



Ohio Board of Professional Conduct

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

FROM: Rick Dove

DATE: April 2022

RE: Bimonthly Update

April Board Meeting

The Board of Professional Conduct met on April 8 in Columbus. The Board approved [five case reports](#) that were filed with the Supreme Court the afternoon of April 8.

The Board has 27 pending cases, 14 of which have been heard or are scheduled for hearing. Five cases are awaiting answers, two cases are awaiting hearing dates, and six cases are stayed.

Advisory Opinions

The Board approved two revised advisory opinions on April 8. [Adv. Op. 2022-2](#) replaces two opinions from the 1990s and addresses judicial membership in political party organizations and board of election. [Adv. Op. 2022-3](#) provides advice to lawyers who are communicating with governmental entities in a representative capacity. The opinion is a rewrite of Adv. Op. 1992-7 that was withdrawn.

Ethics Guide; Resource Materials

In late March, the Board published a new Ethics Guide on the subject of [judicial involvement in extrajudicial activities](#). This is the Board's sixth Ethics Guide, and the second providing advice to judges and magistrates.

In late March, the Board finalized its [three-year compilation of disciplinary system statistics](#). This compilation provides grievance and investigation statistics and reports on the disposition of disciplinary cases from 2019-2021.

Also available from the Board's website is the [2021 Disciplinary Handbook](#). The publication summarizes each disciplinary case decided by the Supreme Court last year and contains several indices relating to rule violations and aggravating and mitigating factors.

Probable Cause Portal

The Board is in the final stages of testing a portal through which relators can submit new complaints and probable cause materials and complaints with waivers of probable cause. We intend to complete the testing of the new portal in early May and open it for use by all relators later that month.

The next two deadlines for submission of probable cause materials are April 29 and May 27.

Reminder re Travel Reimbursements

As the Board resumes in-person hearings, certified grievance committees are reminded of the application of travel reimbursement guidelines adopted by the Board last year at the direction of the Supreme Court. These guidelines, which are similar to those applicable to the Board's volunteer commissioners, apply to all travel by grievance committee personnel and volunteers relative to disciplinary-related responsibilities.

All requests for travel reimbursement must be made in accordance with the [guidelines](#) and using the [form](#) provided on the Board's website. Reimbursement should be requested within 30 days of the date the expenses are incurred. Any reimbursement request that is not submitted in accordance with the guidelines will be returned to the requesting entity.

2022 Miller-Becker Seminar

Please mark your calendar for the 2022 Miller-Becker Seminar on October 21 at the OSBA Headquarters. The planning committee will hold its first meeting later this month to begin identifying topics for presentation at the October 21 seminar.

Videos from prior seminars are available on the [relator/respondents' counsel](#) webpage.