

2017 Discipline System Annual Report



WASHINGTON STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA, Bar) is pleased to present the 2017 Discipline System Annual Report.¹ This report is published to increase publicly available information about the operations of Washington’s lawyer and limited license practitioner discipline system.

The Washington Supreme Court has exclusive responsibility to administer the discipline system, many aspects of which are delegated by court rule to the WSBA. Consistent with the Supreme Court’s mandate in [General Rule \(GR\) 12.2](#), the WSBA administers an effective system of discipline to fulfill its obligations to protect the public and ensure the integrity of the profession. The WSBA’s lawyer discipline functions are discharged primarily by the WSBA’s Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC), the WSBA’s Office of General Counsel (OGC), the Washington Supreme Court’s Disciplinary Board, and Washington Supreme Court-appointed hearing officers. The WSBA discipline functions for limited licenses to practice law are discharged by ODC and the WSBA’s Regulatory Services Department, each license’s respective Supreme Court regulatory board, OGC, and hearing officers. Key components include:

- Reviewing and investigating allegations of ethical misconduct and incapacity;
- Prosecuting violations of the applicable ethical rules;
- Seeking and approving the transfer of practitioners to disability inactive status;
- Addressing less serious matters with diversion;
- Informing the public about licensed legal professionals, the legal system, and means to address difficulties involving lawyers and other licensed legal professionals;
- Informally resolving non-communication issues and file disputes;
- Administering a random examination program to assess trust account compliance and to educate practitioners on the proper handling of client funds held in trust;
- Administering the Client Protection Fund;
- Educating practitioners about the discipline system and their ethical responsibilities; and
- Participating in the development and improvement of the law of ethics and discipline.

This report summarizes the WSBA’s efforts in these areas and highlights accomplishments from the 2017 calendar year.

Effective September 1, 2017, the Washington Supreme Court adopted amendments to GR 12 governing the regulation of the practice of law. The amendments provide a clear and comprehensive statement of the Court’s authority to regulate the practice of law in Washington, recognizing that the Court’s authority is broader in scope than its delegation of authority to the WSBA. Additionally, new GR 12.1 establishes the Court’s regulatory objectives in governing the practice of law, which include protection

¹ For purposes of this report, references to “the discipline system” encompass both the discipline and disability systems.

of the public, advancement of the administration of justice and the rule of law, and transparency regarding the availability of regulatory protections for practitioner misconduct.

Also, in 2017, amendments to the Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC) went into effect. The amendments, developed by WSBA staff in ODC and OGC, were suggested to correct typographical and other clerical errors, to improve internal rules-based processes in light of ongoing experience in the discipline system, and to clarify ambiguities in the rules where appropriate disciplinary procedures were unclear or inconsistent. The Supreme Court approved the amendments with an effective date of September 1, 2017. Another set of ELC amendments were approved by the Court on December 6, 2017, with an effective date of January 2, 2018.

New GR 12.1 establishes the Court's regulatory objectives ... which include protection of the public, advancement of the administration of justice and the rule of law, and transparency regarding the availability of regulatory protections for practitioner misconduct.

The Washington Supreme Court issued two published opinions on lawyer disciplinary matters during the calendar year: (1) *In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Bakary Conteh*, 187 Wn.2d 793, 389 P.3d 591 (2017) (lawyer suspended two years for misconduct, including failure to timely file a brief with the federal Board of Immigration Appeals in one client's matter and allowing the statute of limitations to expire in another client matter) and (2) *In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Dana Fossedal*, 189 Wn.2d 222, 399 P. 3d 1169 (2017) (lawyer disbarred after conviction for misappropriating over \$117,000 in client funds).

In 2017, ODC lawyers and auditors appeared as speakers in 30 programs around the state, at national conferences, and in webinars and webcasts, educating approximately 1,595 lawyers, law students, and legal professionals on topics of legal ethics, trust account recordkeeping and compliance, and the discipline system.

The WSBA Professional Responsibility Program provides ethics education and outreach to practitioners. In fiscal year 2017, Professional Responsibility Program staff provided ethics advice to 2,594 callers and educated members at 38 programs around the state, including live, webinar, and webcast events. The WSBA Professional Responsibility Program and its staff are distinct from and independent of the discipline system.

Jointly convened by the WSBA Board of Governors and the Washington Supreme Court, the Disciplinary Advisory Round Table serves as a forum for discussing disciplinary issues and prepares annual reports for the Supreme Court and the WSBA Board of Governors. In 2017, topics taken up by the Round Table included discussion regarding suggested amendments to the ELC concerning confidentiality of diversion contracts, audio and video recordings in disciplinary hearings, and the concept of coordinating the regulatory and disciplinary systems for all licenses to practice law in Washington to increase efficiency.

THE DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

The Washington discipline system for lawyers is composed of a number of entities that operate as part of the judicial branch of government under the authority of the Washington Supreme Court. The lawyer discipline system is operated by the WSBA, which has separated the investigative and prosecutorial functions from the adjudicative functions. ODC oversees the prosecutorial functions. OGC provides administrative and legal support to the hearing officers and the Disciplinary Board, which carry out the adjudicative and decision-making functions. OGC further manages the records for disciplinary proceedings. See *Other Licensed Legal Professionals and the Discipline System* later in this Report for details about the discipline system for limited license legal professionals.

