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NEWS RELEASE

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ANNUAL REPORT FILED

ST. PAUL -- The Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility filed the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board and Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility's Annual Report with the Minnesota Supreme Court on July 1, 2026. A copy of the Annual Report is attached.

-END-

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD
lprb.mncourts.gov

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OFFICE OF LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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July 2026

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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 2025 to June 2026 (FY2026), which represents the Board's and the Office's fiscal year. Most of the statistical information, however, is based upon calendar year 2025, unless otherwise noted.

A. Highlights from the Board and the Office of the Director.

Calendar year 2025 was a slower year for attorney discipline with 18 attorneys receiving public discipline, less than the 27 attorneys publicly disciplined in 2024. Much of this is a matter of timing as several matters remained pending with the Court at the end of the calendar year. Private discipline was similar with 92 admonitions compared to 95 in 2024. In 2025, five lawyers were transferred to disability inactive status in lieu of discipline, compared to three in 2024. Two reinstatement petitions were 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 2025 as well as the first half of 2026 is the number of new complaints filed. Complaint filings in 2025 were 1,572 compared to 1,278 in 2024, an approximate 23 percent increase. No year in the past 25 years saw more complaints. New complaints in 2026 are up seven 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 as are older cases, notwithstanding case closings in 2025 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 because workload has outpaced volunteer availability. The DECs continue recruiting to ensure a sufficient roster of available volunteers.

As of June 30, 2026, a total of six attorneys have been publicly disciplined: one disbarred, two suspended, three publicly reprimanded and one of those was also placed on probation. Additionally, three attorneys have been transferred to disability status in lieu of discipline, one attorney has been reinstated from suspension, and another attorney's reinstatement request was denied. Eighteen matters are currently under advisement with the Court, an additional 23 public matters are pending, and 11 matters are pending with panels of the Board. Private discipline year-to-date is slightly down from 2025.

Currently pending before the Court are several proposed amendments to the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR) based upon the June 2024 report of the Advisory Committee that arose from the ABA consultation. Additionally, the Board and Office filed a petition to amend Rules 1.8 and 3.8 of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC), which amendments the Court granted in May 2026. The amendments to Rule 1.8(e), MRPC, added a "humanitarian" exception to the rule prohibiting financial assistance to clients based upon an American Bar Association model rule. New Rule 1.8(e)(4), MRPC, is similar to but not identical to the model rule and allows pro bono lawyers to provide modest gifts to indigent clients to assist with basic living expenses provided certain conditions are met. The changes to Rule 3.8, MRPC, relating to special responsibilities of prosecutors included adoption of two rules relating to post-conviction obligations when prosecutors learn of evidence (1) creating a

reasonable belief that a convicted defendant did not commit an offense, or (2) showing by clear and convincing evidence that a convicted defendant did not commit an offense. *See* Rule 3.8(g), MRPC; Rule 3.8(h), MRPC. Depending on the nature of post-conviction evidence that has surfaced, prosecutors have ethical obligations to disclose such evidence to the court and investigate or, in the case of clear and convincing evidence, seek to remedy the conviction. The Court also amended Rule 3.8(d), MRPC, to make clear that a prosecutor's disclosure obligation relating to evidence and information to the defense under the ethics rules includes disclosure obligations set forth in case law and procedural rules. Finally, the Court is considering potential amendments to Rule 16, RLPR, relating to temporary suspensions before a public proceeding is pending, as well as Rule 4.2, MRPC, and other rules covering transactions with individuals other than clients. FY26 was a busy year for rule making; FY27 is likely to be so as well.

The Lawyers Board also entered a period of transition with Ben Butler and Kristi Paulson completing their board service as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Both served with exceptional dedication, and their talents and insights will be missed. The Court appointed board member Carol Washington to serve as Board Chair, for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2026, and at its May 2026, meeting, the Board elected Amy Sweasy to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Washington is a managing attorney at the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, leading the Charities Division. Ms. Sweasy is a Professor of Practice at the University of Minnesota Law School, teaching Professional Responsibility, Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Trial Practice, and is a former senior prosecutor at the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

Complaint Filings.

The number of complaints received in 2025 was 1,572, up from 1,278 in 2024. Closings were also up significantly year over year (1,491 v. 1,228), for a calendar

year-end file inventory of 681. Tables outlining these and related statistics are at A. 3 - A. 10.

Files open at start of 2025:	603
Complaints received in 2025:	1572
Files closed in 2025:	1491
Files open at end of 2025:	681

Complaint filings for the first six months of 2026 continue to outpace 2025 numbers. Although complaint filings continue to be robust, many of the complaints are not investigated after an initial review of complainant allegations and a preliminary review of court records. In fact, in 2025, a record 62% of complainants were closed without investigation because the complaints did not provide a reasonable belief that misconduct may have occurred or policy required dismissals, such as complaints alleging ineffective assistance of counsel against court-appointed counsel while the representation is on-going. The Office continues to receive a significant number of complaints as well that are not reflected in the complaint numbers. These complaints are closed without opening a file when the Office seeks more information from a complainant but does not receive a response, preventing the Director from being able to understand whether there is an issue to investigate. In 2025, an additional 389 complaints were closed without action (and are in addition to the 1572 complaints processed) because the Office had questions for the complainant that were not answered.

Public and Private Discipline.

In 2025, 18 lawyers were publicly disciplined: six attorneys were disbarred, 8 were suspended, four were reprimanded and one of those was also placed on probation. The six disbarred attorneys were Stephen J. Baird, Samuel A. McCloud, Kristi D. McNeilly, Anders L. Odegaard, Ana L. Pena and Jay A. Rosenberg.

During 2025, 92 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, six percent of files were closed with an admonition. Prior year totals are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Admonitions	117	107	82	88	81	68	95	92
Total Files Closed	1115	1029	969	906	1030	1072	1228	1491
%	10%	10%	8%	10%	8%	6%	8%	6%

The areas of misconduct involved in admonitions are set forth in Table V at A. 6. Communication continues to be the area leading to the most private discipline, followed by misconduct relating to declining or terminating representation, lack of diligence, and issues relating to fees and fee agreements.

There was one matter closed with private probation in 2025; six matters closed with private probation in 2024.

Annual Professional Responsibility Seminar

The annual Professional Responsibility Seminar was held on October 3, 2025. Sessions included a presentation on Mandatory Civility with St. Thomas Professor David A. Grenardo, an interview with disbarred lawyer William Sutor, III, a year in review with Justice Gordon Moore, III, a session on recognizing when someone needs a helping hand by Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers and its new executive director John Tynjala, a presentation on Trust Account Basics by Board Member and forensic accountant Tom Gorowsky, and a session on examining the cases where the OLPR departs from DEC recommendations.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to two very accomplished individuals: Ben Butler, the Chair of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, and

Curtis Smith, an attorney member volunteer from the Second DEC. Both individuals have donated significant time to the discipline system, for which we are very grateful.

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 33 events.

II. LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD

A. Membership Updates.

As stated above, there were substantial transitions of the membership and leadership of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board in 2025-26. With respect to leadership, the Supreme Court appointed Carol Washington as Chair, effective May 1, 2026. The Board approved the appointment of Amy Sweasy as Vice Chair at its May 15, 2026, meeting. Antoinette Watkins and Amy Sweasy also agreed to serve on the Executive Committee. Further, the Minnesota Supreme Court accepted the Executive Committee's recommendations and appointed public members Bridgett Gay and Calista Moxley. The Court also appointed Derek Goodman and Darrin Rosha, MSBA's recommended candidates. The Board is fortunate to have the skills, background, and dedication of these new members. Additional information regarding Board members can be found at A. 1 -A. 2.

The Board notes its gratitude for the framework of dedication and excellence that their predecessors Benjamin Butler and Kristi Paulson set for Board operations, as well as providing extensive training and direction to the Chair, Vice Chair, and new members, and extending their terms to accommodate the Chair's transition. Finally, the Board continues to benefit from the exemplary work of staff member Ava Shannon, who provides invaluable assistance behind the scenes and in communicating with the public.

B. Rule Updates.

The Board continued its substantive work of advising the Minnesota Supreme Court on procedural and substantive matters concerning Minnesota's attorney regulation system. Such matters included:

1. The Minnesota Supreme Court asked the Board to consider whether amendments to Rule 16, RLPR, allowing the temporary suspension of a law license are warranted to address extreme situations where a lawyer may be a danger to public safety. After extensive work by the Rules Committee and deliberation by the Board, a Report with the Board's recommendations was filed with the Court on January 30, 2026.

2. The Board is evaluating potential changes to Rule 4.2, MRPC, which pertains to transactions with individuals other than clients. This is currently being considered by the Rules committee, led by Board member Melissa Manderscheid.

3. The Rules Committee is also considering whether changes to DEC member term limits are merited under Rule 3, RLPR.

4. In May 2026, the Minnesota Supreme Court approved proposed amendments to Rules 1.8 and 3.8 of the MRPC. The amendment to Rule 1.8 allows modest gifts toward basic living expenses to indigent pro bono clients, subject to restrictions. The amendments to Rule 3.8 provide clarifying language on a prosecutor's responsibilities pertaining to exculpatory evidence.

C. DOJ Comment Letter.

In March 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") proposed a rule that would require state ethics complaints against its government attorneys to be turned over to the DOJ to review and investigate first—and potentially require independent state bodies to suspend their investigation and proceedings. Because the issue involved the Board's independent oversight over attorney discipline in Minnesota, on April 3,

2026, the Board filed a short comment opposing the rule change on the grounds set forth in specific arguments by the National Organization of Bar Counsel. Specifically, the letter stated that "the rule proposal unlawfully and unconstitutionally intrudes on state authority to enforce state discipline rules" and that the proposed amendments "would materially interfere with the public protection function of state disciplinary authorities." The Board took no position on the other arguments. The Board's letter can be found on its website at https://lprb.mncourts.gov/lprb-files-comment-on-proposed-doj-rule.

