

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OFFICE OF LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

BENJAMIN J. BUTLER
CHAIR, LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY BOARD
Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 305
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 262-1850

SUSAN M. HUMISTON
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 105
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-3952

July 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS	1
II. LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD.....	4
III. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE	8
A. Budget	8
B. Personnel	9
C. Website and Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Intranet	9
D. Complainant Appeals	10
E. Probation	11
F. Advisory Opinions	12
G. Overdraft Notifications	13
H. Judgments and Collections	15
I. Disclosures	15
J. Trusteeships	16
K. Professional Firms	17
IV. DISTRICT ETHICS COMMITTEES	18
V. SUMMARY	19

APPENDIX

Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Members	
Biographical Information	A. 1 – A. 2
Statistical Tables	A. 3 – A. 7
Years of Practice for Attorneys Disciplined in 2023 & 2024	A. 8
Average Number of Months File was Open at Disposition	A. 9
Public Discipline Decisions	A. 10
Advisory Opinion Requests Received	A. 11
Advisory Opinions Subject Matter by Rule	A. 12
2024 Summary of Public Matters Decided	A. 13
Probation Statistics	A. 14
Areas of Misconduct – Probation	A. 15
Speaking Engagements and Seminars	A. 16 – A. 17
FY2025 Organizational Chart	A. 18
Current Office Web Page	A. 19

I. INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS.

Pursuant to Rules 4(c) and 5(b), Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR), the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board (LPRB) and the Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility (OLPR) report annually on the operation of the professional responsibility system in Minnesota. This report covers the period from July 2024 to June 2025 (FY2025), which represents the Board's and the Office's fiscal year. Most of the statistical information, however, is based upon calendar year 2024, unless otherwise noted.

Highlights from the Board and the Office of the Director.

Calendar year 2024 was a relatively average year in attorney discipline with 27 attorneys receiving public discipline, similar to the 28 attorneys publicly disciplined in 2023. Private discipline was up significantly, however, with 101 attorneys receiving private discipline compared to 77 in 2023. In 2024, three lawyers were transferred to disability inactive status in lieu of discipline, compared to two in 2023. One reinstatement petition was denied. Trusteeships, when lawyers pass away without a succession plan or abandon their practices for a variety of reasons, continue to remain active.

The most notable aspect of calendar year 2024 as well as the first half of calendar year 2025 is the number of new complaints that are being filed. Complaint filings in 2024 were 1,278 compared to 1,151 in 2023, an approximate 10 percent increase. Only four years in the past 25 years saw more complaints. Further, during the first few months of 2025, new complaints are up over twenty-five percent year over year. The increasing influx of complaints has been challenging for the Office to address while tackling cases already under investigation. Accordingly, file inventory continues to be a challenge for the Office as are older cases, notwithstanding case closings in 2024 significantly outpacing the last several years of case closings.

Most District Ethics Committees (DECs) continue to meet in a hybrid fashion, although several have returned to in-person meetings. The number of DEC investigations has largely returned to pre-pandemic levels, and many DECs have encountered challenges staffing the number of investigations that have been assigned to them. Several DECs have asked periodically to halt new case assignments to them because workload has outpaced volunteer availability. The DECs also continue recruiting to ensure a sufficient roster of available volunteers.

The first half of 2025 remains generally consistent with 2024 in matters of public attorney discipline. As of June 30, 2025, a total of 11 attorneys have been publicly disciplined: four disbarred, five suspended and two publicly reprimanded. However, a significant number of public cases are in process or are close to being moved forward to public charges. Private discipline year-to-date is also up slightly from 2024.

In FY25, the Court accepted public comment and held a public hearing on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee the Court appointed to study changes to the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility. The report of the Advisory Committee followed the Court's August 2023 order on the recommendations contained in the ABA consultation report, discussed in prior additions of the annual report. Included within those recommendations is the recommendation to adopt a diversion program, something that a majority of states have but Minnesota does not. The public comment and public hearing showed wide support for implementation of a diversion program, which, if adopted, will likely have a significant impact on how the Office handles private discipline. Additionally, the Board and Office filed a petition to amend Rules 1.8 and 3.8 of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC). The Court sought public comment on that petition, which comment period closed in June 2025.

Complaint Filings.

The number of complaints received in 2024 was 1,278, up from 1,151 in 2023. Closings were also up significantly year over year (1,228 v. 1,072), for a calendar year-end file inventory of 604. Tables outlining these and related statistics are at A. 3 - A. 10.

Files open at start of 2024:	551
Complaints received in 2024:	1278
Files closed in 2024:	1228
Files open at end of 2024:	604

Complaint filings for the first six months of 2025 continue to outpace 2024 numbers.

Public and Private Discipline.

As noted, in 2024, 27 lawyers were publicly disciplined: five attorneys were disbarred, 14 were suspended, eight were reprimanded and two of those were also placed on probation. The five disbarred attorneys were James V. Bradley, R.J. Jensen, Jr., Fong E. Lee, Madsen Marcellus, and Michael Padden.

During 2024, 95 admonitions were issued. Pursuant to Rule 8(d)(2), RLPR, if “the Director concludes that a lawyer’s conduct was unprofessional but of an isolated and non-serious nature, the Director may issue an admonition.” Overall, eight percent of files were closed with an admonition. Prior year totals are as follows:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Admonitions	90	117	107	82	88	81	68	95
Total Files Closed	1073	1115	1029	969	906	1030	1072	1228
%	8%	10%*	10%	8%*	10%	8%	6%	8%

*Percentage amount corrected.

The areas of misconduct involved in admonitions are set forth in Table V at A. 6.

There were also six matters closed with private probation in 2024; six matters also closed with private probation in 2023.

Annual Professional Responsibility Seminar and Continuing Legal Education Presentations.

The annual Professional Responsibility Seminar was held on September 27, 2024. Sessions included a Question and Answer Session with Justice Gordon Moore, III, an update from the Board by Board Chair Ben Butler, a session on the Intersection of Discipline & Lawyer Well Being by Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, a presentation from the Director on Hot Topics in Legal Ethics, a session on practical advice for investigators, a panel discussion with non-lawyers involved in the discipline system, a session on when the Office departs from DEC recommendations, and a presentation focused on common rule violations.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to two very accomplished individuals: Nancy Norman, a volunteer attorney and DEC Chair from the Twenty-First DEC, and Maren Koncilja, a public member volunteer from the Second DEC. Both individuals have donated significant time to the discipline system, for which we are very grateful. The Annual Seminar for 2025 is scheduled for October 3, 2025.

Each year, attorneys in the Office devote substantial time to CLE presentations and other public speaking opportunities to proactively educate the bar about professional responsibility issues. A full list of those engagements can be found at A. 16 – A. 17. This year, staff spoke at 38 events, devoting significant time to educating the profession.

II. LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD

A. The Board successfully transitioned new members from the most qualified application pool in recent memory.

As happens every year, in 2024-25 the Board was faced with a membership transition. This one was more disruptive than most, as three of the Board's five Panel Chairs and two other members departed at the end of their terms. Luckily, the pool of

attorney and public-member applicants for the open positions (one of which was filled by the Minnesota State Bar Association) was the strongest group in recent memory. The Board's Executive Committee interviewed several potential members, any of whom would have been excellent additions to the Board. The Board was thankful that the Minnesota Supreme Court accepted the Executive Committee's recommendations and appointed Amy Sweasy, Chad Hultgren, Abigail Rankin, and Elizabeth Henderson, along with MSBA nominee Kris Fredrick. All of our new members have hit the ground running and have shown the kind of attention to detail and dedication to their craft that will serve them, and the public, so very well during their terms.

B. The Board provided the Minnesota Supreme Court with feedback and recommendations on procedural and substantive attorney-ethics matters and updated its policy on late complainant appeals.

The Board's primary substantive work this season involved advising the Minnesota Supreme Court on procedural and substantive matters concerning Minnesota's attorney-regulation system. The Board submitted a written response to the Court's advisory committee's report following up on the ABA's recommendations for amendments to our procedural rules. Board Chair Benjamin Butler advocated for the Board's position at oral argument before the Court. Chair Butler and the rest of the Board appreciated how engaged each Justice was in what some might think are dull procedural matters, but which the Board and Court know are invaluable to maintaining Minnesota's well-respected attorney-regulation system.

The Board, acting jointly with the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, also proposed amendments to the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct. The proposed changes would largely match Minnesota's Rules 1.8 and 3.8 with the ABA Model Rules for each. The Board worked for over one year on these recommendations and heard from numerous stakeholders and interest groups concerning the pros, cons, and details of potential changes. Recognition should be particularly paid to public

member Michael Friedman, who chaired the Board's working group on potential amendments to Rule 3.8.

This season, the Board realized it needed a policy to address how to consistently handle late complainant appeals. Rule 8(e), Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, provides that a complainant appeal is due "within fourteen days," presumably of the date the OLPR determines that discipline is not warranted. But complainants often submit appeals after those fourteen days have lapsed. The Board decided it needed a uniform policy to address (a) if late appeals were ever allowed; (b) if yes, under what circumstances would they be allowed; and (c) who should make the decision on whether to allow a late appeal.

The Board decided that the time limit of Rule 8(e) was not jurisdictional and that, therefore, late appeals should be allowed in certain circumstances. The Board also decided that the Chair, after consulting with the Executive Committee, should decide whether to allow such an appeal to proceed. Members strongly preferred this option over having individual Board members make the timeliness decision. As for the standard, the Board authorized the Chair to "determine whether good cause exists to accept the complaint and assign it to a Board member. The Chair or designee must consider all relevant facts, including but not limited to the length of the delay, the reasons for the delay, the potential unfair prejudice to the respondent or the Director from accepting the complaint, and the potential unfair prejudice to the complainant from rejecting the complaint." The Board believes that this clarification will help all parties navigate this sometimes-difficult issue.

Finally, the Board responded to Justice Paul Thissen's call for Board consideration of potential issues surrounding the use of "aggravating factors" in attorney-discipline cases. *In re Udeani*, 984 N.W.2d 550, 556 (Minn. 2023) (Thissen, J., concurring). The Board concluded that the OLPR's practice in such cases was

supported by the procedural and substantive rules and did not, in the Board's opinion, pose due-process or fundamental-fairness issues for respondent attorneys.

C. The Board continued to train its new and veteran members.

Having so many new members and three new Panel Chairs provided ample opportunity for formal and informal training, and the Board availed itself of that opportunity. Several Board members attended and presented at the OLPR's annual CLE in the fall of 2024; the Board thanks the OLPR for its generous invitations to present and to attend. The Board has scheduled a unique training session in July 2025, when liaison Justice Gordon Moore, III, is scheduled to lead Board members on a tour of the Supreme Court's facilities in the State Capitol Building. OLPR staff will then present a seminar on substantive ethical issues and rule interpretations. In addition, all new Board members are informally trained by, among others, their Panel Chairs, and our new Panel Chairs reached out to their more experienced colleagues for advice and feedback. This speaks not just to training opportunities but more broadly to the kind of collegial, friendly, and cooperative attitude Board members share with each other, with the OLPR, and with all parties interested in the attorney-regulation system.

D. The Board continues to efficiently decide cases.

As the Court knows, the Board strives to resolve complainant appeals and other similar matters in 30 days or less following assignment. The Board has consistently met that goal and 2024-25 was no exception. The 103 appeals of dismissals without investigation were decided in an average of approximately 23 days. The 37 appeals of dismissals following investigation and appeals of admonitions, which usually contain more detailed records than non-investigation cases, were decided in an average of 25 days. These numbers speak volumes about the volunteer Board members' commitment to producing timely, high-quality work that fairly evaluates each party's position before reaching a just decision.

III. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.

A. Budget.

Expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, are projected to be approximately \$4.4 million. The projected reserve balance at the end of FY25 is anticipated to be approximately \$552,000. FY25 expenses are anticipated to be favorable to budget, and revenues are also favorable to budget, aided by a transfer of \$250,000 of the reallocated \$1.5 million from the Client Security Board, as well as additional revenue from annual registration fees beginning January 1, 2025.

The Director's Office budget—which also includes funding for the Lawyers Board—is funded primarily by lawyer registration fees (\$171 for most lawyers as of January 1, 2025), and therefore is not dependent upon, and does not receive any, legislative dollars. FY25 projected revenue from all sources is just over \$4.6 million. For the last decade or so the Office has been in deficient spending with expenses exceeding revenue, due to increases in personnel costs, with largely flat revenue from attorney registration.

In October 2024, the Court approved a significant increase in lawyer registration fees to supplement funding for the LPRB/OLPR, while also directing the Office to continue to focus on cost containment and economies where available. The increase went into effect on January 1, 2025, increasing our funding from \$146 for most lawyers to \$171. One cost saving measure that was implemented in FY25 was a move from Town Square Plaza in downtown St. Paul to a significantly reduced footprint at the Minnesota Justice Center. This was made possible by space opening at the Minnesota Justice Center that was not previously available. This move resulted in lease savings as well as enhanced security since the Minnesota Justice Center has security on site. Notwithstanding recent increases to attorney registration rates, Minnesota continues to compare very favorably to neighboring states regarding the portion of attorney registration fees that support the attorney discipline system.

B. Personnel.

The Director's Office employs 13 attorneys including the Director, six paralegals, an investigator, an office administrator, nine support staff and a law clerk (*see* organizational chart at A. 18). The LPRB also has a part-time administrative assistant, and the discipline referees have a part-time law clerk, all funded by the above budget allocations. In FY25, the Office converted the financial auditor position back to a paralegal position upon the retirement of the Office's financial auditor and is currently using temporary auditor assistance to ensure continuity of training and auditing services. The Office is fortunate to have a talented team of dedicated employees focused on the mission of protecting the public and strengthening the profession, and in recent years staff has expanded to include separate support of the Board and Supreme Court referees who handle discipline hearings.

In 2024, Justice Chutich announced her retirement from the Court as of July 30, 2024, and Justice Gordon Moore, III, was appointed to succeed Justice Chutich as liaison. Justice Moore has been a terrific resource to both the Office and Board, and we continue to appreciate the entire Court's commitment and support of the professional responsibility system in Minnesota.

C. Website and Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Intranet.

The OLPR website continues to be updated regularly to ensure it remains current. The Office has almost completed a full redesign of its website, and there will soon be a separate website for the Board. Both websites will finally be mobile-friendly and the new OLPR site will allow increased functionality regarding submission of documents with on-line complaints. Attached at A. 19 is a recent printout of the home page for the current website.

The LPRB and DEC intranet (SharePoint) sites are used by Lawyers Board members, DEC Chairs, and volunteer investigators. The Office also uses the LPRB site to file share with the new Board administrative assistant. The Office employs a

DEC/SharePoint Coordinator as the main contact for volunteers regarding questions about the sites as well as their volunteer service. The Office has started the implementation of the online file sharing tool, Box, for DEC volunteers to have an efficient and secure way to share large files. The Office has incorporated slides in its Continuing Legal Education presentations to promote volunteerism in the discipline system.

D. Complainant Appeals.

Under Rule 8(e), RLPR, a dissatisfied complainant has the right to appeal most dismissals and all private discipline dispositions. Complainant appeals are reviewed by a Board member, other than members of the Board’s Executive Committee, as assigned by the Board. The Board issued 152 complainant appeal determinations in 2024, compared to 141 appeal determinations in 2023. Of those 152 determinations, 137 complainant appeals were both assigned to reviewing Board members and completed in 2024.

A breakdown of the 152 determinations made by reviewing Board members in 2024 is as follows:

		<u>%</u>
Approve Director’s Disposition	145	96
Direct Further Investigation	5	3
Instruct Director to Issue an Admonition	0	0
Instruct Director to Issue Charges	1	1
Not Timely	1	0

In June 2024, the Office transitioned much of the processing of complainant appeals to the new Board administrative assistant. Now, complainant appeals go directly to the Board. The Office still processes the file for review by the reviewing Board member in SharePoint because Board members do not have direct access to the Office’s Lawyer Discipline Management System (LDMS), thus decreasing but not

eliminating, OLPR staff time in processing appeals. The new process serves to reiterate the separation between the Office and the Board as it relates to the Board's adjudication role.

E. Probation.

The probation department administers private and public probation in conjunction with attorney discipline. In 2024, the Director opened 12 new probations, six of which were public and six private. Thirty-three percent of the new public probations were supervised; fifty percent of the new private probations were supervised. Four of the new probations were ordered as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law.

In 2024, the Director filed one private probation violation petition. There was one filed in 2023 as well.

Probations involving mental health and chemical dependency remain an ongoing concern. In 2024, two of the 12 new probations, or 17%, involved lawyers with mental health issues or substance use issues. Of the 68 open probations in 2024, approximately 28 percent (18 probations) implicated consideration of lawyer wellness issues—either as part of the underlying disposition, or as a specific term of probation monitoring.

The Court transferred no probations to disability inactive status. One of the new probations resulted from violations of rules relating to safekeeping of property. Four of the 2024 probations involved experienced lawyers who had 30 or more years of practice, two with 50 or more years of practice.

During 2024, 12 Minnesota attorneys served as volunteer probation supervisors. Their volunteer service to assist lawyers in need is greatly appreciated. Six attorneys, five paralegals and an auditor support the probation department, and consistently

commit significant time per week. Additional probation statistics are provided at A. 14-A. 15.

F. Advisory Opinions.

Advisory opinions are available to all licensed Minnesota lawyers and judges, and out-of-state attorneys with questions about Minnesota's rules. Advisory opinions are limited to prospective conduct. Questions or inquiries relating to past conduct, third-party conduct (i.e., conduct of another lawyer) or questions of substantive law are not answered. Advisory opinions are not binding upon the Lawyers Board, the Supreme Court or other third parties; nevertheless, if the facts provided by the lawyer requesting the opinion are accurate and complete, compliance with the opinion would likely constitute evidence of a good faith attempt to comply with the professional regulations. As a part of Continuing Legal Education presentations by members of the Director's Office, attorneys are reminded of the advisory opinion service and encouraged to make use of it. The advisory opinion service remains one of the most valuable outreach tools to the profession the Office has.

In 2024, the Director's Office received 1,704 requests for advisory opinions, similar to, but down slightly from, the 1,792 requests in 2023. (A. 11.) Table XIII at A. 12 shows the areas of inquiry of opinions.

In 2024, the Director's Office expended 331 assistant director hours in issuing advisory opinions. Dissolution/custody and criminal matters were the most frequently inquired about areas of law, then litigation and estate planning/wills and trusts. Client confidentiality (Rule 1.6) was the most frequent area of specific inquiry, along with conflict of interest (Rule 1.7), withdrawal from representation (Rule 1.16), communication (Rule 1.4), trust accounts – generally (Rule 1.15) and conflict – former clients (Rule 1.9).

G. Overdraft Notification.

Pursuant to Rule 1.15(j) – (o), MRPC, lawyer trust accounts, including IOLTA accounts, must be maintained in eligible financial institutions approved by the Director's Office and the bank must agree to report all overdrafts on trust accounts to the Director's Office. Administration of the trust account overdraft program includes books and records reviews and auditing. Individualized education is also provided through the overdraft program to target specific deficiencies and to ensure compliance with Rule 1.15, MRPC, and Appendix 1.

In May 2023, the Office updated all agreements with the banks. Bank agreements are renewed every three to five years and the last update was completed in 2019. One of the main goals of updating the agreements at this time was to revise the comparability compliance with current rate sheets to proactively capture the increase in interest rates since 2019 to better fund the IOLTA program.

In 2024, twenty-three account overdraft notices were reported to the Director, which was two less than the number reported in 2023 (25). During 2024, the Director converted three overdraft inquiries into disciplinary files. The most common reasons for opening a disciplinary file were shortages (one) and failure to safekeep (two). The Director closed 25 overdraft inquiries in 2024, which is the same number closed in 2023. Of these closures, 21 were closed without a disciplinary investigation. In ten of these closures, or 48%, the Director made recommendations regarding the attorney's trust account practices. The most common recommendations related to a lack of strict compliance with the books and records requirements, failure to properly reconcile the account monthly, and spending funds prior to depositing client funds.

In 2024, the 21 overdraft inquiries closed without a disciplinary investigation were closed for the following reasons:

Overdraft Cause	No. of Closings
Check written in error on TA	5
Bank error	3
Late deposit	4
Mathematical/clerical error	6
Disbarred Attorney	1
Deceased Attorney	1
Fraudulent check deposit	1

A total of 295 hours – 60 hours of attorney time and 235 hours of auditor/staff time – was spent administering the overdraft program in 2024. This was an increase from the 231.5 hours spent in 2023. We attribute this increase in time to the increase of the complications within the individual overdraft files, decrease in the proportion of overdrafts arising out of bank error, and number of interactions with respondents required to resolve the overdrafts.

One attorney and one paralegal have historically staffed the overdraft program. Since July 2021, the forensic auditor has served as the overdraft point of contact with this role transitioning back to a paralegal in 2024. The overdraft attorney has overseen the trust account overdraft program since May 2022.

Since the inception of the trust account program in 1990 and through 2024, approximately¹ 3149 overdrafts have been reported to the Director. Of those total overdrafts, 396, or approximately 12.6%, were converted into disciplinary investigations. Those 396 disciplinary investigations were resolved as follows:

Public Dispositions:

Disbarment	27
Suspension	84
Public reprimand/probation	40
Disability inactive status	6

¹ Data for the years 1990 and 1991 is not available and the number of reported overdrafts for those years has been estimated.

Total Public	157
--------------	-----

Private Dispositions:

Private probation	137
-------------------	-----

Admonition	60
------------	----

Panel admonition	4
------------------	---

Dismissals	33
------------	----

Total private	234
---------------	-----

At the conclusion of 2024, five of the 396 disciplinary investigations were ongoing.

H. Judgments and Collections.

In 2024, judgments totaling \$31,936.16 were entered in 26 disciplinary matters. The Director's Office collected a total of \$30,711.96 from judgments and orders entered during or prior to 2024. By comparison, in 2023, judgments totaling \$52,971 were entered in 32 disciplinary matters. Overall, the amount collected in prior years is as follows: \$39,208 (2023); \$23,986 (2022); \$28,685 (2021); and \$27,428.65 (2020). The \$900 cost assessed per discipline matter has remained unchanged in Rule 24(a), RLPR, for decades, and as such is out of step with many jurisdictions. Accordingly, the Office plans to petition the Court to amend this cost in FY26.