STRUCTURE OF THE LAWYER DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

WSBA OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

- Answers public inquiries and informally resolves disputes
- Receives, reviews, and may investigate grievances
- Recommends disciplinary action or dismissal
- Diverts grievances involving less serious misconduct
- Recommends disability proceedings
- Presents cases to discipline-system adjudicators

HEARING OFFICERS

- Conduct evidentiary hearings and other proceedings
- Conduct settlement conferences
- Approve stipulations to admonition and reprimand

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

- Reviews recommendations for proceedings and disputed dismissals
- Serves as intermediate appellate body
- Reviews hearing records and stipulations

WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

- Administers the system
- Conducts final appellate review
- Orders sanctions, interim suspensions, and reciprocal discipline

THE OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

ODC is responsible for reviewing, investigating, and prosecuting grievances about the ethical conduct of Washington lawyers and about a lawyer's alleged incapacity to practice law.

ODC has one intake unit, three investigation/prosecution units, one unit of investigators, and a unit of auditors. The intake unit receives inquiries and written grievances, and conducts the first review of grievances against lawyers, dismissing some and recommending further investigation of others by ODC investigation/prosecution staff, including disciplinary counsel, investigators, and a support staff of paralegals and administrative assistants. After investigation, disciplinary counsel determine whether grievances should be dismissed or reported to a review committee of the Washington Supreme Court's Disciplinary Board. Some less serious matters are diverted from discipline. ELC 6.2 sets forth criteria for determining what conduct may qualify as "less serious misconduct."

Disciplinary counsel prosecute matters ordered to hearing by a review committee of the Disciplinary Board. If a hearing-level decision is appealed, disciplinary counsel briefs and argues the appeal to the Disciplinary Board and, in some cases, the Supreme Court.

REVIEW COMMITTEES OF THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Administered by OGC

Four review committees, each composed of two lawyer members and one community representative member of the Disciplinary Board, serve an oversight function in the lawyer discipline system, first to consider grievant appeals of disciplinary counsel dismissals, and second to consider disciplinary counsel recommendations for admonitions or public disciplinary hearings. Among other actions, a review committee may dismiss a matter, order further investigation, issue an admonition, or order a hearing. Review committees also have authority to order a hearing regarding a lawyer's alleged incapacity to practice law. The WSBA's OGC provides staff for legal and administrative support to the four review committees.

HEARING OFFICERS

Administered by OGC

Volunteer hearing officers preside over hearings for disciplinary and disability cases. They receive evidence and issue findings, conclusions, and a recommendation on the discipline to be imposed, if any. Hearing officers also conduct settlement conferences in many discipline cases. In disability proceedings, hearing officers make recommendations regarding whether a respondent lawyer should be transferred to disability inactive status. They are also authorized to resolve cases by approving stipulations to reprimand, admonition, or dismissal. A Chief Hearing Officer supervises the hearing officers, assigns cases, assists with training, and monitors hearing officer performance. The WSBA's OGC provides staff for legal and administrative support to hearing officers.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Administered by OGC

In addition to its review committee functions, the Disciplinary Board, composed of volunteer lawyers and community representatives, considers appeals of hearing officer decisions. The Disciplinary Board

reviews the record when a respondent lawyer or disciplinary counsel has filed an appeal of the hearing officer’s recommendation in a disciplinary matter. The Board also reviews appeals of lawyer disability cases and may review suspension and disbarment recommendations. If requested, the Board hears oral argument on the cases much like an appellate court, and then issues its decision. The Board also reviews stipulations submitted by the parties, which, if approved, will resolve the proceeding without a hearing. The WSBA’s OGC provides staff for legal and administrative support to the Disciplinary Board in the performance of its adjudicative functions.

WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

The Washington Supreme Court has inherent and plenary authority to regulate the practice of law, including power to dispose of individual cases of lawyer discipline. All proceeding resolutions are sent to the Court for review, except for dismissals. The Court reviews the Disciplinary Board’s suspension and disbarment recommendations, which are appealable as a matter of right. The Court also considers petitions for discretionary review of other dispositions. Disciplinary and disability cases appealed to the Supreme Court, like other Supreme Court appeals, proceed with briefing and oral argument, followed by a written opinion by the Court. The Supreme Court may order reciprocal discipline of lawyers who have been disciplined in other jurisdictions, and order interim suspension of a lawyer if the Disciplinary Board recommended disbarment or if the lawyer was convicted of a crime, poses a risk of serious harm to the public, fails to cooperate with a disciplinary investigation, or asserts incapacity to defend himself or herself in a disciplinary proceeding.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS



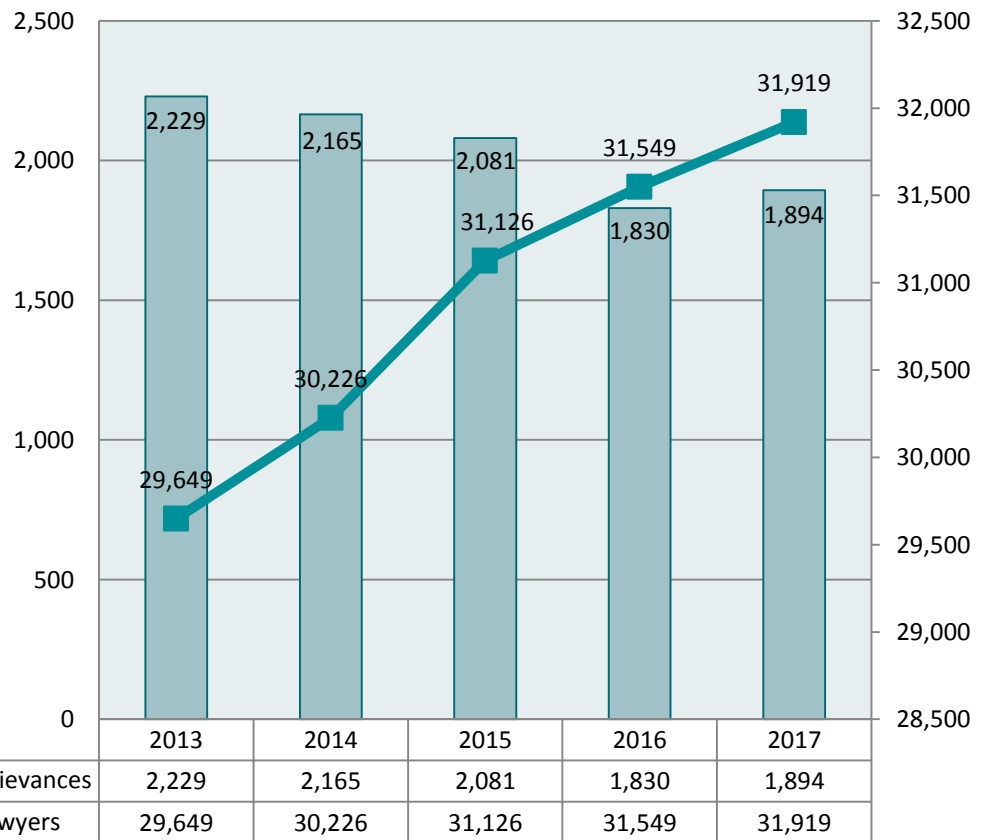
LAWYER GRIEVANCE AND ODC STATISTICS

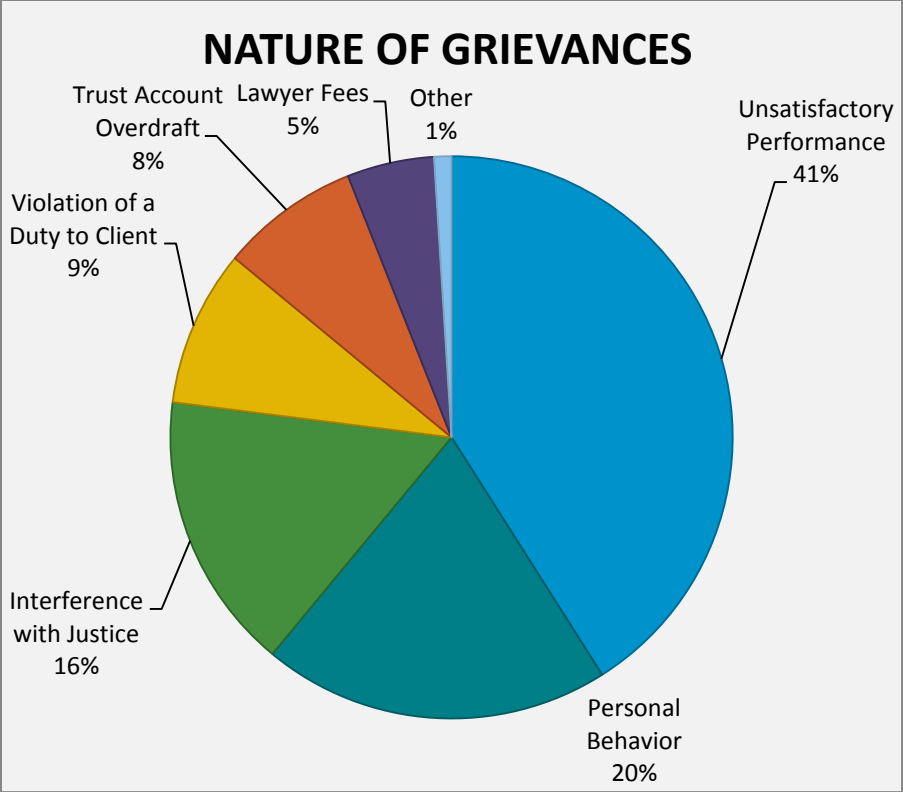
DISCIPLINARY GRIEVANCE STATISTICS

The following statistics relate to the intake, investigation, and prosecution by ODC of grievances against lawyers in the 2017 calendar year.

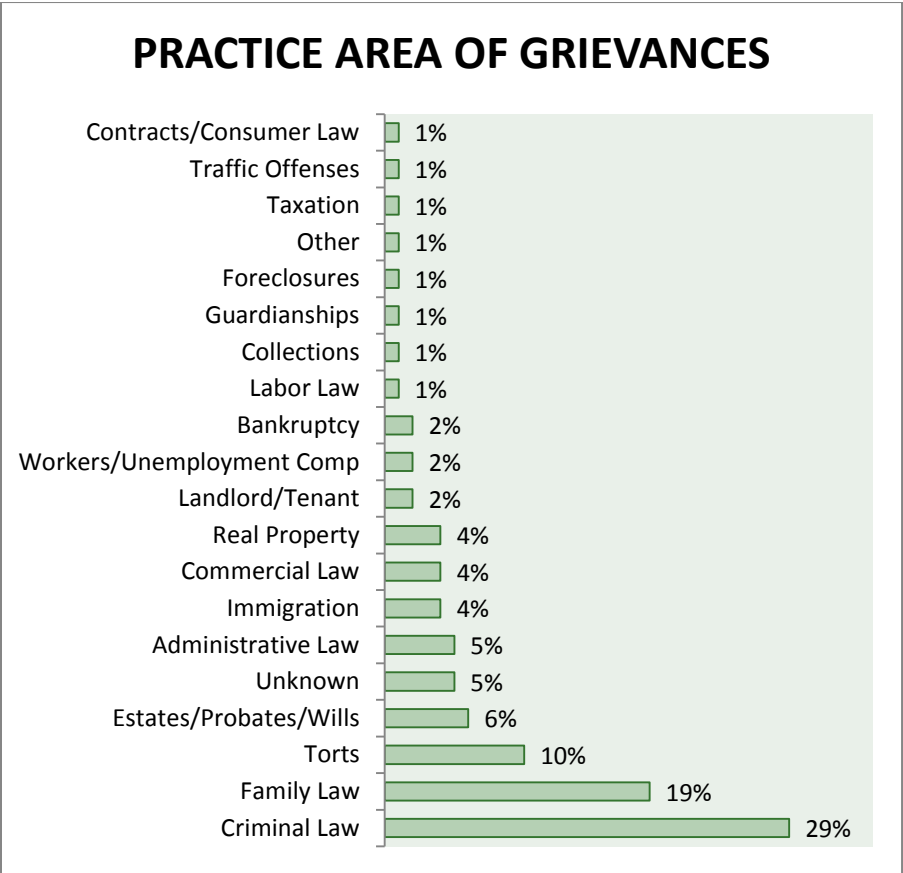
DISCIPLINARY GRIEVANCES, INFORMALLY RESOLVED MATTERS, AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES	2015	2016	2017
Disciplinary Grievances Received	2,081	1,830	1,894
Disciplinary Grievances Resolved	2,180	1,902	1,967
Non-Communication Matters Informally Resolved	102	100	154
File Disputes Informally Resolved	59	57	65
Public Inquiries, Phone Calls, Emails, & Interviews	6,485	5,466	5,044

