

**ANNUAL REPORT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA  
2013 - 2014**

**COMPLAINTS PENDING & RECEIVED:**

Complaints Pending June 30, 2013	28	
Complaints Received July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	<u>289</u>	
<b>Total Complaints Pending and Received</b>		<b><u>317</u></b>

**DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS:**

Dismissed:

By Disciplinary Counsel after initial review (no jurisdiction)	193	
By Disciplinary Counsel after investigation (lack of evidence)	27	
By Investigative Panel	54	
By Supreme Court	<u>0</u>	
Total Dismissed		<u>(274)</u>

Not Dismissed:

Referral to Another Agency	0	
Closed but not Dismissed	0	
Closed due to Death	0	
Deferred Disciplinary Agreement	0	
Letter of Caution	14	
Admonition	4	
Public Reprimand	1	
Suspension	0	
Removal from Office	<u>0</u>	
Total Not Dismissed		<u>(19)</u>
<b>Total Complaints Concluded</b>		<b><u>(293)</u></b>
<b>Total Complaints Pending as of June 30, 2014</b>		<b>24</b>

**JUDICIAL POSITION\*:**

Magistrate	94
Circuit Court	75
Family Court	56
Probate Court	26
Municipal Court	19
Master/Referee	10
Appellate Court	7
Judicial Candidate	1
Unidentified	1

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

**SOURCE OF COMPLAINT:**

Litigant	82.93%
Family/Friend of Litigant	6.97%
Citizen (not involved in case)	4.53%
Disciplinary Counsel	1.39%
Another Judge	1.39%
Attorney	1.05%
Family/Friend of Victim	<1.00%
Self-Report	<1.00%
Employee	<1.00%
Public Official/Agency	<1.00%
Law Enforcement	0.00%
Litigation Witness	0.00%

**CASE TYPE:**

Criminal	38.81%
Domestic	18.88%
General Civil	11.18%
Probate	8.39%
Not Case Related	5.59%
Post-Conviction Relief	4.55%
Property Disp./Claim & Deliv.	4.89%
Landlord/Tenant	2.80%
Debt Collection/Foreclosure	2.10%
Contract Dispute	1.05%
Real Estate	1.05%
Regulatory	<1.00%
Restraining Order	<1.00%
Personal Injury	0.00%
Employment	0.00%

**ALLEGED MISCONDUCT:**

Fairness/Bias/Prejudice	47.25%
Competence	26.01%
Disqualification/Recusal/Conflict	9.16%
Civility	4.03%
Temperament	3.30%
Ex Parte Communication	2.93%
Diligence	2.93%
Political Activity/Campaign	1.10%
Criminal Conduct	<1.00%
Trust Account Conduct	<1.00%
Supervision/Employee Relations	<1.00%
Exerting Improper Influence	<1.00%
Dishonesty/Deceit/Misrepresentation	<1.00%
Probate Conduct	0.00%

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH:**

3 complaints involved substance abuse or mental health issues:

Alcohol Abuse	2
Prescription Drugs	1

## 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	4
Dismissal Affirmed	(4)
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	3
Public Reprimand	1
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 complaints. Some orders conclude multiple complaints.

### COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO SUPREME COURT:

Complaints resolved	4
Pending as of June 30, 2014	1