D. Complainant Appeals.

As the Court knows, the Board strives to resolve complainant appeals and other similar matters in 30 days or less following assignment. The Board met that goal this year by averaging 27 days to resolve complainant appeals, whether there had been an OLPR investigation or not. Our volunteer Board members are committed to producing timely, high-quality work that fairly evaluates each party's position before reaching a just decision. Further information about those appeals can be found in Section III(D) of this report.

E. Training and Web Site.

The Board continued to prioritize Board training and outreach in 2025-2026. In July 2025, Justice Gordon Moore, III, led Board members on a tour of the Supreme Court's facilities in the State Capitol building. The Board also participated in OLPR's annual CLE in the fall of 2025, where outgoing Chair Ben Butler was awarded Volunteer of the Year, and a Board member led a presentation on trust accounting. New Board members starting in February 2026 attended a training by outgoing Chair Ben Butler in March 2026. Separately, Panel Chairs continue to provide invaluable mentorship and guidance to their panel's members. Finally, the Board is grateful to have a new web site (*lprb.mncourts.gov*) which more clearly and transparently sets forth the Board's function to the public and differentiates its role from the OLPR.

III. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.

A. Budget.

Expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, are projected to be approximately $4.4 million. The projected reserve balance at the end of FY26 is anticipated to be approximately $700,000. FY26 expenses were favorable to budget, and revenues were also favorable to budget. Expense savings included salary savings, moving savings and deferred expenditures on IT and professional service projects. Revenue receipts were modestly higher than anticipated due to above budget annual registration fees.

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. FY26 projected revenue from all sources is just over $4.7 million.

In October 2024, the Court approved an increase in lawyer registration fees to supplement funding for the LPRB/OLPR. The increase went into effect on January 1, 2025, increasing funding from $146 for most lawyers to $171. One cost saving measure that was implemented in FY25 and realized in FY26 was a move from Town Square Plaza in downtown St. Paul to a significantly reduced footprint at the Minnesota Justice Center. This move was made possible by space opening at the Minnesota Judicial Center that was not previously available. This move resulted in lease savings as well as enhanced security since the Minnesota Judicial 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. Because of reduced expenditures, FY26 was the first year in a long time that receipts exceeded expenses, although forecasts continue to show expenses outpacing revenue receipts due to generally flat year over year attorney admissions.

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 supplement auditing services. The Office also employs a temporary, part-time attorney in a job-sharing arrangement with the Board of Law Examiners and hired a summer law clerk for additional temporary assistance. In FY26, two long-term employees, senior attorney Tim Burke and senior paralegal Patricia LaRue, retired. Mr. Burke retired after 33 years in the Office, during which he tried numerous cases and argued 53 cases before the Minnesota Supreme Court. Ms. LaRue retired after 25 years of dedicated service, setting the standard for customer service to complainants. The Office is fortunate to have a talented team of employees focused on the mission of protecting the public and strengthening the profession, and in recent years staff has expanded to include separate support for the Board and Supreme Court referees who handle discipline hearings, which support was greatly needed. The Office also pays portions of other Judicial Branch personnel for assistance with payroll and financial matters.

Justice Gordon Moore, III, continues to serve as the liaison justice to the Board and Office. Justice Moore has been a terrific resource, and we continue to appreciate the entire Court's commitment and support of the professional responsibility system in Minnesota.

C. Websites and Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board SharePoint Sites.

In FY26, the Office launched a new website at a new URL (olpr.mncourts.gov), along with a new website for the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board (lprb.mncourts.gov). The new OLPR site allows increased functionality regarding submission of documents with on-line complaints, and greatly expanded content, focused on providing more context and explanations for the public considering filing a complaint, as well as expanded resources for practicing attorneys. Additionally, both websites are now mobile-friendly! The dedicated website for the Lawyers Board was a recommendation of the ABA consultation and serves to highlight the distinction of the Lawyers Board from the Office, something frequently confused by lawyers and public members alike.

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 Board's administrative assistant. The Office employs a full-time DEC/SharePoint Coordinator as the main contact for volunteers regarding questions about the sites as well as their volunteer service. The Office has implemented the secure 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. There are numerous ways to support and participate in the regulation of the legal profession and interested individuals should visit https://olpr.mncourts.gov/about/dec-volunteer-information.

D. Complainant Appeals.

Under Rule 8(e), RLPR, a dissatisfied complainant has the right to appeal most dismissals and all private discipline dispositions. Minnesota is one of only a few jurisdictions to have robust complainant appeal options. 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 213 complainant appeal determinations in 2025, compared to 152 appeal determinations in 2024. Of those 213 determinations, 180 complainant appeals were both assigned to reviewing Board members and completed in 2025.

A breakdown of the 213 determinations made by reviewing Board members in 2025 is as follows:

		%
Approve Director's Disposition	188	90
Direct Further Investigation	6	3
Instruct Director to Issue an Admonition	1	0
Appeal Withdrawn	1	0
New File Opened	1	0
Not Appealable	1	0
Not Timely	15	7

Complainant appeals go directly to the Board and are processed by the Board's administrative assistant. 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 2025, the Director opened 8 new probation matters, seven of which were public and one private. Thirty-eight percent of the new public probations were supervised; none of the new private probations were supervised. Six of the new probations were ordered as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law. In 2025, the Director filed one private probation violation petition. There was one filed in 2024 as well.

Probations involving mental health and chemical dependency remain an ongoing concern. In 2025, two of the 8 new probations, or 25%, involved lawyers with

mental health issues or substance use issues. Of the 52 open probations in 2025, 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 probationers to disability inactive status. One of the new probations resulted from violations of rules relating to safekeeping of property. Four of the 2025 probations involved experienced lawyers who had 30 or more years of practice; two had 50 or more years of practice.

During 2025, 12 Minnesota attorneys served as volunteer probation supervisors. Their volunteer service to assist lawyers in need is greatly appreciated. Seven attorneys, seven 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 2025, the Director's Office received 1,789 requests for advisory opinions, an increase from 1,704 requests in 2024. (A. 11.) Table XIII at A. 12 shows the areas of inquiry of opinions.

In 2025, the Director's Office expended 318 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 various aspects of communication obligations (Rule 1.4), conflict of interests (Rule 1.7/1.9), withdrawal from representation (Rule 1.16), and duty to report attorney misconduct (Rule 8.3). Confidentiality and conflicts are always frequent areas of inquiry. Other top areas of frequent inquiry include trust accounts and handling of closed files.

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. One of the main goals of updating the agreements in 2023 was to revise the comparability compliance with current rate sheets to proactively capture the increases in interest rates to better fund the IOLTA program.

In 2025, eighteen account overdraft notices were reported to the Director, which was five less than the number reported in 2024 (23). During 2025, the Director converted four overdraft inquiries into disciplinary files. One file was converted due to an inadequate response from the lawyer, and the remainder were converted due to the failure to maintain the required books and records. The Director closed 14 overdraft inquiries in 2025. Of these closures, 12 were closed without a disciplinary investigation. In five of these closures, or 42%, 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 2025, the 12 overdraft inquiries closed without a disciplinary investigation were closed for the following reasons:

Overdraft Cause	**No. of Closings**
Check written in error on TA	1
Bank error	7
Late deposit	2
Mathematical/clerical error	1
Bank hold on funds	1
Other	2

A total of 220 hours – 40 hours of attorney time and 180 hours of auditor/staff time – was spent administering the overdraft program in 2025. 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 2025, approximately[1] 3167 overdrafts have been reported to the Director. Of those total overdrafts, 400, or approximately 12.6%, were converted to disciplinary investigations. Those 400 disciplinary investigations were resolved as follows:

Public Dispositions:	
Disbarment	27
Suspension	84
Public reprimand/probation	40
Disability inactive status	6
Total Public	157
Private Dispositions:	
Private probation	137
Admonition	62
Panel admonition	4
Dismissals	33
Total private	236

At the conclusion of 2025, four disciplinary investigations from overdraft were ongoing.

H. Judgments and Collections.

In 2025, judgments totaling $17,716 were entered in 19 disciplinary matters. The Director's Office collected a total of $9,925 from judgments and orders entered during or prior to 2025. By comparison, in 2024, judgments totaling $31,936 were entered in 26 disciplinary matters. Overall, the amount collected in prior years is as follows: $30,712 (2024); $39,208 (2023); $23,986 (2022) and $28,685 (2021). 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. This is an area of needed rule amendment.

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

I. Disclosures.

The disclosure department responds to written requests for attorney disciplinary records. Public discipline is always disclosed. Private discipline is disclosed 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. In 2025, the Office saw an increase in disclosure requests (882) compared to 2024 (750). The following formal requests were received in 2025:

		No. of Requests	No. of Attorneys	Discipline Disclosed	Open Files
A.	National Conference of Bar Examiners	222	222	~~5~~	0
B.	Individual Attorneys	313	311	6	5
C.	MSBA	16	39	8	5
D.	Governor's Office	38	97	4	0
E.	Other State Discipline Counsels/State Bars or Federal Jurisdiction	225	220	1	3
F.	F.B.I.	30	29	0	0
G.	Miscellaneous Requests	38	38	4	1
	TOTAL	**882**	**956**	**28**	**14**
	2024 totals for comparison)	750	971	46	3

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 FY26, significant resources of the Office were dedicated to inventorying and returning client files and 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 completed her inventory of the files, contacted clients whose files are less than seven years old and/or contain a valuable original document(s), and returned or destroyed files pursuant to the clients' wishes. The Director is finalizing her investigation regarding potential client funds and determining entitlement to those funds and anticipates closing this trusteeship soon.