I. Disclosures.

The disclosure department responds to written requests for attorney disciplinary records. Public discipline is always disclosed. Private discipline is disclosed only with an executed authorization from the affected attorney. In addition, the Director's Office responds to telephone requests for attorney public discipline records. Public discipline information is also available through the OLPR website. Informal telephone requests and responses are not tabulated. The following formal requests were received in 2024:

	<u>No. of Requests</u>	<u>No. of Attorneys</u>	<u>Discipline Disclosed</u>	<u>Open Files</u>
A. National Conference of Bar Examiners	127	198	4	1
B. Individual Attorneys	226	226	13	0
C. MSBA	10	90	13	1
D. Governor's Office	80	133	8	0
E. Other State Discipline Counsels/State Bars or Federal Jurisdiction	215	215	4	0
F. F.B.I.	35	35	1	0
G. Miscellaneous Requests	57	74	3	1
TOTAL	750	971	46	3
2023 totals for comparison)	826	996	13	61

J. Trusteeships.

Rule 27(a), RLPR, authorizes the Supreme Court to appoint the Director as trustee of an attorney's files or trust account when no one else is available to protect the clients of a deceased, disabled or otherwise unavailable lawyer. In FY25, significant resources of the Office were dedicated to inventorying and returning client files, and otherwise administering the trusteeship department of the Office. Although it can be burdensome, stepping in to assist former clients of deceased lawyers remains a valuable service to the profession and family members of deceased attorneys that the Office is proud to provide.

In April 2025, the Director was appointed trustee over client files belonging to, and potential client funds being held by, deceased attorney Karl A. Oliver. The Director took possession of the files for the purpose of conducting an inventory of the files and returning or destroying any files that are less than seven years old and/or contain a valuable original document(s) pursuant to the clients' wishes. The Director also took possession of potential client funds and will review available accounting records to determine whether there are unearned funds that should be returned to clients.

In March 2025, the Director closed the trusteeship of Gerald G. Dederick and the Director's retention schedule for the remaining files is detailed below.

The Director continues to retain the following client files or is in the process of expunging the following records:

- David J. Van House trusteeship – valuable original documents are eligible for expunction in December 2025.
- David O.N. Johnson trusteeship –valuable original documents are eligible for expunction in December 2026.
- Steven B. Szarke trusteeship –valuable original documents are eligible for expunction in December 2026.
- Aleksandra Ljubisavljevic – 252 files are eligible for expunction in July 2025, except for documents the Director determines to be of value, which are eligible for expunction in July 2027.
- Patricia G. Mattos – 179 files are eligible for expunction in May 2026, except for documents the Director determines to be of value, which are eligible for expunction in May 2028.
- Edward H. Rasmussen – 42 files are eligible for expunction in July 2026, except for documents the Director determines to be of value, which are eligible for expunction in July 2028.
- Ignatius C. Udeani – 657 files are eligible for expunction in April 2027, except for documents the Director determines to be of value, which are eligible for expunction in April 2029.
- Gerald G. Dederick – 45 files are eligible for expunction in March 2028, except for documents the Director determines to be of value, which are eligible for expunction is March 2030.

K. Professional Firms.

Under the Minnesota Professional Firms Act, Minn. Stat. § 319B.01 to 319B.12, professional firms engaged in the practice of law for profit must file an initial report and annual reports thereafter demonstrating compliance with the Act. The Director's Office has handled the reporting requirements under this statute since 1973. Annual reports

are sought from all known legal professional firms, which include professional corporations, professional limited liability corporations and professional limited liability partnerships. The filing requirements for professional firms are described on the OLPR website.

Professional firms pay a filing fee of \$100 for the first report and a \$25 filing fee each year thereafter. In reporting year 2024 (December 1, 2023 —November 30, 2024), there were 38 new professional firm filings. Fees collected from professional firm filings are included in the Office’s annual budget. As of May 8, 2025, the Director’s Office received \$50,575 from professional firm filings during fiscal year 2025.

An assistant director, paralegal, and administrative clerk staff the professional firms department. For fiscal year 2025 (as of May 8, 2025), the total attorney work time for overseeing the professional firms department was approximately 30 hours. The total non-attorney time was 668 hours.

IV. DISTRICT ETHICS COMMITTEES (DECs).

Minnesota is one of a limited number of jurisdictions in the United States that continues to use local volunteers to conduct the preliminary investigation of many ethics complaints. Each DEC corresponds to an MSBA bar district, and each is assigned a staff lawyer from the OLPR as a liaison to that DEC. Currently, there are 206 DEC volunteers.

Initial review of complaints by practitioners and nonlawyers is valuable in reinforcing confidence in the system. The overall quality of the DEC investigative reports remains high, particularly after the roll-out of a new report form. For calendar year 2024, the Director’s Office followed DEC recommendations in 85% of investigated matters which were closed during the year. This is consistent with prior year numbers.

In 2024, the monthly average number of files under DEC consideration was 105, fluctuating between a low of 91 and a high of 127. The year-to-date average for 2025 is

116, as of May 2025. Rule 7(c), RLPR, provides a 90-day goal for completing the DEC portion of the investigation. For calendar year 2024, the DEC completed 281 investigations, taking an average of four months to complete each investigation.

For calendar year 2024, files closed that had a DEC investigation included the following dispositions (measured by the number of files, rather than lawyers):

Admonition	63
Determination discipline not warranted	191
Panel Dismissal	1
Private Probation	3
SC Reprimand and Probation	1
SC Suspension	8

The annual seminar for DEC members will be held this year on Friday, October 3, 2025. All DEC members, plus members of the bench and bar with connection to the discipline system, are invited. Active discipline system volunteers and court personnel attend the seminar at no cost.

Rule 3(a)(2), RLPR, requires that at least 20 percent of each DEC be nonlawyers. The rule's 20 percent requirement is important to the integrity of the disciplinary system and to the public's perception that the system is fair and not biased in favor of lawyers. Compliance with that requirement has fluctuated; however, as of May 9, 2025, seven districts are not in full compliance. This is due in part to changing attorney member numbers, which impact the percentage requirements for public members, and in part (for three outstate committees), challenges finding any public members to serve. The Office and DEC Chairs continue to work to address these challenges.

V. SUMMARY.

FY25 was a solid year for the Board and the OLPR. New Board and OLPR team members continue to gain expertise and experience, and both aspects of the attorney regulation system continue to be thankful for the Court's thoughtful consideration of various recommended changes to the attorney regulation system in Minnesota. The

Board and the Office have long appreciated the active engagement of the Court and its commitment to optimizing the fairness, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and efficiency of Minnesota's discipline system. This fiscal year we are also thankful for the additional funding the Court made possible through an increase in annual lawyer registration dollars. The Office's move to the Minnesota Justice Center was a highlight of the year, although reducing our footprint was not without challenges. The proximity to the Board's courtroom on the second floor, the Supreme Court's courtroom on the third floor, and the additional security are nature benefits of officing at MJC, where the Office used to be located in the 1990s. We are fortunate to have hard-working and professional team members in the Office. Further, we are particularly fortunate to work with many dedicated volunteers on the Board and within the District Ethics Committees. We simply could not do what we do without these dedicated and talented volunteers who commit thousands of hours each year to the professional regulation system.

Dated: June 30, 2025.

For the Board:

/s/Benjamin J. Butler

BENJAMIN J. BUTLER

CHAIR, LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY BOARD

For the OLPR:

/s/Susan M. Humiston

SUSAN M. HUMISTON

DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD

Benjamin J. Butler, St. Paul - Attorney member. LPRB Chair. Term expires January 31, 2026. Serves on the LPRB Executive Committee. Managing Attorney, Office of the Minnesota Appellate Public Defender. Area of expertise: Criminal law.

Daniel J. Cragg, Minneapolis - Attorney member. MSBA nominee. Term expires January 31, 2026. Serves on LPRB Rules and Opinions Committee. Partner at Eckland & Blando, LLP. Member of MSBA's Rules of Professional Conduct Committee since 2014.

Kris Fredrick, Blaine - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2028. MSBA Nominee. Former General Counsel for the Honeywell Laboratories; currently the General Counsel at Infinite Campus, Inc. Member of the Board of Governors for the Minnesota State Bar Association

Michael Friedman, Minneapolis - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2026. Serves on LPRB Opinion Committee and Equity, Equality & Inclusion Committee. Served on Hennepin County District Ethics Committee nearly seven years. Executive Director of Legal Rights Center. Former Board Chair of the Minneapolis Civilian Police Review Authority.

Thomas J. Gorowsky, Minneapolis Public member. Term expires January 31, 2027. Economic damages expert and forensic accountant with more than 15 years of financial, accounting, and expert witness consulting experience. Tom provides expert financial consulting services in a variety of litigation matters, including forensic accounting investigations, intellectual property infringement, breach of contract, insurance claims, business valuations, employment disputes, and white-collar crime. Tom is Vice President of Financial Advisors LLC in Minneapolis. Tom previously served on the Valuation Credentialing Board (VCB) and Credentialing Commission Board (CCB) of the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts (NACVA).

Elizabeth Henderson, Duluth - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2028. Office Manager, State of MN Board of Public Defense. Previous Chair of the Generations Health Care Initiatives. Master of Business Administration.

Chad Hultgren, Moorhead - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2028. Commercial Vehicle Inspector for the Minnesota State Patrol for 16 years and a part-time Court Correctional Officer for Clay County Sheriff's Office. Completed the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehensions Supervisor Certificate Program and has a associate's degree in criminal justice.

Paul J. Lehman, Minnetonka -

Public member. Term expires January 31, 2026. Serves on the LPRB Training, Education and Outreach Committee. Former Member of the Minnesota Client Security Board. Served on Hennepin County District Ethics Committee for three years.

Frank Leo, Lakeville - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2026. Director of Optum Advisory Services at UnitedHealth Group. Served on the 1st District Ethics Committee for six years. Treasurer for the Lakeville North High School Speech Boosters program. Former board member of the River Valley Nursing Center.

Kevin M. Magnuson, Stillwater - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2026. After 20 years of practicing law, joined the Washington County Attorney's Office in 2019 and has handled complex civil and criminal matters, such as fraud and vulnerable adult cases, attorney ethics, redistricting, election law, multi-county joint powers boards, and advising the county board and administration. He is active in several nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Melissa Manderschied, St. Paul - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2026. Serves as the Bloomington City Attorney. Formerly served as counsel to several Minnesota cities and nonprofit organizations. Established a career in community organizing and land-use planning before becoming an attorney. Area of law: Government Law.

Jill Nitke-Scott, Coon Rapids - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2027. Served on the 21st District Ethics Committee. With the Public Defender's Office for 35 years. Steward for Support Staff for Board of Public Defense.

Kristi J. Paulson, Burnsville - Attorney member. MSBA nominee. LPRB Vice Chair. Term expires January 31, 2028. Serves on the Executive Committee. President of Powerhouse Mediation. Minnesota Rule 114 Qualified Mediator and Arbitrator since 2017.

William Z. Pentelovitch, Minneapolis - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2028. Of counsel at Maslon, LLP. Trial lawyer for more than 46 years. Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers and 2020 Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota State Bar Association. Served on the HCBA District Ethics Committee. Served eight years on Civil Trial Certification Council of the MSBA. Area of expertise: Complex Business Litigation.

Jill Prohofsky, St. Paul - Attorney member. MSBA nominee. Term expires January 31, 2027. Chief Child Support Magistrate. Oversees judicial officers in IV-D child support program. Appointed in all 10 judicial districts and continues to hear calendars. Has appeared in all 10 districts and over 50 counties over the years, which gives her a broad perspective. In her role with the Minnesota Judicial Branch, serves on a number of statewide project teams dedicated to improving remote hearings and ensuring access to justice. Also involved in the legal community. Member of the Hennepin County Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association, and Minnesota Women Lawyers. Enjoys serving on the MSBA High School Mock Trial Advisory Committee, a competition she has been judging for 15 years. Currently serving as the HCBA rep to the MSBA Assembly. Previously the Chair of the Minnesota State Bar Foundation, previously served on the Supreme Court Gender Fairness Implementation Committee, and served two terms on the statewide Committee for Equality and Justice.