GRIEVANCES RECEIVED IN RELATION TO NUMBER OF LICENSED LAWYERS

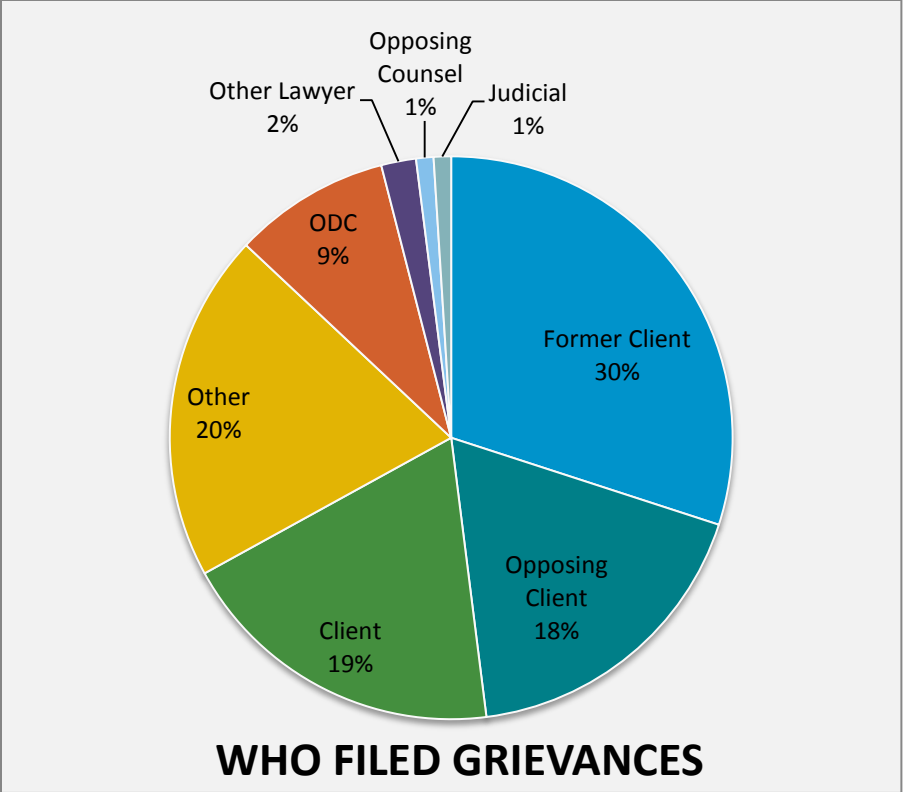




“Personal behavior” may include criminal law violations and behavior prejudicial to the administration of justice. “Interference with justice” may include improper contacts with represented parties or judicial officers and misrepresentations to the court.



“Unknown” captures those grievances where there was too little information to determine a practice area. “Other” reflects those practice areas that arise too infrequently to capture individually.



Discipline files are opened in the name of ODC when potential ethical misconduct comes to the attention of disciplinary counsel by means other than the submission of a grievance (e.g. news articles, notices of criminal conviction, trust account overdrafts, etc.) or through confidential sources. "Other" may include grievances filed by family members, neighbors, or other individuals.

DIVERSION

For less serious misconduct, ODC may divert a grievance from discipline if the lawyer agrees to a diversion contract. A successfully completed diversion results in dismissal of the grievance. If the lawyer fails to complete the diversion contract, the grievance is reinstated and may result in public disciplinary action.²

DIVERSION IN 2017		
11 New Diversions	17 Completed Diversions	2 Failed to Complete Contract

AUDITOR ACTIVITIES

Washington lawyers who maintain client trust accounts must hold those accounts with financial institutions that report any overdraft of funds to the WSBA. Auditors in ODC assist in the investigation and resolution of grievances opened because of overdraft notices. Auditors also assist in the investigation of grievance files involving trust account issues and conduct random examinations of lawyer trust accounts to ensure compliance with the ethics rules.

AUDITOR ACTIVITIES IN 2017				
96 New Overdraft Files	98 Overdraft Files Closed	30 Investigation File Assignments	80 Random Examinations	1 Re-examination

² Total completed diversions include diversions entered into in 2016 but completed in 2017.