In December 2025, the Director was appointed trustee over the client files belonging to disabled attorney Julian Zweber. Mr. Zweber was in practice for more than 40 years and had client files in storage going back to the 1980s. In total, after arranging for secure destruction of the oldest files, the Director received more than 200 banker boxes of records from Mr. Zweber's law office and offsite storage. The Director is currently conducting an inventory of the files and, upon completion, will begin contacting clients whose files are less than seven years old or contain valuable original documents.

In May 2026, the Director was appointed trustee over the client files belonging to deceased attorney Andrew M. Leone and has received those documents. Mr. Leone's family also discovered a previously unreported IOLTA account, and the Director has been appointed trustee over those client funds in order to disburse them.

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

- Steven B. Szarke trusteeship –valuable original documents are eligible for expunction in December 2026.
- Aleksandra Ljubisavljevic – valuable original documents are eligible for expunction in July 2027.

- Patricia G. Mattos – valuable original documents 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 2025 (December 1, 2024 —November 30, 2025), there were 62 new professional firm filings and 1,968 renewing firms. Fees collected from professional firm filings are included in the Office's annual budget. As of May 19, 2026, the Director's Office received $54,525 from professional firm filings during fiscal year 2026.

An assistant director, paralegal, and administrative clerk staff the professional firms department. For fiscal year 2026 (as of May 19, 2026), the total attorney work time

for overseeing the professional firms department was approximately 31 hours. The total non-attorney time was 738 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 204 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 2025, the Director's Office followed DEC recommendations in 87% of matters investigated among those that were closed during the year. This is consistent with prior year numbers.

In 2025, the monthly average number of files under DEC consideration was 111, fluctuating between a low of 103 and a high of 122. The year-to-date average for 2026 is 120, as of April 2026. Rule 7(c), RLPR, provides a 90-day goal for completing the DEC portion of the investigation. For calendar year 2025, the DECs completed 292 investigations, taking an average of four months to complete each investigation.

For calendar year 2025, files closed that had a DEC investigation included the following dispositions (measured by the number of files, rather than lawyers):

Admonition	66
Discipline not warranted	201
Panel Admonition Affirmed	1
Private Probation	1
SC Suspension	8
SC Disability	3

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 April 24, 2026, ten 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 recruiting challenges. Additionally, due to the large volume of investigations that need to be conducted, the Office is working with DEC Chairs to increase overall investigators to address the bandwidth issues the DECs are regularly encountering. Each DEC strives to keep investigations per volunteer to one or two a year, which has been challenging during the last couple of years.

V. SUMMARY.

FY26 was a year of challenge and transition for the Board and the OLPR. The continued volume of new complaints and the number of investigations remain high, although at this point resulting discipline has not increased. File inventory and case processing times continue to be a significant challenge and continued area of focus. The Board transitioned to new leadership after the successful tenures of outgoing Board Members Ben Butler (Chair) and Kristi Paulson (Vice Chair). The Board and Office are excited to work with new Board leadership, Carol Washington (Chair) and Amy Sweasy (Vice Chair). New Board and OLPR team members continue to gain expertise and experience. 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 and appreciate the Court's interest in additional potential rule changes. Although time-consuming to consider and

implement, periodic rule changes enhance the efficacy of our work. In this regard, 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.

The Office's first full year at the Minnesota Judical Center was a highlight. The proximity to the Board's courtroom on the second floor, the Supreme Court's courtroom on the third floor (and at the State Capitol), and the additional security are natural benefits of officing at MJC, where the Office was located in the 1990s. Another highlight was the launch of new websites for both the OLPR and LPRB, with significantly enhanced functionality, including, finally, being mobile friendly. 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, 2026.

For the Board:

/s/Carol R. Washington
CAROL R. WASHINGTON
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

Kris Fredrick, Blaine - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2028. MSBA Nominee. General Counsel at Infinite Campus, Inc. Former Partner at Quarles & Brady, LLC and General Counsel for the Honeywell Labs. Member of the Minnesota State Bar Association Board of Governors and former Chair of the MSBA Diversity & Inclusion Council. Licensed patent attorney and longstanding pro bono immigration counsel.

Brigette Gay, Minneapolis - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2029. Curriculum Program Manager for the University of Minnesota Law School for 5 years. Has worked for 10 years at the University of Minnesota in various administrative roles, previously working in the College of Biological Sciences and the Medical School.

Derek H. Goodman, Minneapolis - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2029. MSBA Nominee. General Counsel at Schafer Richardson, a real estate investment, development and construction firm.

Thomas 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. Masters 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 an associates degree in criminal justice.

Frank Leo, Lakeville - Public member. Term expires January 21, 2029. 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 21, 2029. 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. Currently the Washington County Attorney. He is active in several nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Melissa Manderschied, St. Paul - Attorney member. Term expires January 21, 2029. 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.

Calista Moxey, Austin - Public member. Term expires January 31, 2029. Paralegal with the Minnesota Public Defender's Office. Eight years of Paralegal experience, working on dissolution matters, custody, domestic violence (OFPs), spousal maintenance, evictions, housing discrimination, housing repair issues, public benefit denials, criminal & housing expungements, child protection, Foster Care Maltreatment Licensing Appeals & Child Care Licensing Maltreatment Appeals, EDDD, and criminal law. Masters in the Study of 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.

William Z. Pentelovitch, Minneapolis - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2028. Of counsel at Maslon, LLP. Senior Legal Advisor to ACLU of Minnesota. In practice over 50 years specializing in complex commercial litigation and civil rights matters. Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers. 2020 Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota State Bar Association. Served on the Fourth District Ethics Committee. Served eight years on Civil Trial Certification Council of the MSBA. Commissioner, Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission 2023-present. Has served and continues to serve on multiple nonprofit boards.

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 as well as serving on a number of statewide project teams dedicated to improving remote hearings and ensuring access to 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.

Darrin M. Rosha, Independence - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2029. MSBA Nominee. Private practice attorney with the Rosha Legal Group in Long Lake, with a focus on business law. Former Judge Advocate in the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Amy Sweasy, Minneapolis - Attorney member. Term expires January 31, 2028. Professor at the University of Minnesota Law School teaching Professional Responsibility/Ethics, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence. Former Assistant Hennepin County Attorney for 28 years. Previously served on the Hennepin County District Ethics Committee.

Sharon H. Van Leer, Woodbury - Public member. Term expires January 21, 2029. Director for Culture & Inclusion at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Serves as Board Vice Chair for South Washington County School District 833. Served on Fourth District Ethics Screening Committee and the Tenth District Judicial Selection Committee.

Carol ("Carrie") R. Washington, Minneapolis - Attorney member. LPRB Chair. Term expires January 31, 2029. 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. Assistant Attorney General in the Wage Theft Division.

Table I
Complaint Statistics 2001–2025

Year	Files Opened	Files Closed
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
2025	1572	1491

TABLE II
Supreme Court Dispositions and Reinstatements 2016-2025
Number of Lawyers

	Disbar.	Susp.	Reprimand Probation	Reprimand	Dismissal	Reinstated	Reinstate Denied	Disability	SC AD/Aff	Other	Total
2016	6	27	4	6	2	20	2	2	1	1[1]	71
2017	5	26	5	4	-	12	-	3	1	1[2]	57
2018	8	23	8	6	-	12	-	6	1	1[1]	65
2019	5	22	4	4	-	10	1	1	1	-	48
2020	3	24	5	1	-	10	-	5	-	1[3]	49
2021	4	17	4	3	-	8	2	1	-		39
2022	5	21	6	4	1	8	-	3	-	1[4]	49
2023	3	24	1	0	0	12	4	2	0	0	46
2024	5	14	2	6	0	10	1	3	0	0	41
2025	6	8	1	3	0	9	2	5	0	0	34

[1]Reinstatement dismissed
[2]Supreme Court Probation Extended
[3]Stayed Disbarment
[4]Rule 30 Suspension