Abigail Rankin, St. Paul - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2028. General Counsel at the Court of Administrative Hearings. Former appellate public defender, adjunct professor, and judicial clerk in state and federal court.

Matthew Ralston, Minneapolis - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2026. Serves as a parents attorney with Hennepin County Adult Representation and on the Minnesota Supreme Court Rules Committee for juvenile probation. Member of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association.

Wendy L. Sturm, Brainerd - Attorney member. MSBA nominee. Term expires January 31, 2026. Managing Attorney and Assistant Public Defender for the 9th Judicial District. Former police officer, guardian ad litem, and deputy sheriff prior to joining the defense bar. Area of law: Criminal Law.

Amy Sweasy, Minneapolis - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2028. Served Hennepin County District Ethics Committee. Former Hennepin County prosecutor for 28 years. Currently teaches at the University of Minnesota Law School and other law schools on Professional Responsibility.

Sharon H. Van Leer, Woodbury - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2026. Director for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Serves as Board Chair for South Washington County School District 833. Served on Fourth District Ethics Screening Committee since 2020.

Carol ("Carrie") R. Washington, Minneapolis - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2026. Practiced in the private and public sector for 11 years. Prior to law school, worked in the nonprofit and government sector for 7 years. Serves as Charities Division Manager for the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General. Served on Attorney General Office's Ethics Council. Served as a law clerk for Supreme Court Chief Justice Gildea after law school. Area of law: Government, Civil Litigation/Enforcement, Nonprofit/Charities.

Antoinette M. Watkins, Minneapolis - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2027. Serves on LPRB Executive Committee. Regional Director for Wells Fargo Institutional Retirement and Trust, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Territory. Ongoing and ad hoc as needed volunteer for various organizations within the Twin Cities.

John M. Zwier, St. Paul - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2027. Practices law as a contract attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office and serves as a Referee for Ramsey County Conciliation Court.

Table I
Complaint Statistics 2000–2024

	Files	Files
<u>Year</u>	<u>Opened</u>	<u>Closed</u>
2000	1362	1288
2001	1246	1277
2002	1165	1226
2003	1168	1143
2004	1147	1109
2005	1150	1148
2006	1222	1171
2007	1226	1304
2008	1258	1161
2009	1206	1229
2010	1366	1252
2011	1341	1386
2012	1287	1287
2013	1256	1279
2014	1293	1248
2015	1210	1332
2016	1215	1264
2017	1110	1073
2018	1107	1115
2019	1003	1029
2020	930	969
2021	946	909
2022	1020	1030
2023	1151	1072
2024	1278	1228

TABLE II
Supreme Court Dispositions and Reinstatements 2015-2024
Number of Lawyers

	Disbar.	Susp.	Reprimand Probation	Reprimand	Dismissal	Reinstated	Reinstate Denied	Disability	SC AD/Aff	Other	Total
2015	6	47	8	4	-	14	-	1	-	-	80
2016	6	27 ¹	4	6	2	20	2	2	1	1 ³	71 ¹
2017	5	26	5	4	-	12 ¹	-	3	1	1 ⁴	57 ¹
2018	8	23	8	6	-	12	-	6	1	1 ³	65
2019	5	22	4	4	-	10	1	1	1	-	48
2020	3	24	5	1	-	10 ¹	-	5	-	1 ²	49 ¹
2021	4	17	4	3	-	8	2	1	-		39
2022	5	21	6	4	1	8		3		1 ⁵	49
2023	3	24	1	0	0	12	4	2	0	0	46
2024	5	14	2	6 ⁶	0	10	1	3	0	1	41 ⁶

¹Number corrected

²Stayed Disbarment

³Reinstatement dismissed

⁴Supreme Court Probation Extended

⁵Rule 30 Suspension

⁶One lawyer received two Supreme Court Reprimands.

TABLE III
Disbarments, Suspensions, Probations and Reinstatements 2015-2024

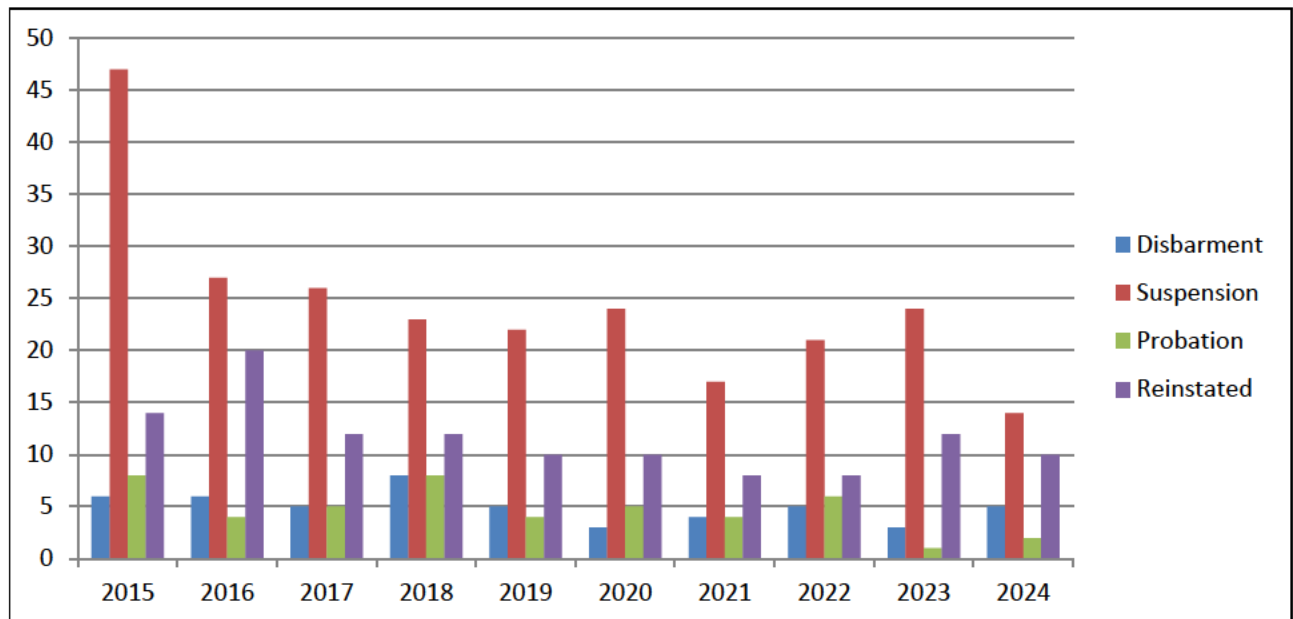
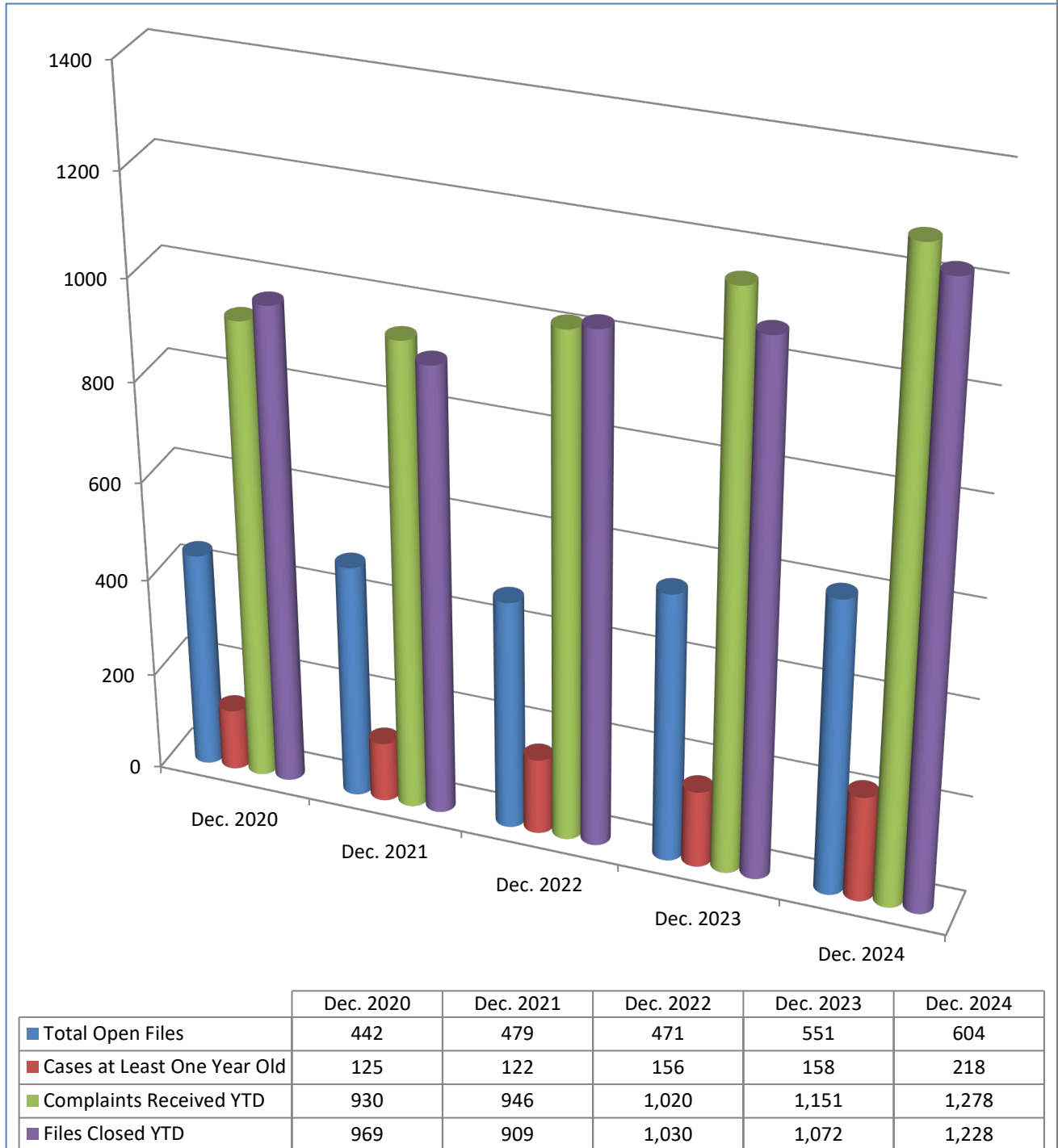
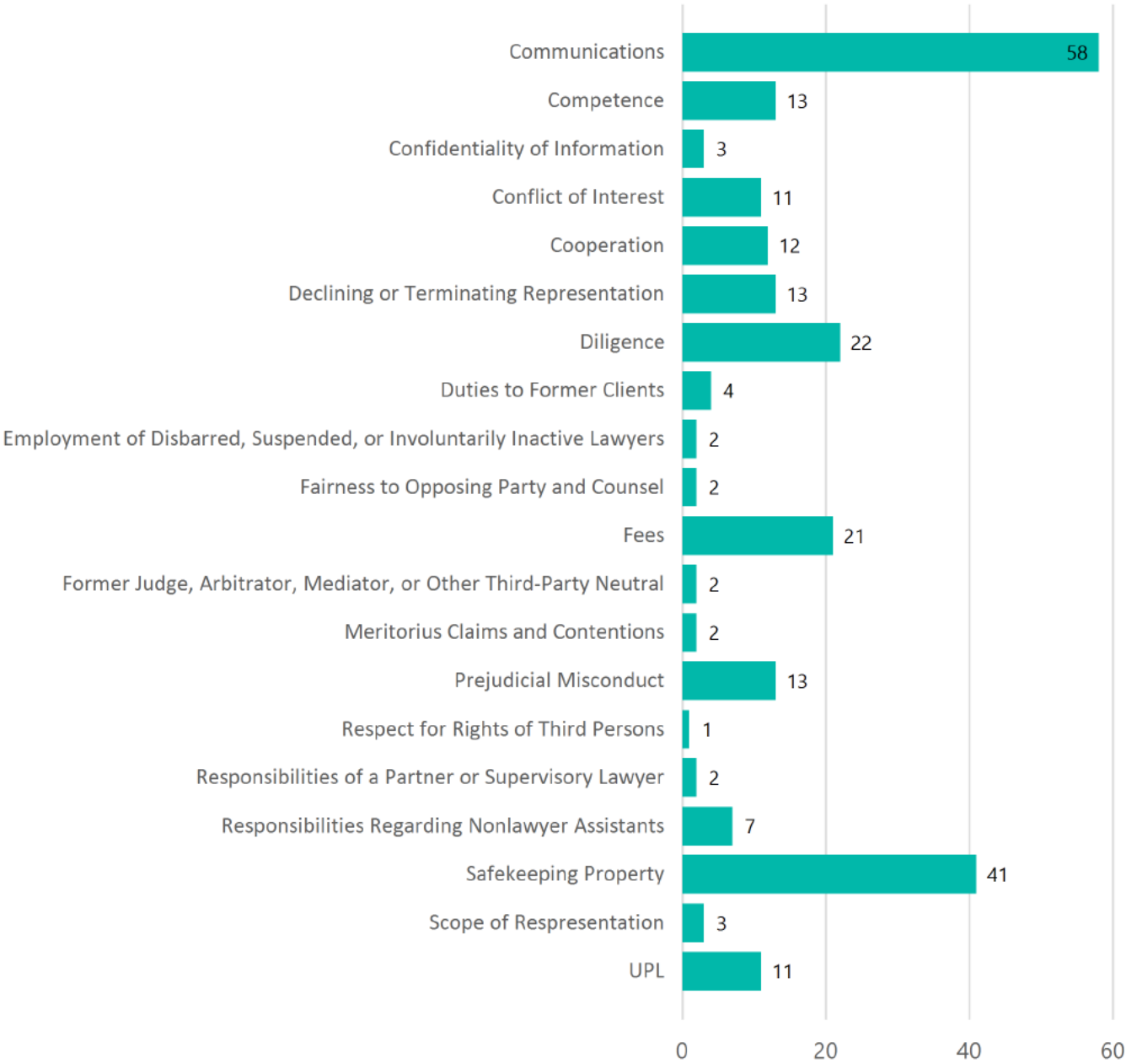


