

**ANNUAL REPORT OF LAWYER DISCIPLINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA
2011 - 2012**

COMPLAINTS PENDING & RECEIVED:

Complaints Pending June 30, 2011	1029
Complaints Received July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	<u>1580</u>
Total Complaints Pending and Received	<u>2609</u>

DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:

Dismissed:

By Disciplinary Counsel after initial review	192
By Disciplinary Counsel after investigation	944
By Investigative Panel	157
By Supreme Court	<u>2</u>
Total Dismissed	1295

Not Dismissed:

Referred to Other Agency	3
Closed But Not Dismissed	26
Closed Due to Death of Lawyer	2
Deferred Discipline Agreement	8
Letter of Caution	206
Admonition	40
Public Reprimand	22
Suspension	77
Disbarment	55
Incapacity (reciprocal)	<u>1</u>
Total Not Dismissed	440

Total Complaints Concluded	<u>(1735)</u>
Total complaints pending as of June 30, 2012	874

Sources of Complaints

Client or family/friend of client	57.28%
Opposing party or family/friend	14.62%
Anonymous	6.77%
Bank (overdraft notice)	6.20%
Another attorney	4.37%
Third party payee (incl. court reporters)	2.28%
Disciplinary counsel	1.46%
Self-report	1.33%
Judge	1.27%
Family/friend of lawyer	<1.00%
Ward or family/friend of ward	<1.00%
Employee	<1.00%
Resolution of Fee Disputes Board	<1.00%
Prospective Client (solicitation cases)	<1.00%
Public Official/Agency	<1.00%
Law Enforcement	<1.00%
Other	<1.00%

Case Types

Criminal	35.57%
Domestic	15.51%
Real estate	3.54%
Personal Injury	3.16%
Post-conviction relief	3.04%
Probate	2.78%
Debt collection/foreclosure	2.41%
Workers' compensation	1.77%
Employment/labor	<1.00%
Bankruptcy	<1.00%
Immigration	<1.00%
Tax	<1.00%
Other civil matters	11.46%
Miscellaneous case types	1.01%
Advertising & solicitation	7.66%
Trust account issues	6.52%
Criminal conduct	1.39%
Personal conduct(noncriminal)	1.01%

Practice Types

Solo practice	40.83%	Mediator/arbitrator	<1.00%
Law firm	34.90%	Guardian <i>ad litem</i>	<1.00%
Public defender	15.86%	Corporate counsel	<1.00%
Prosecutor	4.08%	Not Practicing	<1.00%
Other government	2.29%		

COMMISSION ON LAWYER CONDUCT

COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS:

Meetings of Investigative Panels	12
Formal Charges Filed	9
Disciplinary Hearings	7
Incapacity Proceedings	0
Meetings of Full Commission	1

REQUESTS FOR DISMISSAL REVIEW:

Requests for Review by Complainant	108
Dismissal Affirmed	(87)
Case Remanded for Further Investigation	<u>(0)</u>
Dismissal Review Pending	21

ATTORNEYS TO PROTECT CLIENTS' INTERESTS:

Serving as of July 1, 2011	26
Appointed	+27
Discharged	<u>(20)</u>
Serving as of June 30, 2012	<u>33</u>

LAWYERS BEING MONITORED:

New Monitor Files Opened	77
Lawyers Currently Monitored	108

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

ATTORNEYS TO ASSIST DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL:

Complaints Assigned to Attorneys to Assist	29
Reports Filed by Attorneys to Assist	32
Outstanding Attorney to Assist Reports	14

SUPREME COURT

ORDERS*:

Dismissal	2
Letter of Caution	1
Admonition	4
Public Reprimand	15
Definite Suspension	19
Disbarment	10
Transfer to Incapacity Inactive	4
Interim Suspension	23

*These figures represent the number of orders issued by the Supreme Court, not complaints. Some orders conclude multiple complaints.

COMPLAINTS:

Complaints resolved	107
Pending as of June 30, 2012	40