**Fiscal Year 2024 Total Reimbursements  
to Certified Grievance Committees**

For Disciplinary-Related Expenses and File Inventories

Certified Grievance Committee	Reimbursement	Investigations Conducted	New Complaints Filed
Akron Bar Association	\$148,954.81	3	0
Allen County Bar Association	\$1,226.09	2	0
Ashtabula County Bar Association	\$13,189.43	0	0
Butler County Bar Association	\$6,633.56	9	0
Cincinnati Bar Association	\$274,534.22	79	0
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association	\$261,995.35	136	2
Columbiana County Bar Association	\$8,580.00	1	0
Columbus Bar Association	\$364,432.71	27	4
Dayton Bar Association	\$197,549.23	33	1
Erie-Huron-Ottawa Certified Grievance Committee	\$5,105.24	3	0
Findlay/Hancock County Bar Association	\$9,822.18	8	0
Lake County Bar Association	\$35,179.68	4	0
Lorain County Bar Association	\$83,103.80	9	2
Mahoning County Bar Association	\$97,571.34	21	1
Ohio State Bar Association	\$249,968.65	241	1
Stark County Bar Association	\$36,171.47	16	0
Toledo Bar Association	\$175,000.20	63	3
Trumbull County Bar Association	\$15,414.73	2	0
Warren County Bar Association	\$5,256.00	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,989,688.69</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>14</b>

**File Inventory Reimbursements**  
[GOV.BAR R. V, SECTION 8(F)]

	Reimbursement
Cleveland Metro. Bar Association	\$2,000.00
Erie-Huron-Ottawa Cty. Bar Associations	\$3,690.27
Lorain Cty. Bar Association	\$6,307.67
Mahoning Cty. Bar Association	\$4,887.50
Stark Cty. Bar Association	\$3,198.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,083.53</b>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$2,009,772.22**



