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 1580
Total Complaints Pending and Received 2609

DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:
Dismissed:
By Disciplinary Counsel after initial review 192
By Disciplinary Counsel after investigation 944
By Investigative Panel 157
By Supreme Court 2
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) 1
Total Not Dismissed 440

Total Complaints Concluded (1735)
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%
Law firm 34.90%
Public defender 15.86%
Prosecutor 4.08%
Other government 2.29%
Mediator/arbitrator <1.00%
Guardian ad litem <1.00%
Corporate counsel <1.00%
Not Practicing <1.00%
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 (0)
Dismissal Review Pending 21

ATTORNEYS TO PROTECT CLIENTS’ INTERESTS:
Serving as of July 1, 2011 26
Appointed +27
Discharged (20)
Serving as of June 30, 2012 33

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