LAWYER HEARINGS AND APPEALS

REVIEW COMMITTEES

In 2017, the review committees of the Washington Supreme Court's Disciplinary Board met 27 times to consider 527 matters, including review of dismissals; admonition, advisory letter, and hearing recommendations; and other requests, e.g. deferrals, orders for costs, and other non-routine matters.

REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISIONS	2015	2016	2017
Dismissals	469	367	527
Orders to Hearing	83	90	100
Other (Deferrals, Costs, etc.)	34	30	31
More Investigation	22	30	35
Advisory Letters	16	12	5
Admonitions	3	3	1

HEARING OFFICERS

In fiscal year 2017, 41 volunteer lawyers appointed by the Washington Supreme Court served as hearing officers. In calendar year 2017, 56 disciplinary and eight disability hearing files were opened.

HEARING OFFICER WORK	2015	2016	2017
Hearings Held	18	17	17
Stipulations Approved	15	13	12
Settlement Conferences Held	16	13	13

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

The Disciplinary Board considered 33 disciplinary, disability, and character and fitness matters (excluding denials of sua sponte review) and ordered the transfer of three lawyers to disability inactive status.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD MATTERS	2015	2016	2017
Cases Reviewed by Appeal	2	4	5
Stipulations Considered	34	26	28
Oral Arguments	2	4	5

WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments and issued published opinions on appeals of Disciplinary Board decisions. It also ordered reciprocal discipline and suspended lawyers on an interim basis.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS	2015	2016	2017
Interim Suspensions	9	13	19
Reciprocal Discipline Ordered	14	16	16
Oral Arguments	2	1	4
Published Opinions	2	1	2

FINAL OUTCOMES IN LAWYER DISCIPLINE CASES

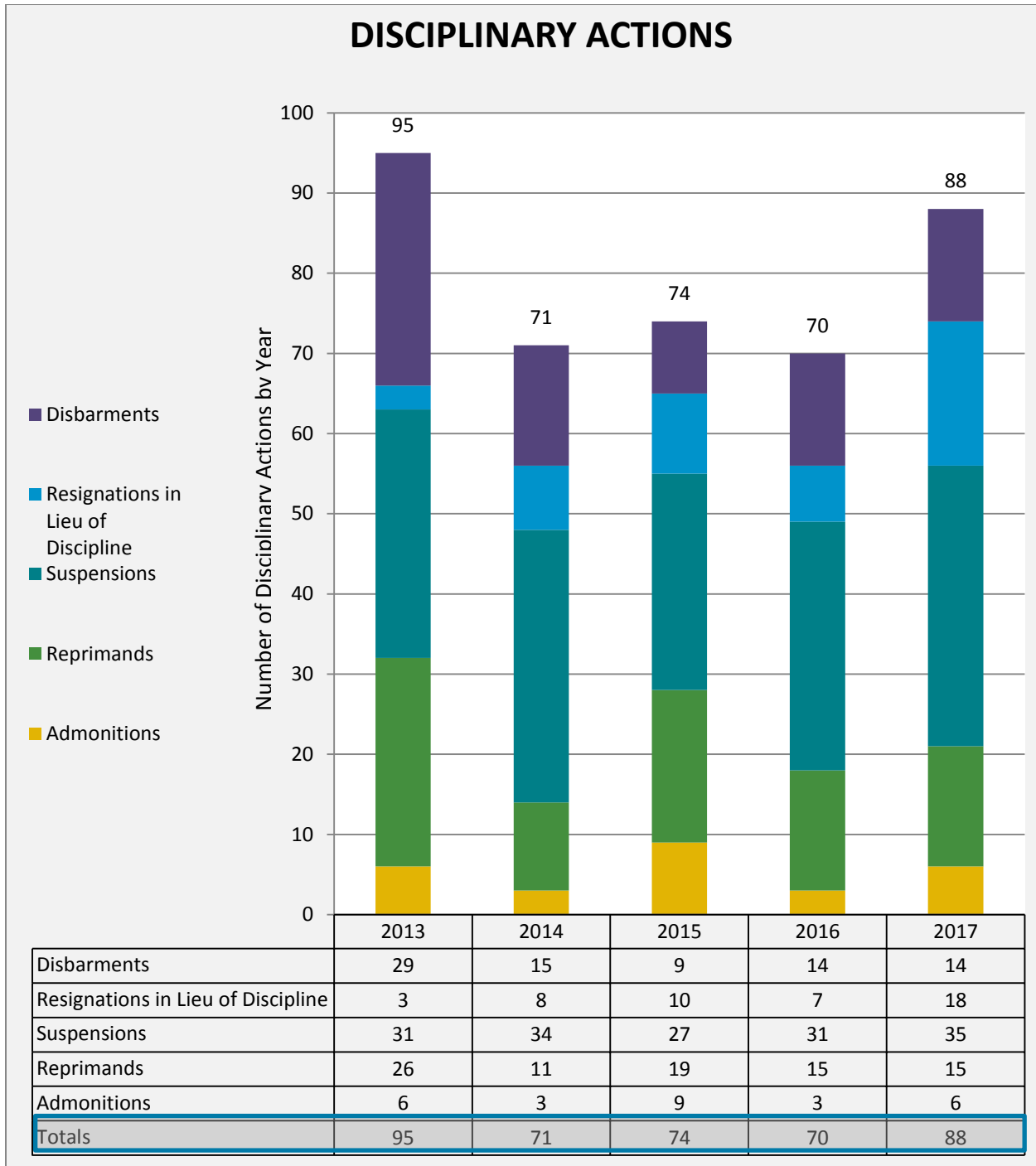
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Disciplinary “actions” include both disciplinary sanctions and admonitions, and result in a permanent public disciplinary record. In order of increasing severity, disciplinary sanctions are reprimands, suspensions, and disbarments. In Washington, admonitions are also a form of public discipline. Admonitions issued after January 1, 2014, are permanent public records. A suspension from the practice of law may be for any period of time not to exceed three years, and may include conditions to be fulfilled by the lawyer before reinstatement. A disbarment revokes the lawyer’s license to practice law. Disbarred lawyers are precluded from seeking readmission to the Bar for five years after disbarment. Only the Washington Supreme Court may order suspension, disbarment, or reinstatement.

