



Ohio Board of Professional Conduct

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

FROM: Rick Dove

DATE: July 2020

RE: Bimonthly Update

June Board Meeting

The Board of Professional Conduct met on June 12 and approved [eight case reports](#). These reports were filed with the Supreme Court the afternoon of June 12.

The Board has 42 pending cases, 22 of which have been opened this year. Eight pending cases have been heard, and 20 cases are scheduled for hearing in July through late October. Cases that do not have hearing dates are stayed, in default, or awaiting answers.

Advisory Opinions

On June 12, the Board approved [two advisory opinions and the withdrawal of a third opinion](#).

COVID-19

The Chief Justice extended her previously issued work-from-home directive through August 31. The staff of the Board will continue to work remotely through that date, with some staff working in the office each week on a limited basis. We continue to request that communications, other than case filings, be sent via email to BOCfilings@bpc.ohio.gov. This includes extension requests, reimbursement requests, appeals, and probable cause materials. All case-related documents should be e-Filed.

Please review the various documents available on the [relator/respondents page](#) of the website for more information about case filings and administrative requirements. Also refer your staff to the direction regarding administrative submissions contained in my April update memo.

Panel hearings have proceeded in April, May, and June using remote teleconferencing software, allowing the Board's docket to remain current. The Board will continue using this platform for hearings scheduled through mid-July.

Certified Grievance Committee Reimbursements

Reimbursements to certified grievance committees in fiscal year 2020 increased by \$120,000, more than one-third of which was attributed to one CGC. In considering a reimbursement allocation for fiscal year 2021, the Supreme Court directed me to apply travel reimbursement guidelines to staff and members of certified grievance committees. These guidelines, which will be made available later this month, place limits on meal reimbursements, mileage, and hotel expenses and are identical to those applicable to volunteer commissioners who serve on the Board.

As reimbursements continue to increase, the Court may consider further limits. For instance, the Supreme Court has reduced operating budgets, instituted a salary freeze, and prohibited out of state travel, and the Board will do the same. I encourage bar counsel and CGC chairs to consider similar actions and explore other cost-savings measures.