TABLE III
Disbarments, Suspensions, Probations and Reinstatements 2016-2025

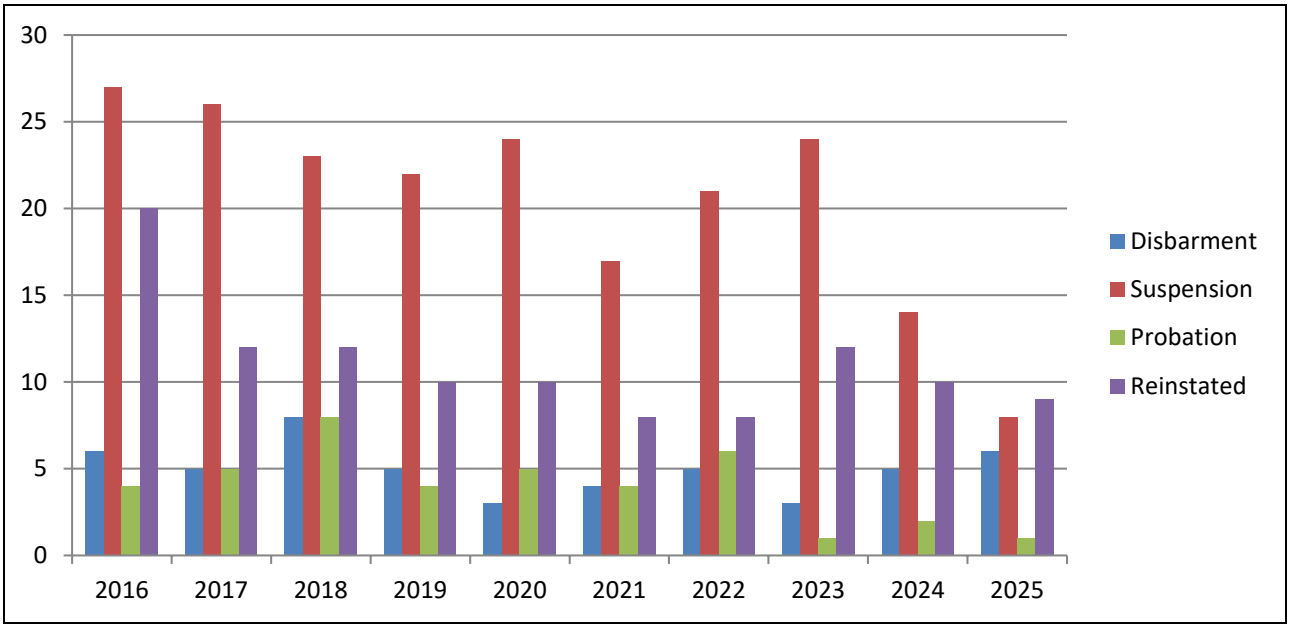
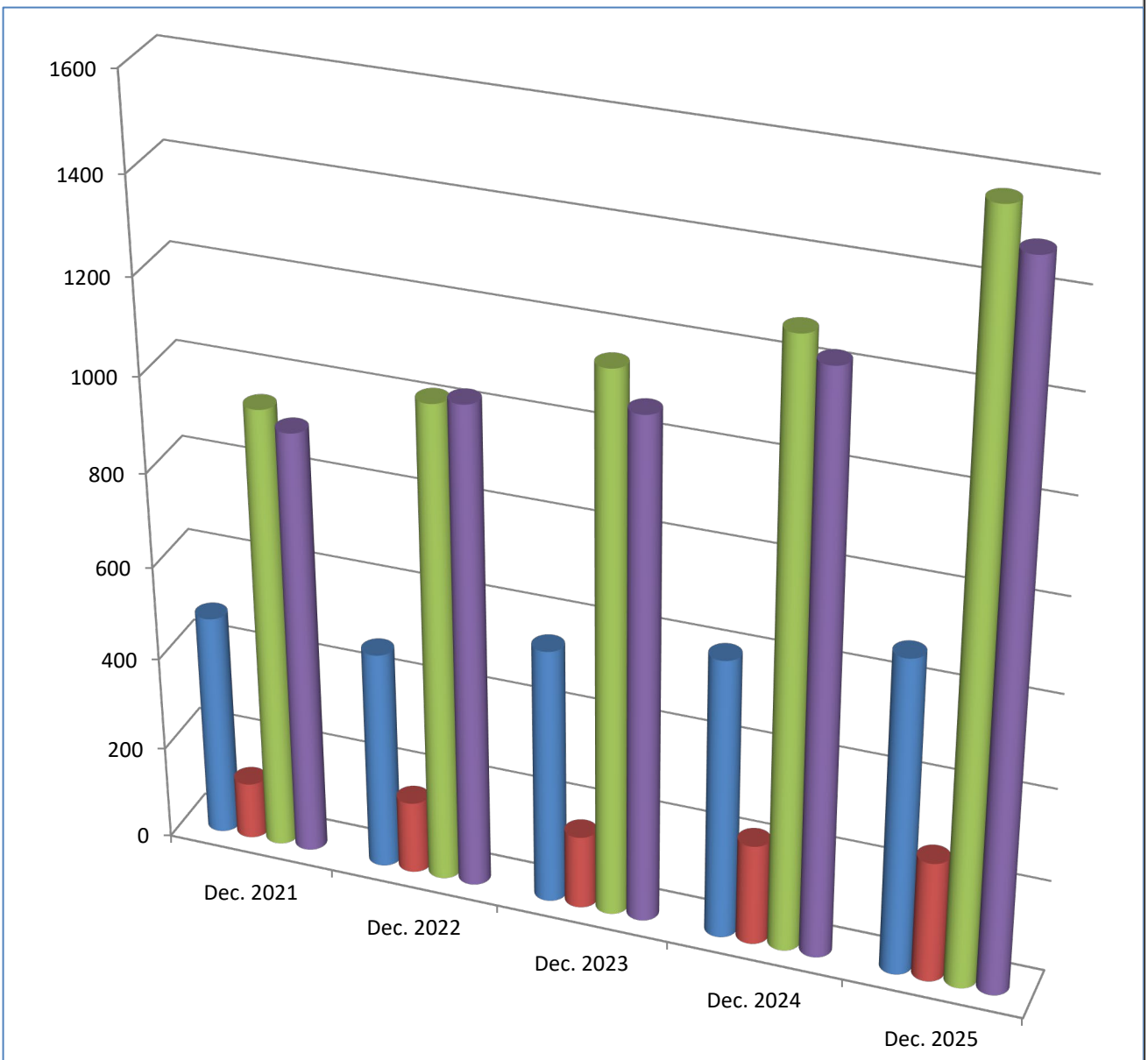


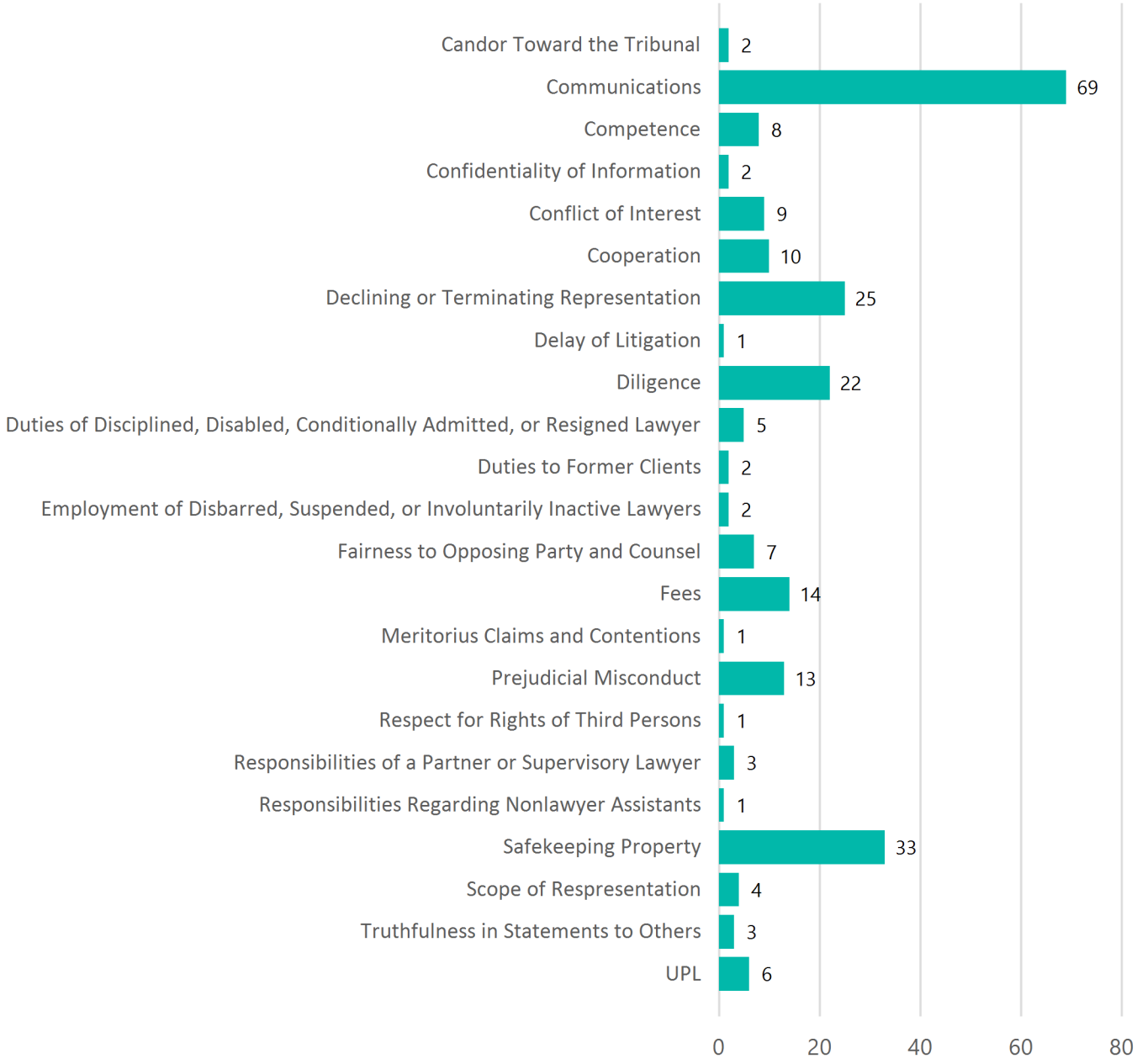
TABLE IV
File Openings, Closings and Year Old Files 2021-2025



	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2022	Dec. 2023	Dec. 2024	Dec. 2025
Total Open Files	479	471	551	604	681
Cases at Least One Year Old	122	156	158	218	261
Complaints Received YTD	946	1,020	1,151	1,278	1,572
Files Closed YTD	909	1,030	1,072	1,228	1,491