TABLE IV
File Openings, Closings and Year Old Files 2020-2024



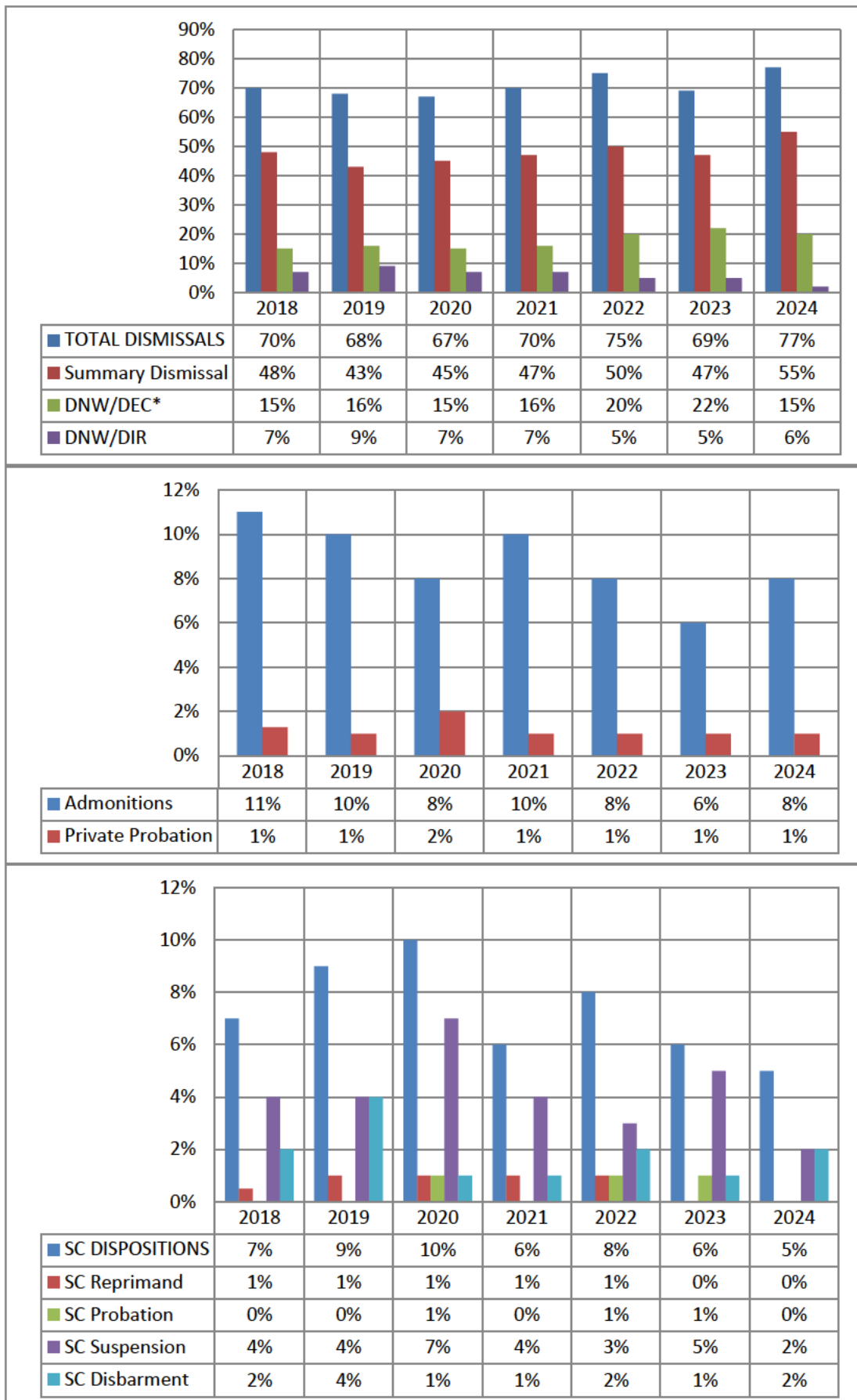
ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE V: AREAS OF MISCONDUCT – ADMONITIONS 2024 *



* Between 1/1/2024 AND 12/31/2024, the Office issued 95 admonitions involving 243 rule violations.
This chart reflects the number of rule violations involved in those 95 admonitions, organized by area of misconduct.

