

ANNUAL REPORT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA 2018-2019

COMPLAINTS PENDING & RECEIVED:

Complaints Pending June 30, 2018	28	
Complaints Received July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	231	
Total Complaints Pending and Received		259

DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:

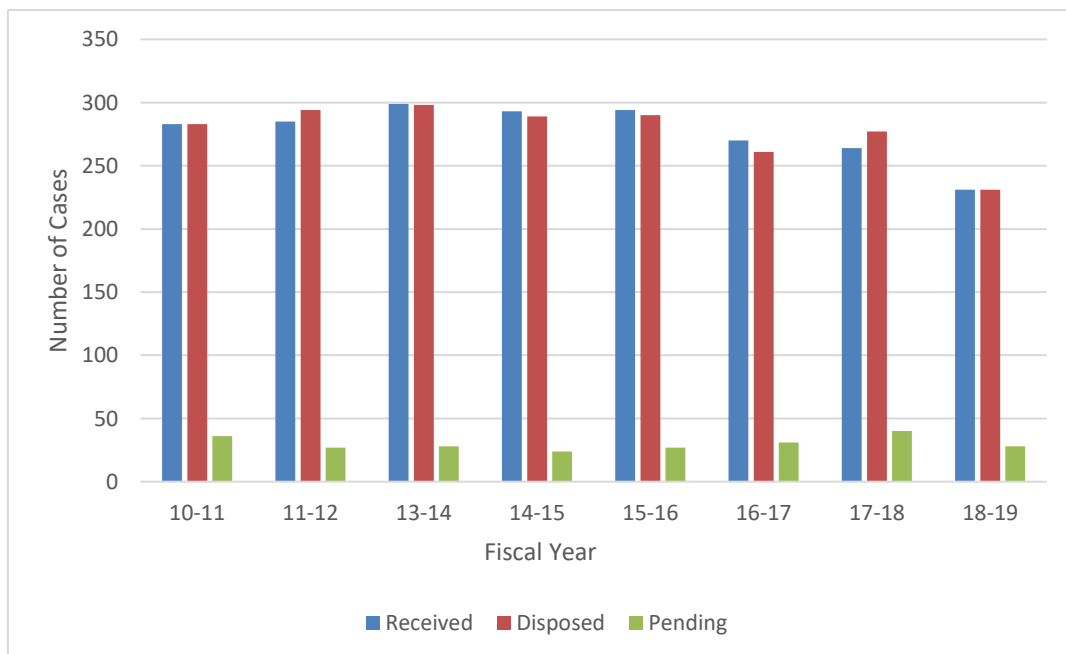
Dismissed:

By Disciplinary Counsel after initial review (no jurisdiction)	154	
By Disciplinary Counsel after investigation (lack of evidence)	9	
By Investigative Panel	59	
By Supreme Court	0	
Total Dismissed		222

Not Dismissed:

Referred to Other Agency	0	
Closed But not Dismissed	0	
Closed Due to Death	1	
Deferred Discipline Agreement	0	
Letter of Caution	5	
Admonition	0	
Public Reprimand	3	
Suspension	0	
Removal From Office	0	
Total Not Dismissed		9

Total Complaints Resolved	231
Total Complaints Pending as of June 30, 2019	28



JUDICIAL POSITION:

Circuit	28.57%	Less than 1%
Magistrate	27.27%	Referee
Family	19.48%	Administrative Law
Municipal	9.52%	Unknown
Probate	6.06%	
Master-In-Equity	3.90%	
Appellate	3.47%	

SOURCE OF COMPLAINT:

Litigant	80.52%	Less than 1%
Family/Friend of Litigant	8.66%	Disciplinary Counsel
Judge	2.60%	Public Official/Agency/Law Enforcement
Attorney	2.16%	Anonymous
Litigation Witness/Victim	1.30%	Self-Report
Citizen	1.30%	Employee

CASE TYPE:

Criminal	45.89%	Less than 1%
Domestic	18.18%	Unknown
General Civil	10.82%	Regulatory
Not Court Related	6.06%	Real Estate
Landlord/Tenant	5.63%	Post-Conviction Relief
Probate/Estate Planning	5.19%	Professional Malpractice
Property/Claim & Delivery	1.73%	Contract Dispute
Debt Collection/Foreclosure	1.73%	Personal Injury Property Damage
		Other

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT:

Fairness/Bias/Prejudice	55.41%	Less than 1%
Competence	9.96%	Criminal Conduct
Disqualification/Recusal/Conflict	9.09%	Supervision
Temperament/Civility	8.66%	Public Comment/Disclosure
Ex Parte Communication	3.03%	Civility
Unknown	3.03%	Unauthorized Practice
Improper Influence/Use of Position	2.60%	Maintaining Decorum
Diligence	2.16%	Political Activity/Campaign
Other Conduct	1.73%	

Note - the statistics on this page relate to the complaints received in FY 2018-19

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS:

Meetings of Investigative Panels	3
Formal Charges Filed	0
Formal Charges Hearings	0
Incapacity Proceedings	0
Meetings of Full Commission	1

REQUESTS FOR DISMISSAL REVIEW:

Requests for Review by Complainant	2
Dismissal Affirmed by Panel	2
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	0
Removal from Office	0
Transfer to Incapacity Inactive	0
Interim Suspension	2

*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, 2019	0