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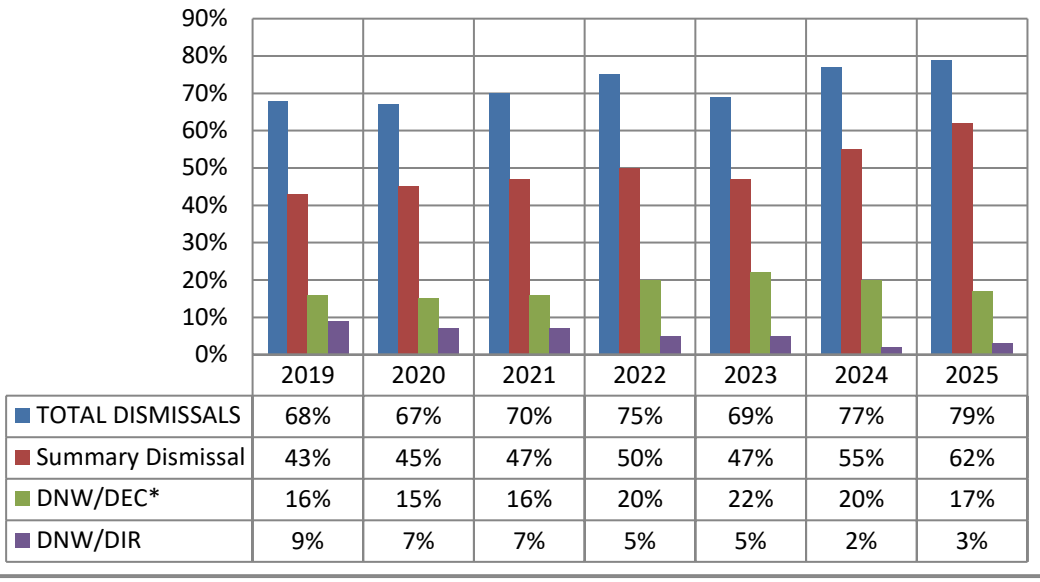
TABLE V: AREAS OF MISCONDUCT – ADMONITIONS 2025 *



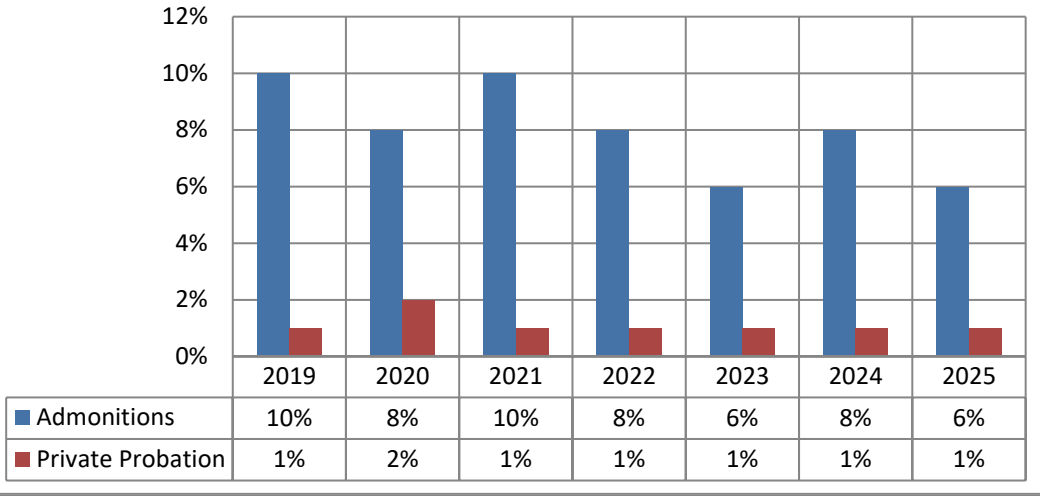
* Between 1/1/2025 AND 12/31/2025, the Office issued 92 admonitions involving 243 rule violations. This chart reflects the number of rule violations involved in those 92 admonitions, organized by area of misconduct. Typically, serious rule violations such as candor to the tribunal or lack of truthfulness would not result in an admonition. However, in these cases for an already suspended or disbarred lawyer, an admonition was issued as the least inappropriate discipline.

TABLE VI

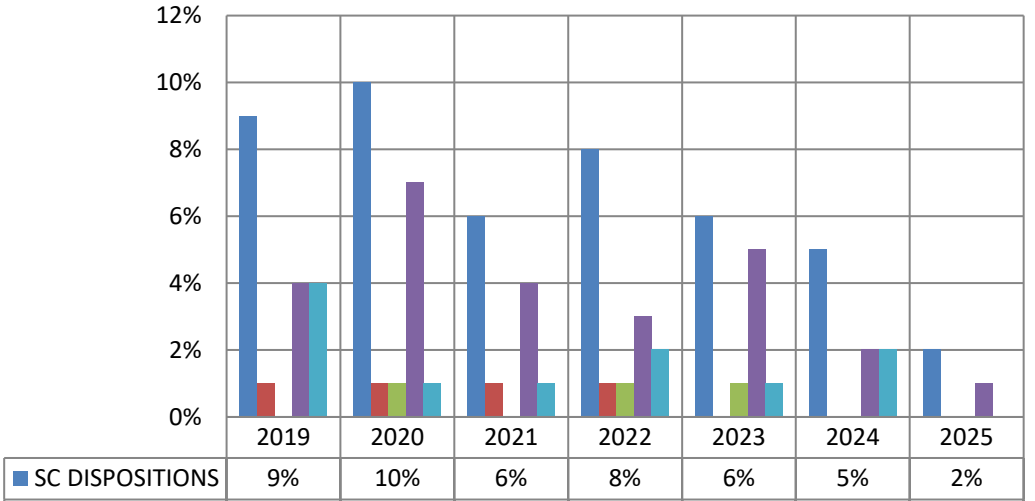
Percentage of Files Closed



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TOTAL DISMISSALS	68%	67%	70%	75%	69%	77%	79%
Summary Dismissal	43%	45%	47%	50%	47%	55%	62%
DNW/DEC*	16%	15%	16%	20%	22%	20%	17%
DNW/DIR	9%	7%	7%	5%	5%	2%	3%



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Admonitions	10%	8%	10%	8%	6%	8%	6%
Private Probation	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SC DISPOSITIONS	9%	10%	6%	8%	6%	5%	2%
SC Reprimand	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
SC Probation	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
SC Suspension	4%	7%	4%	3%	5%	2%	1%
SC Disbarment	4%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%