Lawyers may also resign in lieu of discipline if they do not wish to defend against allegations of misconduct. A lawyer who resigns in lieu of discipline may not seek reinstatement to the practice of law in Washington.

Review committees of the Disciplinary Board also have authority to issue an advisory letter when it determines that a lawyer should be cautioned. Advisory letters are neither a sanction nor a disciplinary action and are not public information. For less serious misconduct, a lawyer may be diverted from discipline.

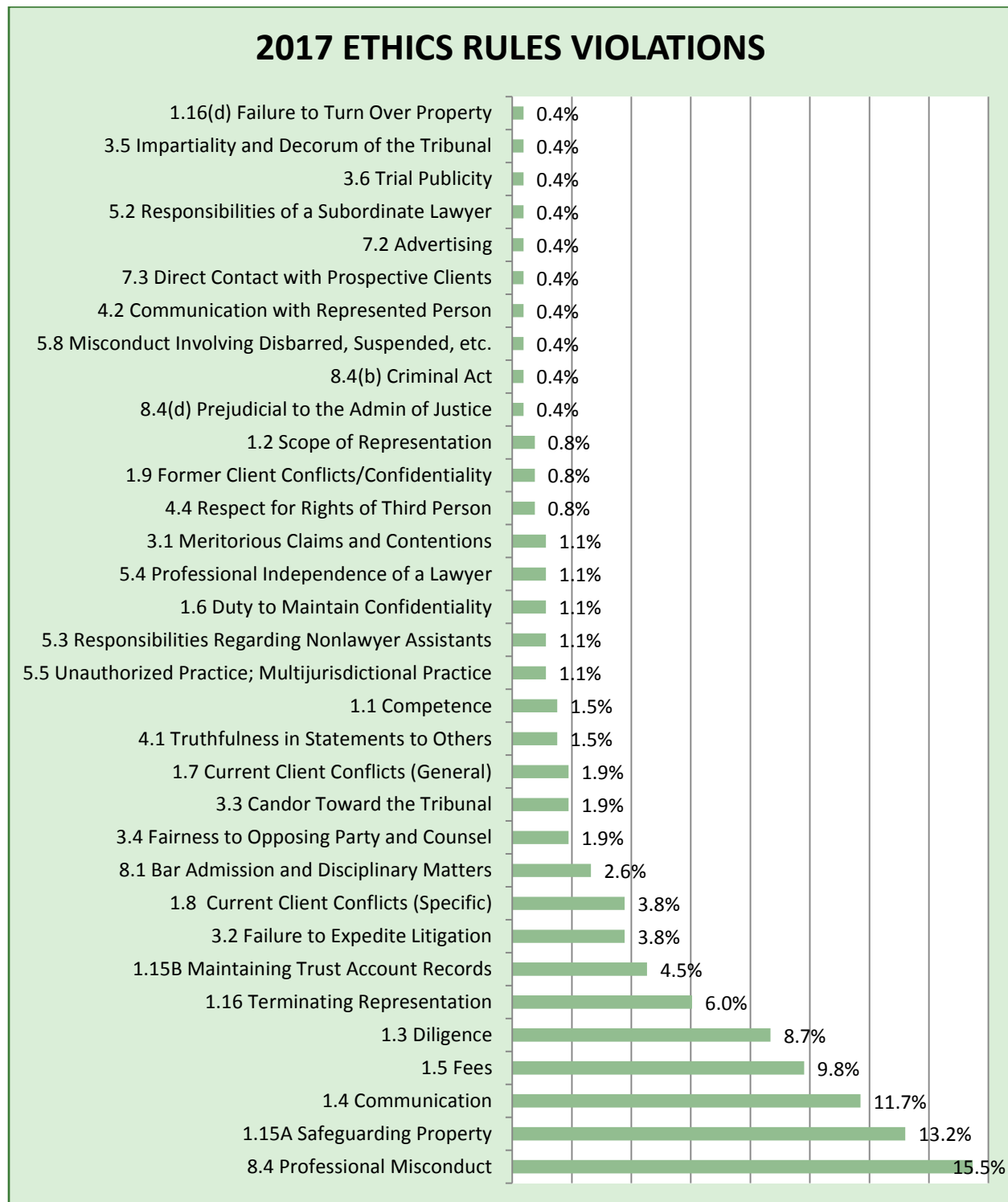
In 2017, 88 lawyers were disciplined. The following chart reports the number of disciplinary actions imposed over the last five calendar years.



ETHICS RULES VIOLATIONS

In 2017, the most common rule violations in disciplinary proceedings related to safeguarding client property and trust accounting (RPC 1.15A, 1.15B), professional misconduct (RPC 8.4), communication (RPC 1.4), fees (RPC 1.5), diligence (RPC 1.3), and conflicts of interest (RPC 1.7, 1.8, 1.9). The following

chart details the RPC violations found in 2017 by percentage.³ To review these and other RPC, visit the Washington Supreme Court’s website at www.courts.wa.gov.



