



Ohio Board of Professional Conduct

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CASE MANAGEMENT CLERK

Memorandum

To: Disciplinary Counsel, Bar Counsel, Certified Grievance Committees, and Respondents' Counsel
From: Elizabeth T. Smith, Director
Date: October 8, 2026
Re: Director's Bi-Monthly Report

Welcome to Karen Osmond

We are pleased to have Karen Osmond now on the Board staff in the position of "Counsel" as on September 14, 2026. She has jumped into the fray with both feet and is already a valuable contributor.

October Board Meeting Reports

At its meeting on October 2, 2026, the Board approved for submission to the Supreme Court the following:

***Disciplinary Counsel v. Stacey Lynn Beck*, Sup. Ct. Case No. 2026-1357**

- Consent to Discipline
- Rules violated: 8.4(c); 3.3(a)(1)
- Recommended sanction: six month suspension stayed in entirety

***Disciplinary Counsel v. Bibler*, Sup. Ct. Case 2026-1364**

- Consent to Discipline
- Rules violated: 8.4(c)
- Recommended sanction: One year suspension, stayed in its entirety

Columbus Bar Association v. Richard Francis Chambers II, Bd. Case No.2022-007¹

- Request for Reinstatement
- Recommendation: Deny

Columbus Bar Association v. Michael William DeWitt, Bd. Case No. 2026-003

- Report on Hearing
- Rules Violated: 1.1;1.3;1.4(a)(1), (3) and (4); 3.3(a)(1); 8.4(c); 1.15(b) and (c); 1.4(c)
- Recommended Sanction: Two year suspension, fully stayed on conditions

Disciplinary Counsel v. Stephen Michael Chinn, Bd. Case No. 2025-029

- Report on Hearing
- Rules Violated: 8.4(b) and (h)
- Recommended Sanction: Indefinite suspension

Disciplinary Counsel v. Adam Oliver Johnson, Sup. Ct. Case No. 2026-1363

- Report on Hearing
- Rules Violated: 8.4(c)
- Recommended Sanction: Two year suspension with 18 months stayed on conditions

Disciplinary Counsel v. McNeily, Sup. Ct. Case No. 2026-1360

- Report on Hearing
- Rules Violated: 8.4(b); 8.4(c); 3.4(c)
- Recommended Sanction: Two year suspension with reinstatement upon conditions

Advisory Opinion 2026-03

[Advisory Opinion 2026-03](#) was approved by the Board on October 2, 2026. The opinion concludes that a lawyer may not indemnify a client for losses arising from the lawyer's legal services.

Miller-Becker Seminar: October 23, 2026

[Registration is open](#) for the Miller-Becker annual seminar the third week of September. While it appears that the room is full, there is still an opportunity to attend via Zoom. **Also, please plan to stay for a reception at 12:40 p.m., immediately following the seminar,** when the President of the Ohio State Bar Association presents former Board Director Rick Dove with the Eugene R. Weir Award for Ethics and Professionalism. A number of past board members will be present.

Task Force

We are pleased that the Chief Justice has formed a task force to address issues raised by the Certified Grievance Committee over the past year in regard to various rule and procedural changes. Both metro and rural bar associations as well as present and past members of the Board will be represented on the task force. Gina Palmer, Deputy Court Administrator will chair the task force and Allan Asbury will participate for Board staff.

¹ Not all reports have been docketed by the Supreme Court Clerk of Courts at the time of this report.