*Includes DEC Investigation files further investigated by the Director

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

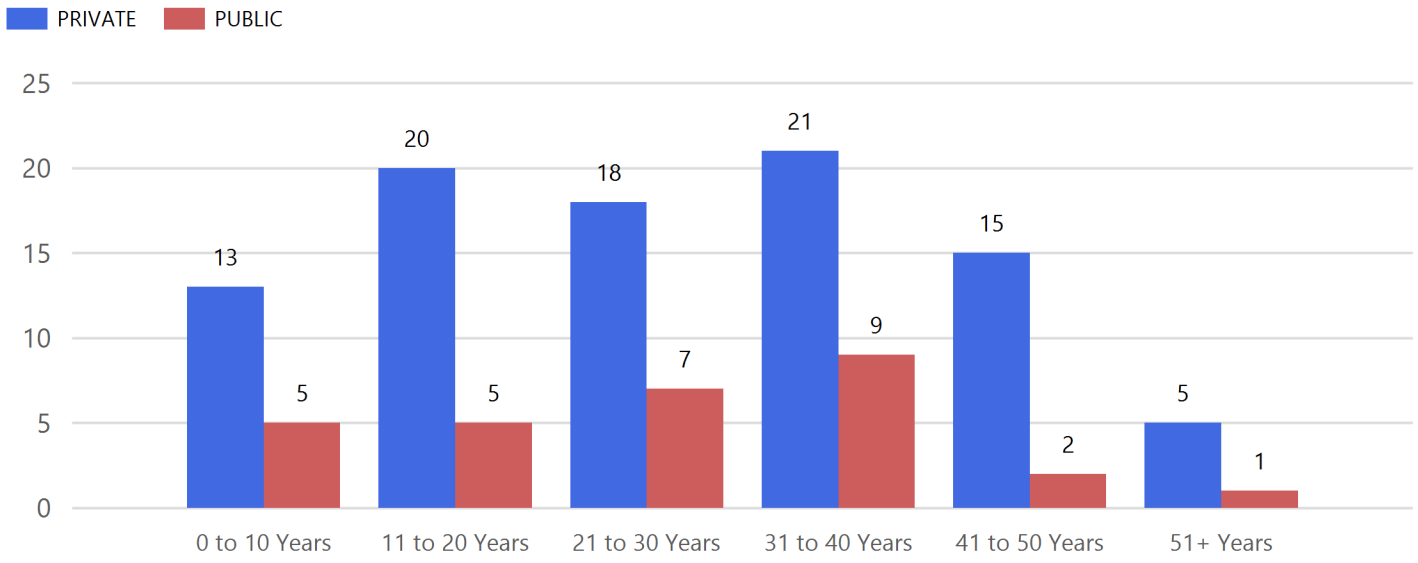


TABLE VIII: AVERAGE YEARS OF PRACTICE FOR LAWYERS DISCIPLINED - 2025

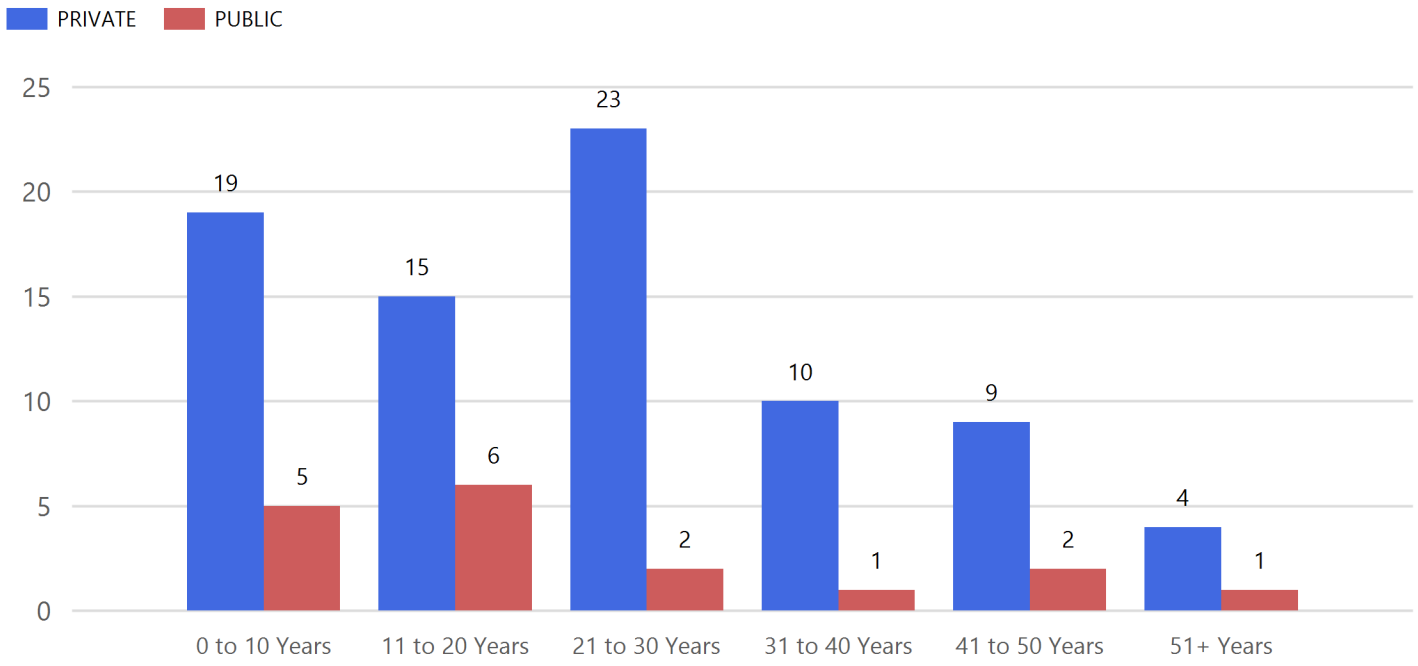
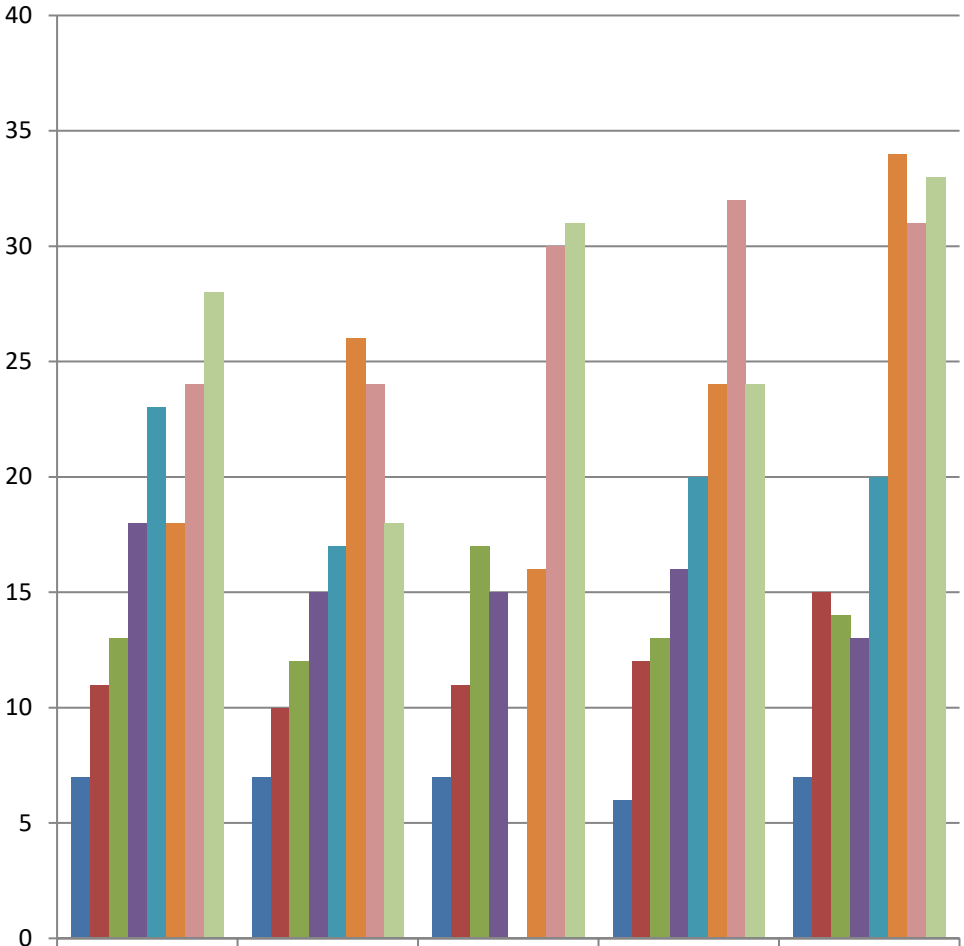


TABLE IX

Average Number of Months File was Open at Disposition



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
*DNW/DEC**	7	7	7	6	7
DNW/Director	11	10	11	12	15
Admonition	13	12	17	13	14
Private Probation	18	15	15	16	13
S.Ct. Reprimand	23	17	0	20	20
S.Ct. Reprimand & Probation	18	26	16	24	34
S.Ct. Suspension	24	24	30	32	31
S.Ct. Disbarment	28	18	31	24	33

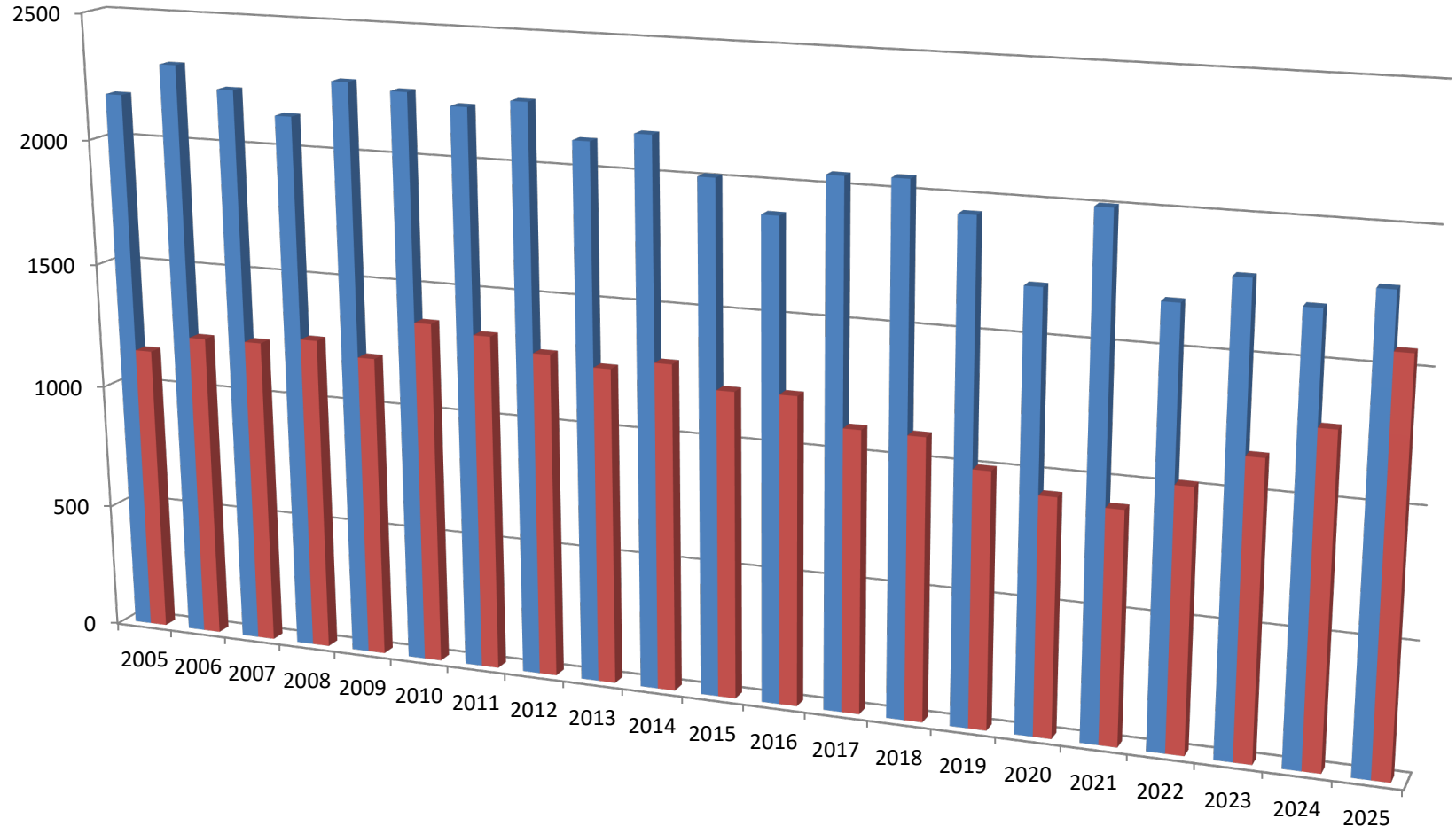
*Discipline Not Warranted
**District Ethics Committee