³ The Ethics Rules Violations graph does not reflect multiple repeat rule violations in the same proceeding. Additionally, the chart does not reflect reciprocal discipline matters, as the applicable ethics rules vary among jurisdictions.

LAWYERS DISCIPLINED

*2017 Supreme Court Disciplinary Opinions**

[In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Conteh](#)
[In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Fossedal](#)

DISBARMENTS (14)

Burns, Richard Duane - #5561
Crew, Chris - #42452
Easley, S. Christopher - #28029
Einhorn, Eric Carl - #18890
Ferrell, John David - #28922
Fossedal, Dana Kristin - #28392
Gacutan, Mona Lisa Cuarte - #39344
Grant, Artis C. - #26204
Hackett, Walter Marland- #1055
Hurley, Paul - #38282
Love, Zenovia Nicole - #45989
O'Conner, Matthew - #27061
Prohaska, Frank J. - #27589
Quinn, Mark Christian - #22924

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE (18)

Brody, John Paul - #9503
Chafetz, Nicole B. - #20761
Crowley, John Rodney - #19868
Edensword-Breck, George - #394
Estep, Morris Konstandinos - #30328
Funchess, Amy J. - #37436
Harrison, Mitch - #43040
Hollingsworth, Betsy Ross - #6181
Hugill, Gary C. - #4713
Irons, Janet A. - #12687
Johnson, Holly Joy - #32784
Kim, Patrick - #35036
Miles, Marcine Miller - #9100
Mitchell-Phillips, Kenneth - #47720
Morriss, Roy Earl - #34969
Nourse, Brent Lightner - #32790
Quick, Daniel Frederick - #26064
Sharp, Roger Jay - #12211

SUSPENSIONS (35)

Abrell, Shawn E. - #41054
Albright, Nathan P. - #30511
Basham, Jonathan Guy - #17081
Bergstedt, A. Spencer - #19825
Brinkman, April Boutillette - #36760

Butler, Matthew W. - #27993
Calvin, Derron C. - #27704
Conteh, Bakary Fansu - #35098
Etherton, Scott - #29904
Eugster, Stephen Kerr - #2003
Gazori, James K. - #19900
George, Denise C. - #10749
George, Nicholas - #20490
Greenberg, Charles M. - #17661
Hancock, David Douglas - #42271
Harms, Todd V. - #31104
Howay, Candace Pousson - #41493
LeClaire, Edward T. - #41088
Livingston, Sengphachahn J. - #37478
Locker, Joshua B. - #38719
McAuliff, David J. - #40687
McLaughlin, Wesley K. - #35374
Michalek, Michele Avalon - #19461
Pasion, Patrick Michael - #28243
Peach, Charles Wade - #13744
Rasmussen, Stephen Ray - #18757
Reed, David C. - #24663
Samuels, Gregory Louis - #19497
Scowcroft, Jerome Chilwell - #15877
Simon, Robert Samuel - #20382
Stoddard, William M. - #9575
Turner, James N. - #16199
Wade, Robert Jeffery - #33679
Webb, Dean Browning - #10735
Yunker, Conrad Erhardt - #17765

REPRIMANDS (15)

Collins, Tracy Scott - #20839
Delorme, Bernice Cecelia - #31148
Didrickson, Mark Evan - #20349
Geissler, Richard Bryan - #12027
Glouner, Gary D. - #43773
Grenley, Gary Irving - #34698
Hubbard, Rose L. - #35314
Kim, Steven W. - #31051
Lawrence, Albert Anthony - #13030
Lucas, Leanne - #37414

Monsebroten, James Matthew - #29174
Peale, Walter O. III - #7889
Stuart, Scot D. - #10933
Valley, Eric - #21184
Warzecha, Timothy J. - #28890

ADMONITIONS (6)

Cordes, Clifford F. - #5582
Gates, Thomas Edward - #34010
Gibson, Donna Marie - #33583
Kurtz, Rachel Elaine - #35119
Townsend, Josephine C. - #31965
Zapata, Julio Medina - #28185

*For more information on these and other disciplinary matters, please visit wsba.org or our webpage on [Professional Discipline](#).

OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

OTHER CONDITIONS OF DISCIPLINE

Sanctioned or admonished lawyers may be placed on probation for a fixed time period. Conditions of probation may include alcohol and drug treatment, medical care, psychiatric care, office practice or management counseling, or periodic audits. Other conditions of discipline may include paying restitution to victims and paying the costs of the disciplinary proceeding. A suspension order may also impose conditions that must be complied with prior to reinstatement.

FILES OPENED IN 2017 FOR OTHER CONDITIONS IMPOSED

36 Probation	21 Restitution	68 Costs
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LAWYER DISABILITY MATTERS

Special procedures apply when there is reasonable cause to believe that a lawyer is incapable of properly defending a disciplinary proceeding, or incapable of practicing law due to a mental or physical incapacity. Such matters are handled under a distinct set of procedural rules. In some cases, the lawyer must have counsel appointed at the WSBA's expense. In disability cases, a determination that the lawyer does not have the capacity to practice law results in a transfer to disability inactive status. It is also possible for a lawyer to stipulate to a transfer to disability inactive status, and a transfer is required following judicial determination of a lawyer's incapacity, such as involuntary commitment. Although disciplinary procedural rules govern disability proceedings, the proceedings are not disciplinary in nature.

