



Ohio Board of Professional Conduct

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Memorandum

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

From: Elizabeth T. Smith, Director

Date: February 10, 2026

Re: Bi-Monthly Report

February Board Meeting Reports

At its meeting on February 6, 2026, the Board approved for submission to the Supreme Court the following:

Three Sanction Recommendations

Disciplinary Counsel v. Dominic Ralph Leone, III, 2026-0161
Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. Jeffrey Marvin McGaffick, 2026-0160 and,
Lorain Cty. Bar Assn. v. Anthony Baker, 2026-0164

One Consent to Discipline

Disciplinary Counsel v. Mackenzi Ailene Carrington, 2026-0157

One Reinstatement Request

Disciplinary Counsel v. Shawn Alexander Romer, 2023-0469

Electronic Submission

Forms are now online for the electronic submission for time keeping and for reimbursement of expenses. Soon to follow are the online forms for the submission of grievance data. That form will reflect better definitions for uniformity of reporting as well as some new categories to ensure we have comparative data between the CGCs and also with ODC.

Some Year-End Statistics

Supreme Court Decisions in 2025

- 19 (compared to 44 cases 2024)
 - 3 public reprimands
 - 15 term suspensions
 - 1 indefinite suspensions
 - 0 disbarments
 - 0 dismissals
- For comparison purposes and as part of a 20 year look-back, in 2011 there were 96 disciplinary cases decided by the Supreme Court and in 2023 there were 22.

Complaints

- There were 44 complaints filed by December 31, 2025. The Board currently has 36 complaints pending and about 13 hearings scheduled as of this date. As part of a *20 year look back*, there was a highwater mark in 2014 when 104 complaints were filed with the Board but only 39 in 2021. This was a drop from 72 in 2020.

Grievance Activity

- We are still analyzing final numbers, but to date our information shows that 4306 grievances were filed last year. This is an increase over the last two years by about 300 cases, with a 700 increase for ODC. A *20 year look back* shows a high of 5368 grievances in 2007 and a low of 1688 in 2018.
- The percentage of grievances opened for formal investigation has increased, due to the increase in number of grievances filed. The number opened for investigation by ODC increased by almost 400 cases while the number opened by the CGC dropped from 636 last year to 196 this year.

	2023	2024	2025
Total Grievances Filed	4,151	4,052	4,306
Disciplinary Counsel (ODC)	3,114 (75%)	3092 (76%)	3715 (86%)
Certified Grievance Committees (CGC)	1,037 (25%)	960 (24%)	588 (14%)
Dismissed after initial review by ODC	312 (8%)	354 (9%)	374 (9%)
Dismissed after initial review by CGC	334 (8%)	324 (8%)	392 (9%)
Total Grievances Investigated	3,505	3,374	3,537
Opened for Investigation by ODC	2,802 (68%)	2738 (68%)	3341 (78%)
Opened for Investigation by CGC	703 (17%)	636 (16%)	196 (5%)
New complaints filed with the Board	45	45	44

Active Registered Attorneys.

- It is significant that the number of active registered attorneys in 2024 was 44,226 and as of December 31, 2025, that number had dropped to 42,962. In July, 2025, the number of active registered attorneys was 44,223, a decrease of 1261 attorneys over the last six months of the year. Assuming the timing was tied to the biennial registration, this number correlates with an aging lawyer community.
- The number of active registered attorneys has fluctuated *over the last 20 years* to a high of 45,080 in 2026 and a low of 41,831 in 2007. For most years, the number was in the low 44,000's.
- It is worth a reminder that attorney registration fees fund the discipline process. It is also important that while grievances are filed against no more than 10% of practicing lawyers, less than .01% are disciplined.