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TABLE X: PUBLIC DISCIPLINE DECISIONS 2025

Determination Year	Disbarments	Suspensions (all)	Reprimand and Probations	Reprimands	Year Total
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
2025	6	8	1	3	18
Total	**206**	**694**	**226**	**99**	**1225**

TABLE XI
Advisory Opinion Requests Received
and
Number of Complaints Opened
2005 – 2025



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Advisory Opinions Received	2177	2307	2223	2135	2282	2258	2215	2249	2116	2156	2012	1888	2051	2057	1943	1700	2004	1683	1792	1704	1789
Complaints Opened	1150	1222	1226	1257	1206	1365	1337	1287	1253	1293	1210	1216	1110	1107	1003	930	909	1020	1151	1278	1572

Table XIII			
Advisory Opinions Subject Matter by Rule*			
Rule	Description	2024	2025
1.1	Competence	36	29
1.2	Scope of Representation	51	44
1.3	Diligence	14	7
1.4	Communication	137	133
1.5	Fee Agreements and Fees - Generally	82	64
1.6	Client Confidentiality	304	284
1.7	Conflict of Interest - Generally	267	280
1.8	Conflict of Interest - Transactions	61	52
1.9	Conflict - Former Clients Generally	170	146
1.10	Imputed Disqualification - Generally	49	48
1.11	Government Lawyer Conflicts Generally	17	17
1.12	Former Judges & Law Clerks	3	2
1.13	Organization as Client	18	12
1.14	Disabled Client - Generally	47	51
1.15	Trust Accounts - Generally	128	132
1.16	Withdrawal from Representation	330	277
1.17	Sale or Termination of Law Practice	7	12
1.18	Prospective Clients	47	47
2.1	Advisor	1	1
2.4	Lawyer Serving as 3rd Party Neutral	1	3
3.1	Meritorious Claims	22	20
3.2	Expediting Litigation	6	0
3.3	Candor Toward the Tribunal	53	55
3.4	Fairness to Opposing Counsel	26	34
3.5	Contact with jurors or venire	3	2
3.6	Trial Publicity	1	0
3.7	Attorney as Witness	24	18
3.8	Special Prosecutor Duties	6	9
3.9	Non-Adjudicative Proceedings	1	0
4.1	Candor to Others	15	2
4.2	Contact with Represented Party	64	61
4.3	Contact with Unrepresented Party	30	20
4.4	Respect for Third Persons' Rights	19	18
5.1	Supervisory Lawyers	6	1
5.2	Subordinate Lawyers	1	3
5.3	Non-Lawyer Employees	14	9
5.4	Professional Independence	13	13
5.5	Unauthorized Practice	66	65
5.6	Covenants Not to Compete	2	4
5.7	Responsibilities Regarding Law Related Services	7	0
5.8	Employment of Suspended Attorney	7	2
6.1	Voluntary Pro Bono	0	1
6.2	Accepting Appointments	1	0
6.3	Legal Services Organizations	0	1
6.5	Pro Bono Limited Legal Services Programs	2	0
7.1	Advertising Generally	25	17
7.2	Technical Requirements	16	12
7.3	Solicitation Generally	11	17
7.4	Specialization	2	2
7.5	Letterhead & Firm Name	2	1
8.1	Admission and Discipline	1	1
8.3	Duty to Report Attorney Misconduct	114	108
8.4	Misconduct	55	37
99	Dormant File Procedures	95	88
Totals	*Some numbers for 2024 were incorrect. They have been corrected.	2480	2262

OLPR SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MATTERS DECIDED

DETERMINATION DATES BETWEEN: 1/1/2025 AND 12/31/2025

34 DECISIONS INVOLVING 77 FILES

Supreme Court Disbarment	**6 ATTORNEYS**	**6 FILES**
BAIRD, STEPHEN J	A24-0457	1
MCCLOUD, SAMUEL A	A24-0509	1
MCNEILLY, KRISTI D	A22-0574	1
ODEGAARD, ANDERS L	A24-0336	1
PENA, ANA L	A24-1737	1
ROSENBERG, JAY A	A24-0670	1
Supreme Court Suspension	**7 ATTORNEYS**	**15 FILES**
CHMIELEWSKI, BRIAN D	A24-1883	1
DEAN, KAMILLE R	A24-1701	1
ERNSTON, COURTNEY J	A24-0601	1
LAVER, LARRY J	A24-1560	4
PETERS, FERDINAND F	A24-1984	3
SMITH, SUSAN S	A23-1890	3
STOUT, ZAYLORE S	A24-1527	2
Suspension & Reprimand	**1 ATTORNEYS**	**1 FILES**
DEHEN, JOHN P	A24-0694	1
Supreme Court Reprimand/Probation	**1 ATTORNEYS**	**3 FILES**
KENNEDY, PATRICK M	A24-1566	3
Supreme Court Reprimand	**3 ATTORNEYS**	**3 FILES**
HACKLANDER, LEE A	A25-0064	1
MARTINS, WESLEY R	A24-0417	1
RYAN, JOHN	A24-1620	1
Supreme Court Disability Status	**5 ATTORNEYS**	**37 FILES**
LEBLANC, JOSEPH J	A25-1072	18
MATTEY, GAIL E	A25-1426	5
MUCHA, VICTORIA A	A25-0794	1
OYEN, KRISTIAN L	A25-0009	12
WALKER, ELIZABETH A	A25-0141	1

Reinstated	**3 ATTORNEYS**	**3 FILES**
BLANE, MARK C	A25-0819	1
CHMIELEWSKI, BRIAN D	A24-1883	1
FORSTROM, ERIC A	A24-0746	1
Reinstatement/Probation	**6 ATTORNEYS**	**7 FILES**
DEAN, KAMILLE R	A24-1701	1
ERNSTON, COURTNEY J	A24-0601	1
ESSIEN, MICHAEL A	A24-0142	1
HENNEY, WILLIAM H	A24-1132	1
MILLER, DANIEL S	A24-1106	1
PETERS, FERDINAND F	A24-1984	1
Reinstatement Denied	**2 ATTORNEYS**	**2 FILES**
LAVER, LARRY J	A24-0875	1
SELMER, SCOTT	A23-0265	1

