



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 2025

RE: Bimonthly Update

April Board Meeting

The Board of Professional Conduct met on April 4 and approved [three case reports](#). The next Board meeting is June 13.

The Board has 22 pending cases, including just three new cases filed this year. Eighteen of the 22 cases have been heard or are scheduled for hearing through July.

Advisory Opinions

The Board approved the reissuance of two advisory opinions. [Adv. Op. 2025-1](#) addresses the disclosure of a disciplinary grievance in an affidavit of disqualification filing and replaces a 1998 opinion. [Adv. Op. 2025-2](#) discusses the ability of a lawyer to secure legal fees by obtaining a mortgage on client real estate. That opinion replaces a 2004 opinion.

Probable Cause Deadlines

The next two probable cause deadlines are April 25 and May 27. New complaints with probable cause waivers may be e-Filed at any time.

Director's Position

As many of you know, I announced my retirement in January, and the Board solicited applications for the upcoming vacancy on February 5. What you may not know is that on February

13, the Supreme Court amended Gov. Bar R. V to remove the Board's authority to hire its own director. This amendment, which was adopted without any prior notice to the Board or opportunity for public comment, removes authority that existed in Gov. Bar R. V since 1986 and represents a significant erosion in the independence of the Board. The director of the Board will now be hired by, report to, and serve at the pleasure of the Court.

The Court has established a process for interviewing candidates for the position although there is no clear timeline for conducting the interviews or hiring a new director. My final day with the Board and in more than 42 years of public service will be May 31.