

## ANNUAL REPORT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA 2019-2020

### COMPLAINTS PENDING & RECEIVED:

Complaints Pending June 30, 2019	28	
Complaints Received July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	190	
<b>Total Complaints Pending and Received</b>		<b>218</b>

### DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:

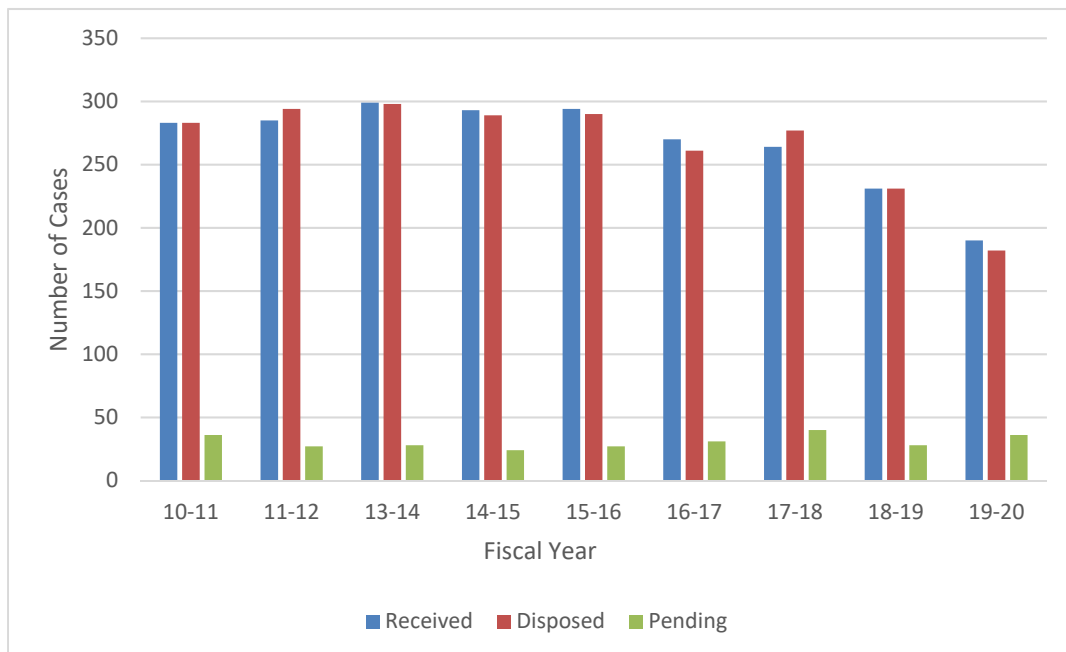
#### Dismissed:

By Disciplinary Counsel after initial review (no jurisdiction)	111	
By Disciplinary Counsel after investigation (lack of evidence)	9	
By Investigative Panel	59	
By Supreme Court	0	
<b>Total Dismissed</b>		<b>179</b>

#### Not Dismissed:

Referred to Other Agency	0	
Closed But not Dismissed	0	
Closed Due to Death	0	
Deferred Discipline Agreement	0	
Letter of Caution	2	
Admonition	1	
Public Reprimand	0	
Suspension	0	
Removal From Office	0	
<b>Total Not Dismissed</b>		<b>3</b>

<b>Total Complaints Resolved</b>		<b>182</b>
<b>Total Complaints Pending as of June 30, 2020</b>		<b>36</b>



**JUDICIAL POSITION:**

Circuit	32.63%	Less than 1%
Magistrate	27.89%	Appellate
Family	16.32%	
Probate	7.37%	
Municipal	6.32%	
Master-In-Equity	2.63%	
Unknown	2.63%	
Referee	2.11%	
Administrative		
Law	1.58%	

**SOURCE OF COMPLAINT:**

Litigant	85.26%	Less than 1%
Family/Friend of Litigant	4.21%	Disciplinary Counsel
Judge	2.11%	Public Official/Agency/Law Enforcement
Self-Report	2.11%	Anonymous
Litigation Witness/Victim	1.58%	Employee
Attorney	1.58%	
Unknown	1.58%	
Citizen	1.05%	

**CASE TYPE:**

Criminal	42.11%	Less than 1%
Domestic	15.79%	Debt Collection/Foreclosure
General Civil	12.11%	Professional Malpractice
Probate/Estate Planning	7.37%	Contract Disputes
Landlord/Tenant	5.79%	Personal Injury Property Damage
Not Court Related	3.68%	Other
Real Estate	3.16%	
Post Conviction Relief	2.63%	
Regulatory	2.63%	
Unknown	2.11%	
Property/Claim & Delivery	1.05%	

**ALLEGED MISCONDUCT:**

Fairness/Bias/Prejudice	48.95%	Criminal Conduct	1.05%
Disqualification/Recusal/Conflict	9.47%	Supervision	1.05%
Unknown	9.47%	Other Conduct	1.05%
Temperament/Civility	7.37%	Less than 1%	
Ex Parte Communication	6.84%	Communication	
Competence	5.79%	Unauthorized Practice	
Diligence	5.26%	Civility	
Maintaining Decorum	1.58%	Political Activity/Campaign	
Improper Influence/Use of Position	1.58%	Public Comment / Disclosure	

## **COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

### COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS:

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

### REQUESTS FOR DISMISSAL REVIEW:

Requests for Review by Complainant	1
Dismissal Affirmed by Panel	1
Case Remanded for Further Investigation	0
Dismissal Reviews Pending	0

### JUDGES BEING MONITORED:

New Monitor Files Opened	1
Judges Currently Monitored	0

## **SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

### DISCIPLINARY ORDERS\*:

Dismissal	0
Letter of Caution	0
Admonition	0
Public Reprimand	0
Definite Suspension	0
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	0
Pending as of June 30, 2019	0