TABLE VI
Percentage of Files Closed



*Includes DEC Investigation files further investigated by the Director

ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE VII: AVERAGE YEARS OF PRACTICE FOR LAWYERS DISCIPLINED - 2023

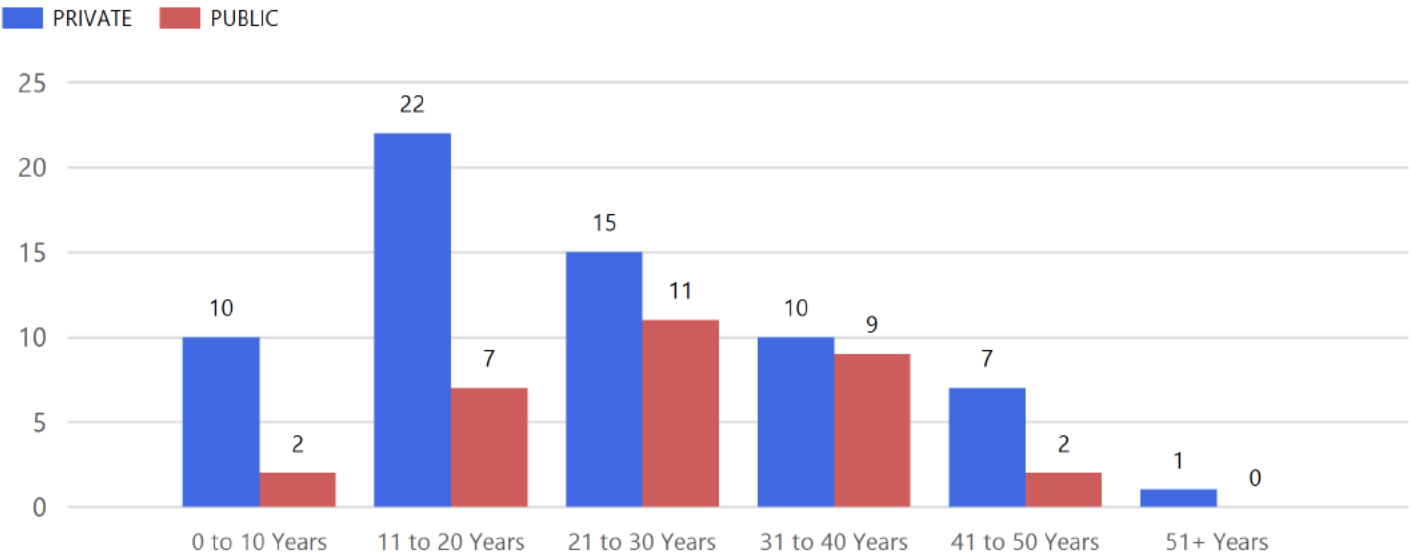


TABLE VIII: AVERAGE YEARS OF PRACTICE FOR LAWYERS DISCIPLINED - 2024

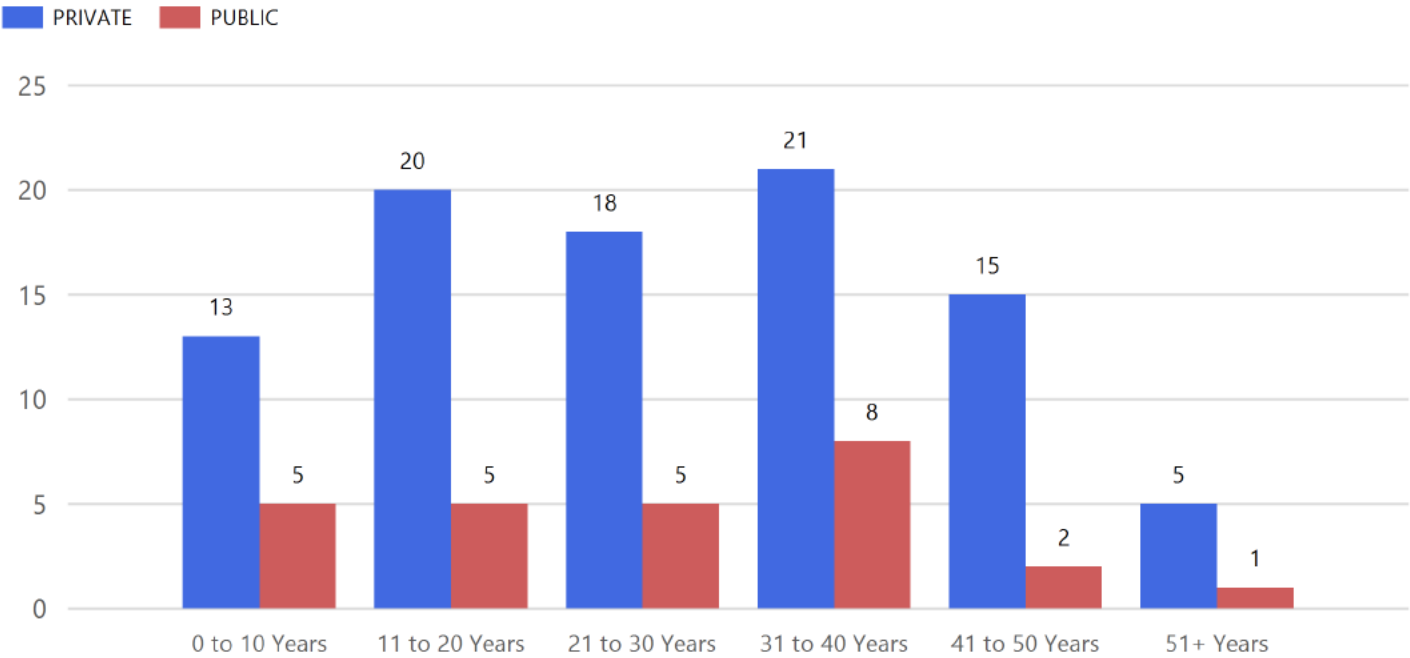
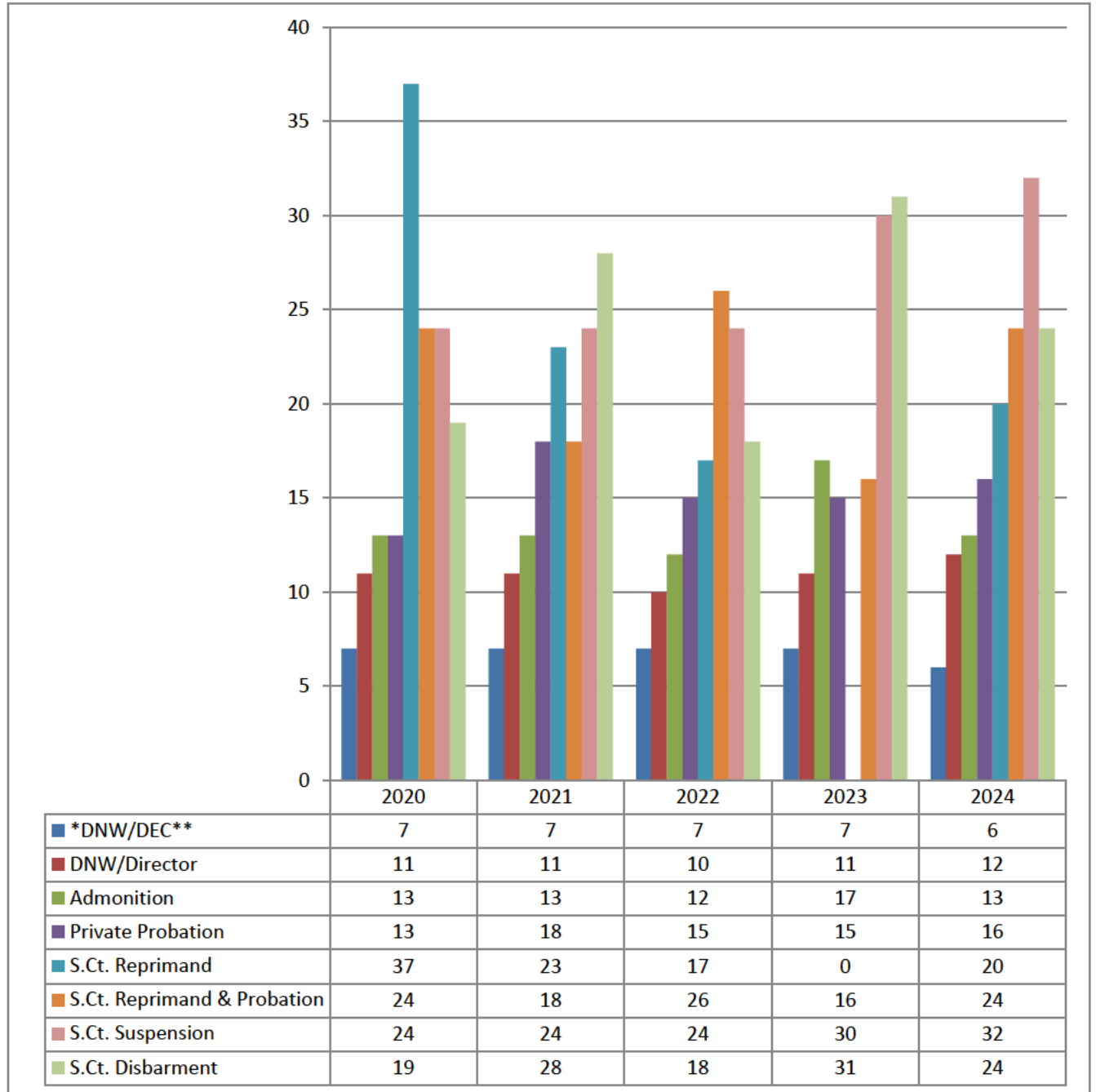


TABLE IX
Average Number of Months File was Open at Disposition



*Discipline Not Warranted

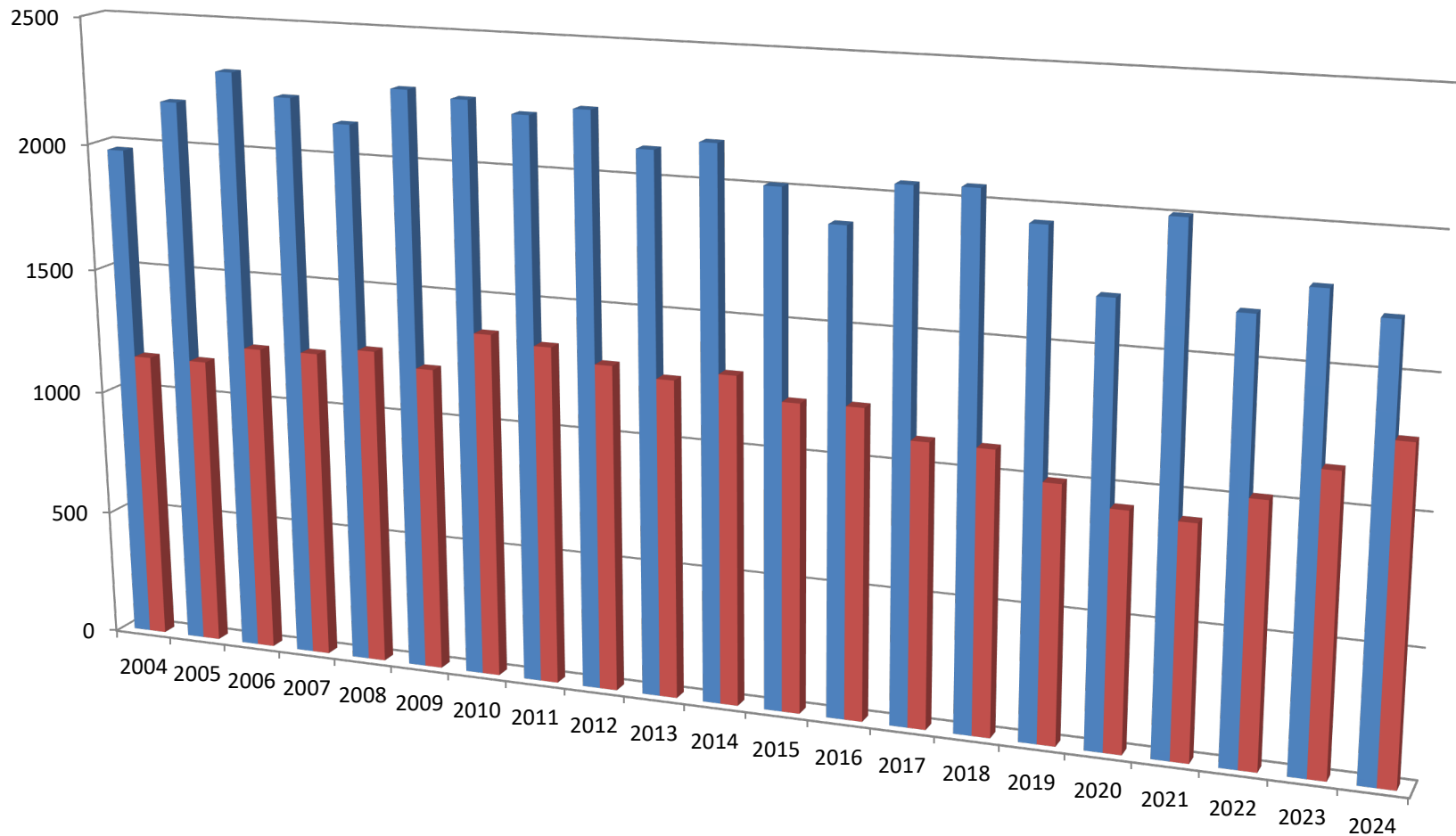
**District Ethics Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE X: PUBLIC DISCIPLINE DECISIONS 2024

Determination Year	Disbarments	Suspensions (all)	Reprimand and Probations	Reprimands	Year Total
1990	8	27	9	10	54
1991	8	14	10	6	38
1992	7	17	7	5	36
1993	5	15	12	3	35
1994	8	5	7	0	20
1995	6	27	8	4	45
1996	4	27	5	0	36
1997	10	16	6	2	34
1998	15	18	10	2	45
1999	3	12	5	0	20
2000	6	19	10	2	37
2001	3	15	9	2	29
2002	4	18	6	1	29
2003	6	15	4	0	25
2004	5	10	3	1	19
2005	6	22	6	1	35
2006	8	26	10	5	49
2007	5	22	6	1	34
2008	4	18	13	2	37
2009	5	23	4	6	38
2010	7	9	7	3	26
2011	2	18	5	2	27
2012	6	26	8	1	41
2013	11	28	9	4	52
2014	6	22	6	5	39
2015	6	46	8	4	64
2016	6	27	4	6	43
2017	5	26	6	4	41
2018	8	23	8	6	45
2019	5	22	4	4	35
2020	3	24	5	1	33
2021	4	17	4	3	28
2022	5	21	7	4	37
2023	3	24	1	0	28
2024	5	14	2	6	27
Total	208	713	234	106	1261

TABLE XI
Advisory Opinion Requests Received
and
Number of Complaints Opened
2004 – 2024



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
■ Advisory Opinions Received	1974	2177	2307	2223	2135	2282	2258	2215	2249	2116	2156	2012	1888	2051	2057	1943	1700	2004	1683	1792	1704
■ Complaints Opened	1147	1150	1222	1226	1257	1206	1365	1337	1287	1253	1293	1210	1216	1110	1107	1003	930	909	1020	1151	1278