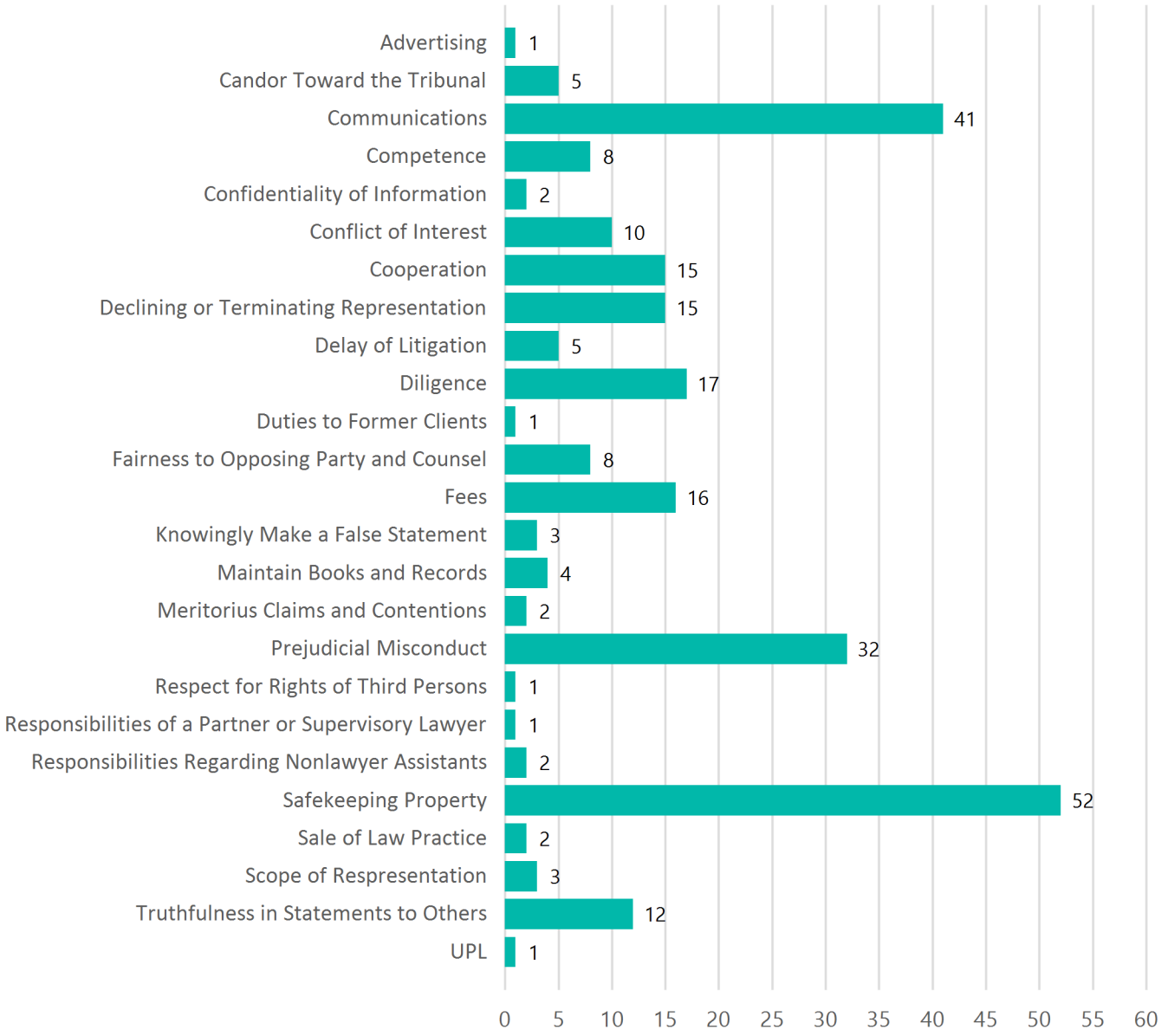
ANNUAL REPORT

PROBATION STATISTICS

	Files	Total
TOTAL PROBATION FILES as of December 31, 2025		
PUBLIC SUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 38%	20	
PUBLIC UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 27%	14	
PUBLIC PROBATION FILES TOTAL - 65%		**34**
PRIVATE SUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 17%	9	
PRIVATE UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES - 17%	9	
PRIVATE PROBATION FILES TOTAL - 34%		**18**
TOTAL PROBATION FILES OPEN DURING 2025		**52**
TOTAL PROBATION FILES		
Total Open Probation Files as of 1/1/2025		46
Total Probation Files Opened in 2025		8
Total Probation Files Closed in 2025		-11
Total Open Probation Files as of 12/31/2025		43
NEW PROBATION FILES OPENED IN 2025		
PUBLIC SUPERVISED PROBATION FILES	3	
PUBLIC UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES	4	
PUBLIC PROBATION FILES TOTAL		**7**
PRIVATE UNSUPERVISED PROBATION FILES	1	
PRIVATE PROBATION FILES TOTAL		**1**
NEW PROBATION FILES OPENED DURING 2025		**8**

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PROBATION AREAS OF MISCONDUCT - 2025



* Between 1/1/2025 AND 12/31/2025, there were 52 probations involving 259 rule violations.

This chart reflects the number of rule violations involved in those 52 probations, organized by area of misconduct.

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility
Speaking Engagements and Seminars July 2025 – June 2026

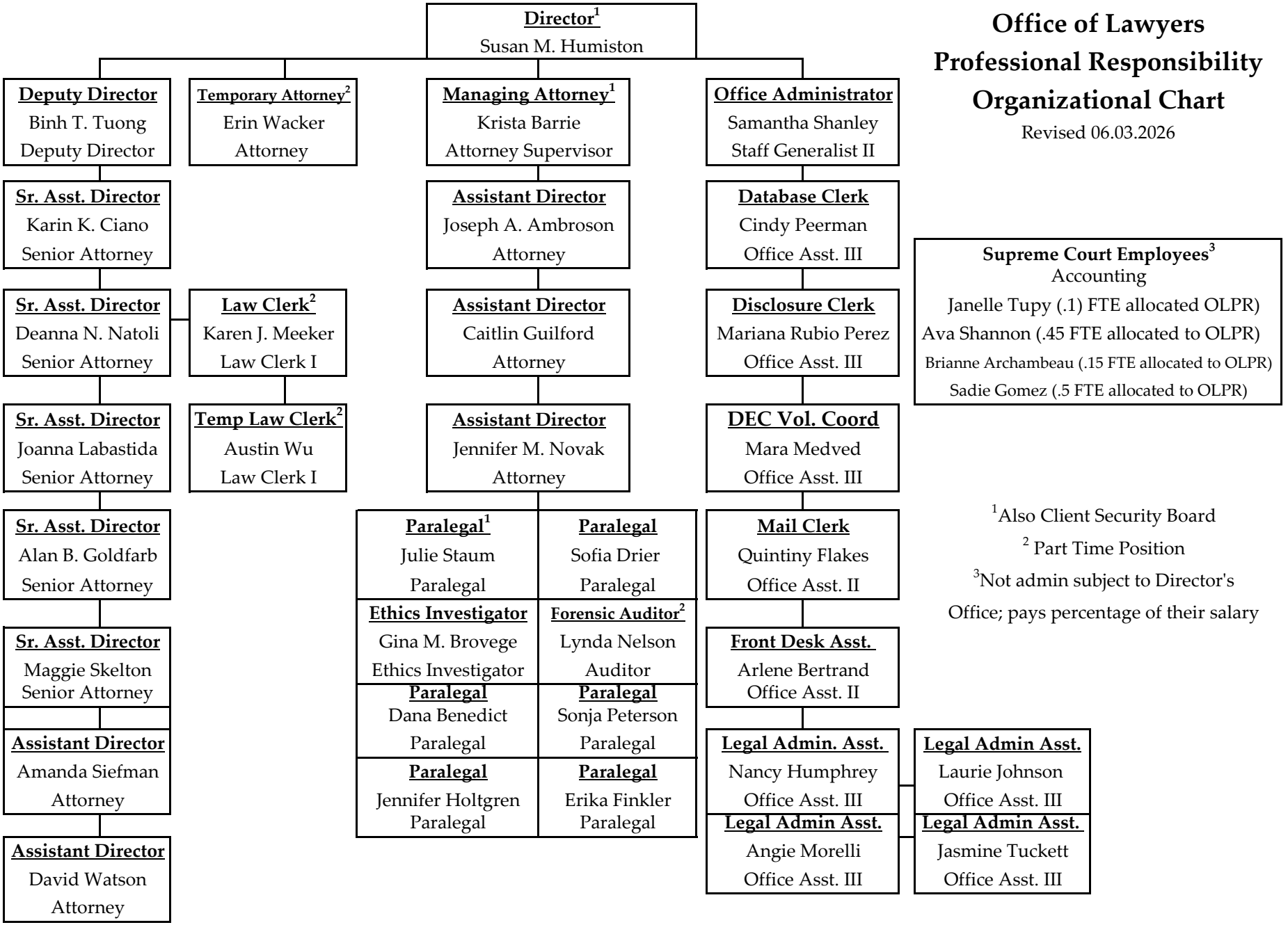
Date	Topic	Location	Organization	Initials
7/23/25	Ethics: 10 Things You Should Do Before Going on Vacation	MN CLE Webcast	MN CLE	SMH
7/28/25	Tips for Avoiding Common Ethics Violations	MN CLE Center	MN CLE	CG AS
7/29/25	Year in Review 2024	Remote	MN State Law Library	BTT
7/31/25	2025 Attorney Discipline Case Update for Estate Planners	Zoom	Probate Law Institute	JL CG
8/13/25	Picking the Low-Hanging Fruit: Five Favorite Ideas to Avoid Ethics Complaints	Remote	Ramsey County Law Library	KKC AS
9/15/25	Delivering Excellent Service: About the OLPR	Zoom	University of St. Thomas	JA
9/22/25	Legal Ethics Practicum	Zoom	Mitchell-Hamline Law School	CG JA
9/25/25	Ethics for Government Attorneys	Webcast	City of St. Paul	DNN JN
9/25/25	2024 Discipline Year in Review	Webcast	City of St. Paul	DNN JN
9/29/25	CLE Panel Presentation	Webcast	MN/Dakotas Chapter of American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)	ABG
10/22/25	Ethics of AI	MN Senate Office Bldg.	Revisor of Statutes	TMB
10/23/25	Things That Should Keep Fiduciaries Up At Night	Robins Kaplan LLP, Minneapolis	Robins Kaplan LLP	KKC
10/23/25	Professional Responsibility In MN: Practical Aspects	Minneapolis	U of M Law School PR Class	SMH
12/18/25	The Silent Epidemic: Confronting Bullying in the Legal Profession	MN CLE Center	MN CLE	KKC
1/14/26	Tips for Avoiding Common Ethics Violations	Webinar	Real Estate Institute	CG ALS
1/23/26	Who's Your Client? Ethical Issues in MA Applications, Appeals, and Probates	MN CLE Center	MN CLE	KKC
2/12/26	AI: A Regulator's Perspective	San Antonio	NOBC	SMH
2/19/26	Professional Responsibility (Discipline Counsel Perspective	Minneapolis	U of MN Law School PR Class	SMH
2/24/26	Ethics for the Public Law Attorney	Webcast	MSBA Public Law Section	SMH
2/26/26	Civil Practice Deskbook CLE – Ethics Tips for Civil Litigators	MN CLE Center	MN CLE	KKC
3/10/26	Ethics for Law Clerks	Webinar/Zoom	MN Judicial Branch	CG DGW
3/18/26	AI and the Practice of Law	St. Paul	Burger Inns of Court	SMH
4/15/26	Tips for Avoiding Common Ethics Violations	Webinar	Real Estate Institute	CG ALS
4/17/26	Year in Review – 2025	Remote	Henn. Co. Law Library	BTT
4/21/26	Attorney Ethics and AI	In-Person	Minnesota AGO	BTT

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility
Speaking Engagements and Seminars July 2025 – June 2026

4/22/26	Artificial Inanity? Ethical Issues Arising from the Use of AI in Estate Planning	MN CLE Center - In-Person	MN CLE	KKC
4/23/26	Crimmigration in Practice	In-Person	Nilan, Johnson, Lewis	CG ABG
5/6/26	2025 Discipline: Year in Review	Zoom	Anoka County Bar Association	DNN DGW
5/8/26	Ethics: The Advocates Dilemma in Troubling Times of Protest and Activism	Minneapolis	MN CLE Indian Law Seminar	SMH
5/29/26	2026 Upper Midwest Immigration Conference	UMN Law School	MN CLE	ABG
6/4/26	The Most Violated Ethics Rules and How to Avoid Them	Webcast	Legal Aid of Olmstead County	SMH
6/4/26	Ethics of Pro Bono Litigation	Webcast	Justice North	CG MRS
6/25/26	Understanding the Attorney Discipline System in MN	Webcast	State Law Library	SMH

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility Organizational Chart

Revised 06.03.2026



[1]Also Client Security Board

[2] Part Time Position

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