

## ANNUAL REPORT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA 2016 - 2017

### COMPLAINTS PENDING & RECEIVED:

Complaints Pending June 30, 2016	31	
Complaints Received July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	<u>270</u>	
<b>Total Complaints Pending and Received</b>		<b><u>301</u></b>

### DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:

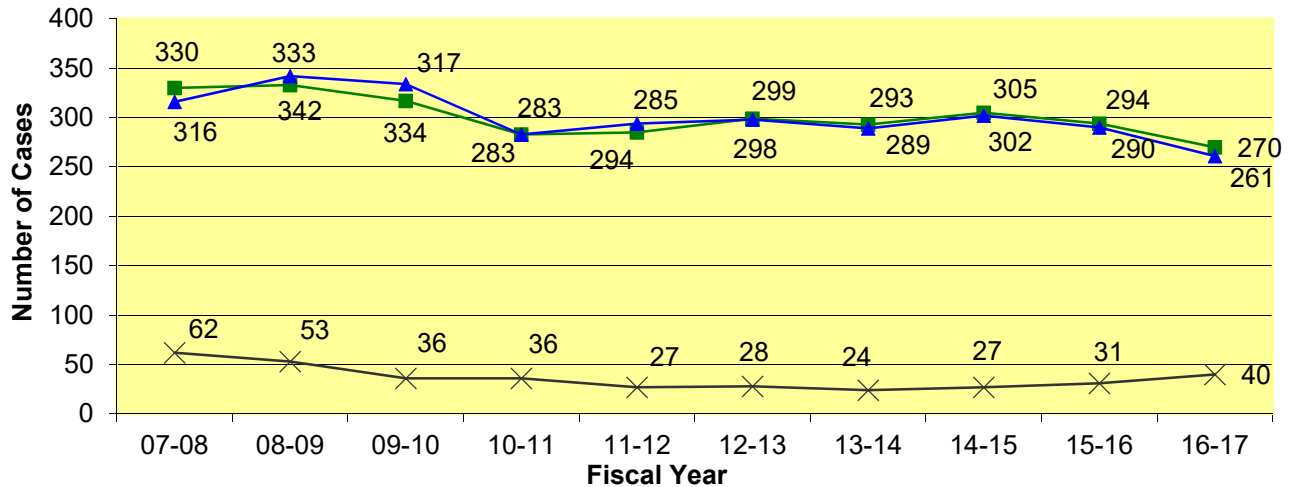
Dismissed:

By Disciplinary Counsel after initial review (no jurisdiction)	182	
By Disciplinary Counsel after investigation (lack of evidence)	22	
By Investigative Panel	45	
By Supreme Court	0	
<b>Total Dismissed</b>		<b><u>249</u></b>

Not Dismissed:

Referral to Another Agency	0	
Closed but not Dismissed	0	
Closed due to Death	1	
Deferred Discipline Agreement	0	
Letter of Caution	8	
Confidential Admonition	0	
Public Reprimand	1	
Suspension	2	
Removal from Office	<u>0</u>	
<b>Total Not Dismissed</b>		<b>12</b>

<b>Total Complaints Resolved</b>		<b><u>261</u></b>
<b>Total Complaints Pending as of June 30, 2017</b>		<b><u>40</u></b>



### JUDICIAL POSITION\*:

Magistrate	78	ALJ/Commissioner	6
Circuit Court Judge	74	Appellate Court Judge	2
Family Court Judge	48	Federal Judge	1
Probate Court Judge	31	Judicial Candidate	0
Municipal Court Judge	18	Unknown	2
Master/Referee	10		

\*These figures represent the number of complaints filed against each type of judge.

### SOURCE OF COMPLAINT:

Litigant	84.07%	
Family/Friend of Litigant	4.81%	
Another Judge	2.96%	<b>Less than 1.00%:</b>
Citizen (not involved in case)	1.85%	Family/Friend of Victim/Witness
Victim/Litigation Witness	1.11%	Anonymous
Self-Report	1.11%	Disciplinary Counsel
Employee	1.11%	Attorney
Public Official/Agency/Law Enforcement	1.11%	

### CASE TYPE:

Criminal	38.58%	
Domestic	17.60%	
Probate	10.11%	<b>Less than 1.00%:</b>
Post-Conviction Relief	4.87%	Real Estate
General Civil	4.49%	Regulatory/Zoning/Licensing
Debt Collection/Foreclosure	4.12%	Personal Injury
Not Case Related	4.12%	Employment
Property Dispute/Claim & Delivery	3.75%	Worker's Compensation
Professional Negligence	3.00%	Corporate/Business
Contract Dispute	2.62%	HOA Disputes
Landlord/Tenant	2.25%	

### ALLEGED MISCONDUCT:

Fairness/Bias/Prejudice	57.68%	<b>Less than 1.00%:</b>
Competence	16.01%	Failure to Maintain Decorum
Disqualification/Recusal/Conflict	7.49%	Supervision/Employee Relations
Civility/Temperament	5.24%	Political Activity/Campaign
Diligence	4.87%	Criminal Conduct
Ex Parte Communication	3.37%	
Improper Influence/Use of Office	1.50%	

## COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

### COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS:

Meetings of Investigative Panels	4
Formal Charges Filed	0
Disciplinary Hearings	0
Incapacity Proceedings	0
Meetings of Full Commission	1

### REQUESTS FOR DISMISSAL REVIEW:

Requests for Review by Complainant	5
Dismissal Affirmed	(5)
Case Remanded for Further Investigation	<u>(0)</u>
Dismissal Reviews Pending	0

### JUDGES BEING MONITORED:

New Monitor Files Opened	0
Judges Currently Monitored	0

## SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### DISCIPLINARY ORDERS\*:

Dismissal	0
Letter of Caution	0
Admonition	0
Public Reprimand	1
Definite Suspension	2
Removal from Office	0
Transfer to Incapacity Inactive	0
Interim Suspension	0

\*These figures represent the number of orders issued by the Supreme Court, not the number of complaints resolved. One disciplinary order might conclude multiple complaints.

### COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO SUPREME COURT:

Complaints resolved	3
Pending as of June 30, 2017	0