Table XIII			
Advisory Opinions Subject Matter by Rule*			
Rule	Description	2023	2024
1.1	Competence	35	36
1.2	Scope of Representation	50	51
1.3	Diligence	11	14
1.4	Communication	149	137
1.5	Fee Agreements and Fees - Generally	126	38
1.6	Client Confidentiality	390	237
1.7	Conflict of Interest - Generally	271	258
1.8	Conflict of Interest - Transactions	69	56
1.9	Conflict - Former Clients Generally	177	123
1.10	Imputed Disqualification - Generally	48	49
1.11	Government Lawyer Conflicts Generally	20	17
1.12	Former Judges & Law Clerks	6	3
1.13	Organization as Client	16	18
1.14	Disabled Client - Generally	56	47
1.15	Trust Accounts - Generally	198	131
1.16	Withdrawal from Representation	405	326
1.17	Sale or Termination of Law Practice	11	7
1.18	Prospective Clients	42	0
2.1	Advisor	2	1
2.4	Lawyer Serving as 3rd Party Neutral	2	0
3.1	Meritorious Claims	11	0
3.2	Expediting Litigation	0	6
3.3	Candor Toward the Tribunal	60	39
3.4	Fairness to Opposing Counsel	37	26
3.5	Contact with jurors or venire	7	3
3.6	Trial Publicity	3	1
3.7	Attorney as Witness	17	4
3.8	Special Prosecutor Duties	5	6
4.1	Candor to Others	5	15
4.2	Contact with Represented Party	74	64
4.3	Contact with Unrepresented Party	41	30
4.4	Respect for Third Persons' Rights	23	15
5.1	Supervisory Lawyers	2	6
5.2	Subordinate Lawyers	2	1
5.3	Non-Lawyer Employees	11	14
5.4	Professional Independence	29	13
5.5	Unauthorized Practice	92	56
5.6	Covenants Not to Compete	4	2
5.7	Responsibilities Regarding Law Related Services	3	0
5.8	Employment of Suspended Attorney	7	0
6.1	Voluntary Pro Bono	2	0
6.2	Accepting Appointments	0	1
6.5	Pro Bono Limited Legal Services Programs	0	0
7.1	Advertising Generally	35	25
7.2	Technical Requirements	17	16
7.3	Solicitation Generally	19	11
7.4	Specialization	1	2
7.5	Letterhead & Firm Name	6	2
8.1	Admission and Discipline	2	1
8.3	Duty to Report Attorney Misconduct	104	114
8.4	Misconduct	71	49
99	Dormant File Procedures	82	0
	Totals	2856	2480

OLPR SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MATTERS DECIDED

DETERMINATION DATES BETWEEN: 1/1/2024 AND 1/1/2025

42 DECISIONS INVOLVING 77 FILES

Supreme Court Disbarment	5 ATTORNEYS	25 FILES
BRADLEY, JAMES V	A22-1010	4
JENSEN, R J	A24-0113	1
LEE, FONG E	A23-0008	6
MARCELLUS, MADSEN	A23-1218	1
PADDEN, MICHAEL B	A23-0080	13
Supreme Court Suspension	14 ATTORNEYS	25 FILES
DRAKE, EDUARDO E	A23-0301	1
FRAUENSHUH, RONALD R	A23-1586	1
GARDINER, GRACE I	A22-0922	1
GERLACH, CHARLES S	A24-0429	2
HENNEY, WILLIAM H	A24-1132	1
HORST, JOHN P	A23-1201	7
KAMINSKY, JOSEPH	A21-1649	3
LANGREE, RICHARD S	A23-0047	1
LIU, KYLIE M	A23-1674	1
MCENROE, CATHERINE A	A23-1615	1
OVERSON, PAUL E	A23-1828	1
SHOEBERG, KEVIN K	A24-0099	2
SLYVA, GARRETT D	A24-0304	1
STEVENS, SCOTT E	A24-1102	2
Supreme Court Reprimand/Probation	2 ATTORNEYS	4 FILES
DWYER, TRICIA	A24-0786	2
JOHNSON, LONNY L	A23-1480	2
Supreme Court Reprimand	6 ATTORNEYS	7 FILES
AANDAL, DONALD J	A24-1216	1
GALLATIN, DANIEL M	A23-0397	1
HALE, LEILA L	A24-1160	1
HALE, LEILA L	A24-1161	1
LEWIS, MICHAEL D	A24-0050	1
SCOTT, WESLEY W	A24-0668	1
SIEGEL, BROOKS R	A24-0077	1
Supreme Court Disability Status	3 ATTORNEYS	3 FILES
BALEGA, PETER J	A24-1608	1
HOPPER, ROBERT R	A23-0970	1

OLPR SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MATTERS DECIDED

DETERMINATION DATES BETWEEN: 1/1/2024 AND 1/1/2025

42 DECISIONS INVOLVING 77 FILES

LOCKWOOD, ASTRID	A24-1707	1
Reinstated	6 ATTORNEYS	6 FILES
FRAUENSHUH, RONALD R	A23-1586	1
GERLACH, CHARLES S	A24-0429	1
LARSON, BRIAN N	A24-0622	1
MCENROE, CATHERINE A	A23-1615	1
OVERSON, PAUL E	A23-1828	1
SLYVA, GARRETT D	A24-0304	1
Reinstatement/Probation	4 ATTORNEYS	4 FILES
ASK, MITCHELL J	A22-1548	1
LUDESCHER, DAVID L	A22-0299	1
PERSON, JOHN B	A23-0669	1
SHOEBERG, KEVIN K	A24-0099	1
Reinstatement Denied	1 ATTORNEYS	1 FILES
VAN SICKLE, DAVID M	A22-1850	1

ANNUAL REPORT
PROBATION STATISTICS

	Files	Total
TOTAL PROBATION FILES OPEN DURING 2024		
PUBLIC SUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 41%	28	
PUBLIC UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 24%	16	
PUBLIC PROBATION FILES TOTAL - 65%		44
PRIVATE SUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 15%	10	
PRIVATE UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 21%	14	
PRIVATE PROBATION FILES TOTAL - 36%		24
TOTAL PROBATION FILES OPEN DURING 2024		68

TOTAL PROBATION FILES

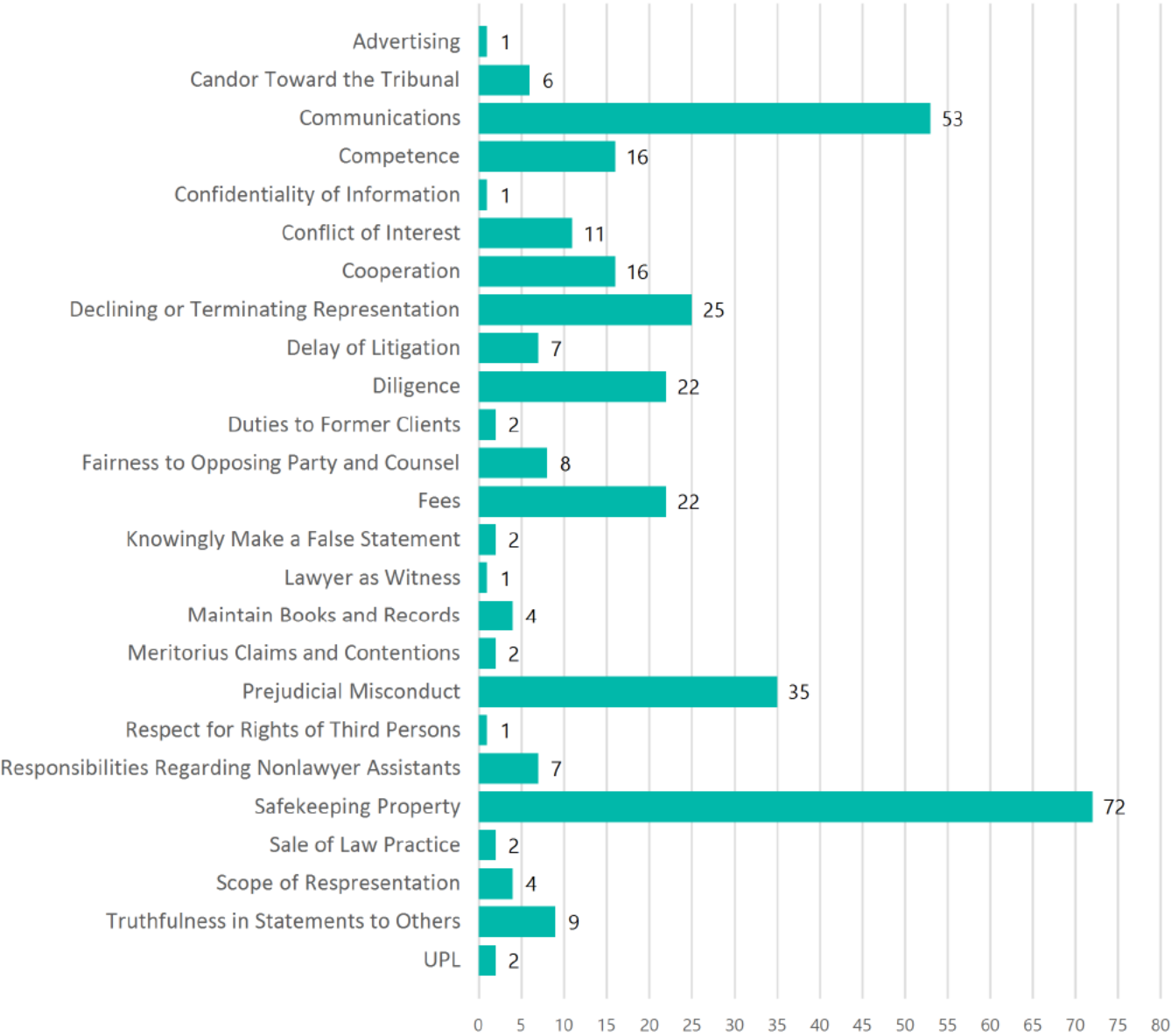
Total Open Probation Files as of 1/1/2024	56
Total Probation Files Opened in 2024	12
Total Probation Files Closed in 2024	-22
Total Open Probation Files as of 12/31/2024	46

TOTAL PROBATION FILES OPENED IN 2024

PUBLIC SUPERVISED PROBATION FILES	2	
PUBLIC UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES	4	
PUBLIC PROBATION FILES TOTAL		6
PRIVATE SUPERVISED PROBATION FILES	3	
PRIVATE UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES	3	
PRIVATE PROBATION FILES TOTAL		6
TOTAL PROBATION FILES OPENED DURING 2024		12

ANNUAL REPORT

PROBATION AREAS OF MISCONDUCT - 2024



*** Between 1/1/2024 AND 12/31/2024, there were 68 probations involving 331 rule violations.**
This chart reflects the number of rule violations involved in those 68 probations, organized by area of misconduct.