TRANSFERS TO DISABILITY INACTIVE	2014	2015	2016	2017
TOTAL	8	9	8	3

CLIENT PROTECTION FUND

Administered by OGC

The Client Protection Fund Board was established to promote public confidence in the administration of justice and the integrity of the legal profession. Its purpose is to relieve or mitigate a financial loss sustained by a client resulting from a WSBA member's dishonesty or failure to account for money or property entrusted to the WSBA member. The dishonesty or failure to account must have been in connection with the member's practice of law or role as a fiduciary in a matter related to the member's practice of law. The Fund is financed by a \$30 annual WSBA lawyer-member assessment imposed by order of the Washington Supreme Court. In 2017, the Fund gave over \$439,200 in gifts.

CLIENT PROTECTION FUND⁴	2015	2016	2017
Number of Requests Granted	59	44	47
Of These, Number of Lawyers Involved	20	16	19
Total Gifts	\$495,218	\$253,228	\$439,273

FUNDING THE DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

Lawyers' license fees fully fund the discipline system – there is no public funding.

DISCIPLINE SYSTEM REVENUE AND EXPENSES⁵	2015	2016	2017
REVENUE			
Recovery of Discipline Costs	\$134,049	\$138,768	\$95,491
Discipline History Summaries	\$13,728	\$13,878	\$12,991
Misc ⁶	\$5,242	\$2,454	\$2,990
Total Revenue	\$153,019	\$155,100	\$111,472
EXPENSES			
Investigation/Prosecution	\$5,370,275	\$5,485,110	\$5,374,154
Disciplinary Board Expenses	\$228,391	\$329,353	\$221,609
Hearing Officer Expenses	\$38,477	\$32,590	\$34,660
Total Expenses	\$5,637,143	\$5,847,053	\$5,630,423
NET TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,484,124	\$5,691,953	\$5,518,951

⁴ The [Client Protection Fund](#) reports on the WSBA fiscal year, which is October 1 to September 30.

⁵ Discipline system expenses are based on the WSBA fiscal year.

⁶ Miscellaneous revenue includes audit and Ethics School revenue.

OTHER LICENSED LEGAL PROFESSIONALS AND THE DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

Limited practice officers (LPOs) and limited license legal technicians (LLLTs) are also licensed to practice law by the Washington Supreme Court through regulatory systems administered by the WSBA. LPOs may select, prepare, and complete forms for use in a loan, extension of credit, sale, or other transfer of real or personal property. LLLTs are licensed to assist clients in certain limited legal matters approved by the Washington Supreme Court. Currently, family law is the only approved practice area, although additional practice areas are being evaluated.

A Washington Supreme Court-mandated regulatory board oversees each limited license: the Limited Practice Board for LPOs and the Limited License Legal Technician Board for LLLTs. Each licensee is subject to license-specific rules of professional conduct and disciplinary procedural rules. The WSBA administers a discipline system for these licenses.

The key differences between the lawyer discipline system and the limited license discipline systems are as follows: (1) each regulatory board acts as the intermediate appellate body, akin to the Disciplinary Board, to review hearing records and stipulations; (2) a discipline committee of each regulatory board serves the function of a review committee; and (3) WSBA staff and the chair of each discipline committee conduct initial review of grievances and make intake decisions.

For both licenses, possible disciplinary actions include revocation, voluntary cancellation in lieu of revocation, suspension, reprimand, and admonition.

To learn more about licensed legal professionals, visit www.wsba.org.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

LPO DISCIPLINARY STATISTICS	2015	2016	2017
Number of Active Licensees	768	766	792
Disciplinary Grievances Received	3	3	2
Disciplinary Grievances Resolved	2	3	4
Matters Diverted	0	0	1
Disciplinary Actions Imposed	1	0	1

LLLT DISCIPLINARY STATISTICS	2015	2016	2017
Number of Active Licensees	9	19	25
Disciplinary Grievances Received	0	0	0
Disciplinary Grievances Resolved	0	0	0
Disciplinary Actions Imposed	0	0	0

LIMITED PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINED

Voluntary Cancellation in Lieu of Revocation

Kimzey, Jacqueline – LPO # 1097

COORDINATED DISCIPLINARY AND REGULATORY PROCEEDINGS INITIATIVE

In late 2015, the WSBA Executive Management Team and the WSBA Board of Governors (BOG) initiated discussions about coordinating all regulatory and disciplinary systems for all licenses to practice law (lawyer, limited practice officer, limited license legal technician) authorized by the Court and administered by the WSBA. Among the motivations for coordinating the systems was the realization that administering three separate systems for three license types was neither an efficient nor an effective use of license fees. Subsequently, workgroups of WSBA staff from ODC, OGC, and the Regulatory Services Department (RSD) convened to develop recommendations regarding the feasibility of both a coordinated admissions/licensing system and a coordinated discipline system. Amendments to the Admission and Practice Rules (APR) designed to coordinate the admission/licensing systems were adopted by the Court with an effective date of September 1, 2017.

In June 2017, after seeking and incorporating input from various stakeholders, WSBA staff prepared and submitted for the Court's initial consideration a proposed model for a coordinated disciplinary and regulatory proceedings system. In addition to coordination of the three systems, a core concept of the initiative is the creation of a professionalized adjudicative system for all disciplinary and regulatory hearings. In July 2017, the Court approved in concept the proposed coordinated discipline system.

After Court approval of the concept, a workgroup of WSBA staff from ODC, OGC, and RSD began the process of drafting the coordinated disciplinary proceeding rules. In addition, those admission and licensing processes that involve adjudicative proceedings are also part of this undertaking. When the draft rules are finalized, WSBA staff will seek additional stakeholder feedback in advance of review by the BOG and eventual submission of a set of suggested coordinated-system rules to the Supreme Court under General Rule 9.