



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 2023

RE: Bimonthly Update

December Board Meeting

The Board of Professional Conduct held its final meeting of the year on December 11. The Board approved and filed [three case reports](#) with the Supreme Court. The initial 2024 Board meeting is scheduled for February 2.

The Board has 29 pending cases, six of which have been heard and 13 of which are scheduled for hearing. The remaining ten cases are stayed, in default, or have initial prehearing conferences scheduled later this month.

Advisory Opinions

The Board approved two new advisory opinions on December 11:

- [Adv. Op. 2023-12](#)—relative to the inclusion of charging liens in contingent fee agreements; and
- [Adv. Op. 2023-13](#)—addressing permissible and prohibited terms of confidential settlement agreements.

Board Membership

The Supreme Court has reappointed six incumbent commissioners to three-year terms commencing January 1, 2024. The returning commissioners are attorneys Vito Abruzzino, Aletha Carver, and Tom Green and judges Chris Cook, Candace Crouse, and Adolfo Tornichio.

Commissioners Cook and Green will be serving their third terms, Commissioners Carver, Crouse, and Tornichio will be entering their second terms, and Commissioner Abruzzino, who served an unexpired term, was appointed to his first, full term.

Four commissioners are completing their third and final three-year terms and will be leaving the Board at the end of this year. I appreciate the outstanding service of Dr. John Carle, Tim Collins, Bill Douglass, and Dave Hardymon. To replace these stalwart members, the Court will be appointing new commissioners who will join the Board next year.

Board Leadership

The Board reelected Commissioners Chris Cook and Patrick McLaughlin to serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively for 2024.

Probable Cause Deadlines

The [2024 probable cause schedule](#) is posted on the Board's website. Because we skip a year-end probable cause review, there are two deadlines in January—January 5 and 26. Although there is no formal probable cause submission deadline in December, the Board will accept new complaints for probable cause review on or before December 20. New complaints with probable cause waivers may be submitted up until noon on December 29.

2023 Miller-Becker Seminar Videos

Videos and materials from the October 20 Miller-Becker Seminar are now available from the [Board's website](#). Although the videos from this and prior seminars are not certified for CLE credit, they are good training tools, especially for new staff and committee members.

Happy Holidays

On behalf of the Board and staff, I extend our best wishes for the holiday season and the new year.