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility
Speaking Engagements and Seminars July 2024 – June 2025

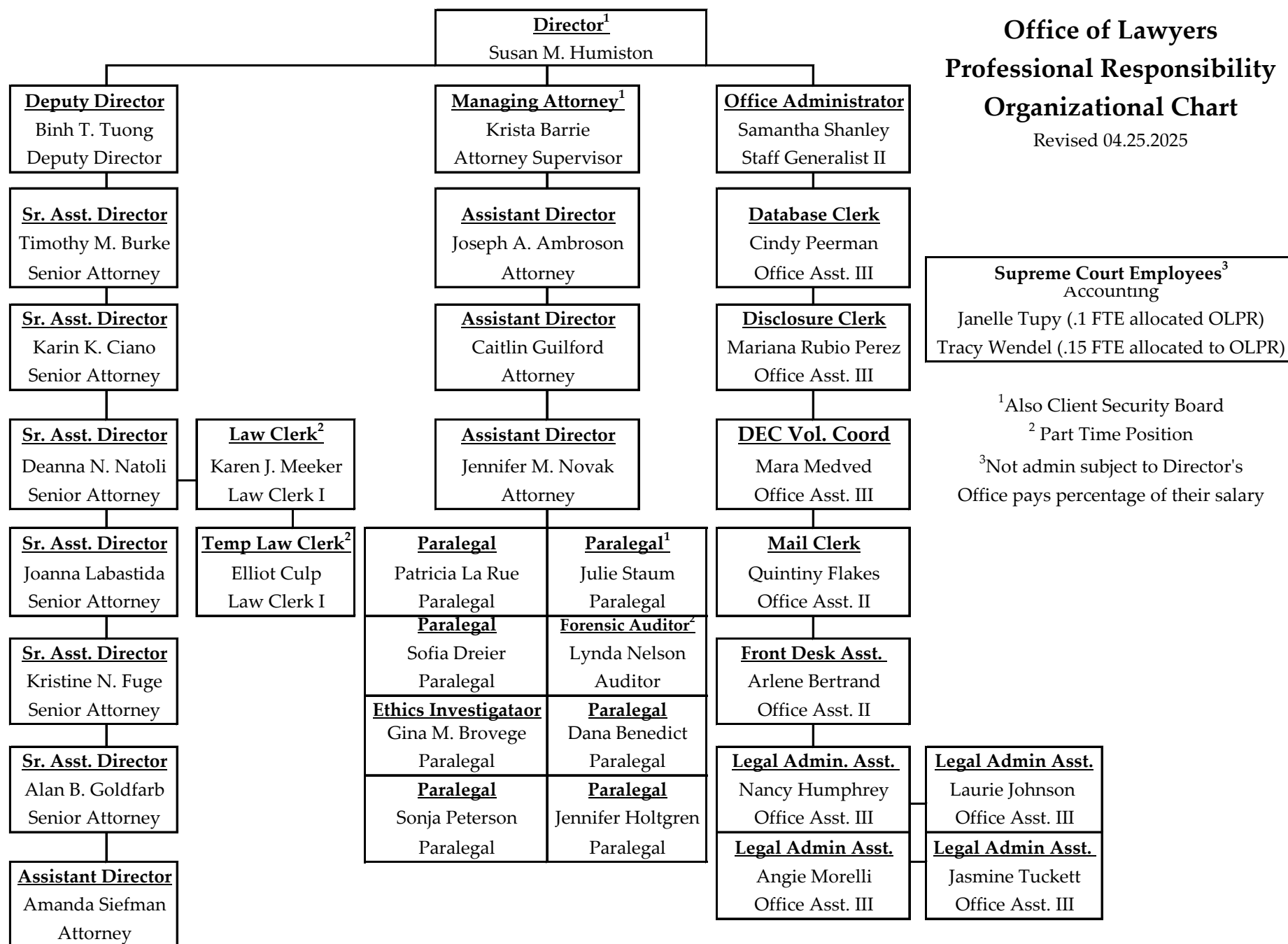
Date	Topic	Location	Organization	Initials
7/2/24	Discipline Year in Review (Probate Conference)	Minneapolis (webcast)	MNCLE	SMH
8/1/24	Transparency in Discipline (Continuing the Conversation)	Chicago	NOBC	SMH
8/22/24	Clients in Crisis	Virtual/Remote	Legal Assistance for Olmsted County	CG
8/22/24	Practicum Class on Legal Ethics	Virtual	Mitchell-Hamline Law School	CG/JA
9/20/24	Advising Clients with Dementia and other Memory Impairments	Minneapolis	Minnesota CLE	KKC
9/24/24	Ethics for Government Lawyers	St. Paul	St. Paul City Attorney's Office	KKC
9/27/24	Common Rule Violations	St. Paul	DEC Seminar	TMB
9/27/24	Public Member Participation in Discipline System	St. Paul	DEC Seminar	KNF
9/27/24	When We Depart (Lessons for Investigators)	St. Paul	DEC Seminar	KDB
9/27/24	Hot Topics in Professional Responsibility	St. Paul	DEC Seminar	SMH
10/11/24	Scams, Schemes and Abuse—How to Navigate Your Ethical Duties in the Context of Financial Exploitation (Elder Law Institute)	Minneapolis	MN CLE	SMH
10/17/24	Trust Account Webcast	Minneapolis	Minnesota Lawyers Mutual	SMH
10/23/24	Understanding the State-based Discipline System and Other Tips for New Lawyers	Minneapolis	U of M Law School	SMH
10/25/24	Ethics Year in Review	Burnsville	MSBA One Profession	JL
11/8/24	Allocation of Authority Between Client and Attorney	Gull Lake	Legal Services Statewide Conference	JA
11/21/24	How to Use AI to Enhance Your Practice and the Ethical Implications of Doing So (Employment Law Institute)	Minneapolis	MN CLE	SMH
11/22/24	Tech Tools A to Z: How to Ethically Incorporate Technology Tools into Your Legal Practice	Minneapolis (webcast)	MN CLE	SMH
12/4/2024	Trusts & Estates Litigation Deskbook Seminar	Minneapolis	Minnesota CLE	KKC
2/3/2025	Delivering Excellent Service; About the OLPR	St. Paul	University of St. Thomas	JA
2/06/2025	Solicitation of Clients and the Corrupt Influence of Runners	Arizona	NOBC	SMH
2/11/2025	Business Practicum Class Presentation	St. Paul	Mitchell-Hamline Law School	JA and CG

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility
Speaking Engagements and Seminars July 2024 – June 2025

3/05/2025	Ethics: An Update from the Director of the OLPR	Minneapolis	MSBA Professional & Ethics Section	SMH
3/10/2025	Professions: Faith & Law (guest speaker)	St. Paul	University of St. Thomas	KKC
3/20/25	Ethical Use and Misuse of AI in Civil Litigation	Webinar	MSBA Civil Litigation Section	SMH
4/2/2025	Law School Class on Alternative Dispute Resolution	Minneapolis	U of M Law School	TMB
4/18/2025	Year in Review	Minneapolis	Henn County Law Library	BTT
4/23/2025	AI and Ethical Implications for Lawyers	St. Paul	MN AGO	BTT
4/23/2025	A Year in Review in Attorney Ethics	St. Paul	MN AGO	SMH
4/24/2025	2025 Attorney Discipline Case Update	St. Paul (webcast)	Family Law Institute	CG and JL
4/25/2025	Civility and Incivility in the Practice of Law and the Role of Attorney Ethics	Moorhead	Legal Services of Northern Minnesota	SMH
5/8/2025	Ethical Considerations When Working with End-of-Life Clients – a Trauma-Informed Approach to Issues of Capacity, Confidentiality, and Representation	Minneapolis	Minnesota CLE	KKC
5/8/2025	When Well-Intentioned Lawyers Get Into Sticky Situations	Minneapolis	Minnesota CLE	SMH
05/21/25	Ethics for Prosecutors, Civil and Criminal	Webcast	MN County Attorneys' Ass'n	SMH
5/22/2025	Attorney Discipline: 2024 Year in Review	Webcast	Anoka County Bar Association	DNN/KNF
5/30/2025	Upper Midwest Immigration Law Conference 2025	Minneapolis	American Immigration Lawyers Assoc. MN/Dakotas Chapter	AG
6/17/2025	Psychology 101 for Lawyers: How to Work With Clients Experiencing Mental Health Issues	St. Paul	Probate and Trust Law Section/ Minnesota CLE	KKC
6/26/2025	Dealing with Unrepresented Parties	Virtual	SMRLS/MMLA	CG/JA
6/27/2025	Top Ethical Issues for Public Lawyers	Webcast	Minnesota Public Defenders	KDB

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility Organizational Chart

Revised 04.25.2025



¹Also Client Security Board

² Part Time Position

³Not admin subject to Director's
Office pays percentage of their salary



Minnesota Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility 651-296-3952
Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 105 1-800-657-3601
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155



Announcements

Order Establishing Public Comment Period on Petition for Proposed Amendments to the Rules of the Supreme Court on Lawyer Registration

"Confidentiality and ineffective assistance of counsel claims" Bench and Bar May/June 2025

OUR OFFICE HAS MOVED TO A NEW ADDRESS

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Names Jon Tynjala Executive Director

Order re Proposed Amendments to the Minnesota Rules Of Civil Procedure, Rules of the Supreme Court on Lawyer Registration, Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct, Rules of The Board of Continuing Legal Education, Legal Services Advisory Committee Rules,

Save the Date! 2025 Lawyers Professional Responsibility Seminar

"Private conduct and lawyer discipline," Bench and Bar April 2025

Order Establishing Public Comment Period on Proposed Amendments to MRPC

"Lessons from private discipline in 2024," MN Bench and Bar, March 2025

Order Establishing Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to MN RLPR

FILE A
COMPLAINT

LAWYER
SEARCH

Legal References

MN RULES OF
PROFESSIONAL
CONDUCT

FOR LAWYERS ONLY:
ADVISORY OPINIONS

What's New

"Confidentiality and ineffective assistance of counsel claims" Bench and Bar May/June 2025

"Private conduct and lawyer discipline," Bench and Bar April 2025

"Lessons from private discipline in 2024," MN Bench and Bar, March 2025

"A Year of Public Discipline," MN Bench and Bar, January/February 2025

"Remaining Active, a tutorial on law license statuses," MN Bench and Bar, December 2024

"Opportunity Awaits," MN Bench and Bar, November 2024

"Lightning Round: Ethics Tips," MN Bench and Bar, October 2024

"Ethics guidance for generative AI use," MN Bench and Bar, September 2024

"Yes, you can take a vacation," MN Bench and Bar, August 2024

"New personal leave continuance: ethics considerations," MN Bench and Bar, July 2024

Professional Responsibility Seminar

Trust Accounts

Professional Firms

Resignations

LPRB Opinions

Disciplinary History Request

Proposed and Pending Rules & Opinions

Contact

Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board
Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility

Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 105
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-3952
1-800-657-3601
Fax: 651-297-5801

TTY users call MN relay service toll free:
1-800-627-3529

Resources

MN Client Security Board

MN Lawyer Registration Office

MN IOLTA Information

MN Board of Continuing Legal Education

MN Board of Law Examiners

MN Board of Legal Certification

MN Judicial Branch

MN State Bar Association

ABA Center for Professional Responsibility

Links

Lawyers Board Directory

OLPR Lawyer Directory

Annual Reports

Contact Us

If you have a disability and anticipate needing an accommodation, please contact the Office at lprrada@courts.state.mn.us or at 651-296-3952. **PLEASE USE THIS EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ADA REQUESTS ONLY. COMPLAINTS AGAINST ATTORNEYS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY CLICKING ON THE "FILE A COMPLAINT" BOX ON THE HOME PAGE. NON-ADA COMMUNICATIONS TO SUSAN HUMISTON SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE OFFICE ADDRESS OR EMAIL TO susan.humiston@courts.state.mn.us** All requests for accommodation will be given due consideration and may require an interactive process between the requestor and the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility to determine the best course of action. If you believe you have been excluded from participating in, or denied benefits of, any Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility services because of a disability, please visit www.mncourts.gov/ADAaccommodation.aspx for information on how to submit an ADA Grievance form.