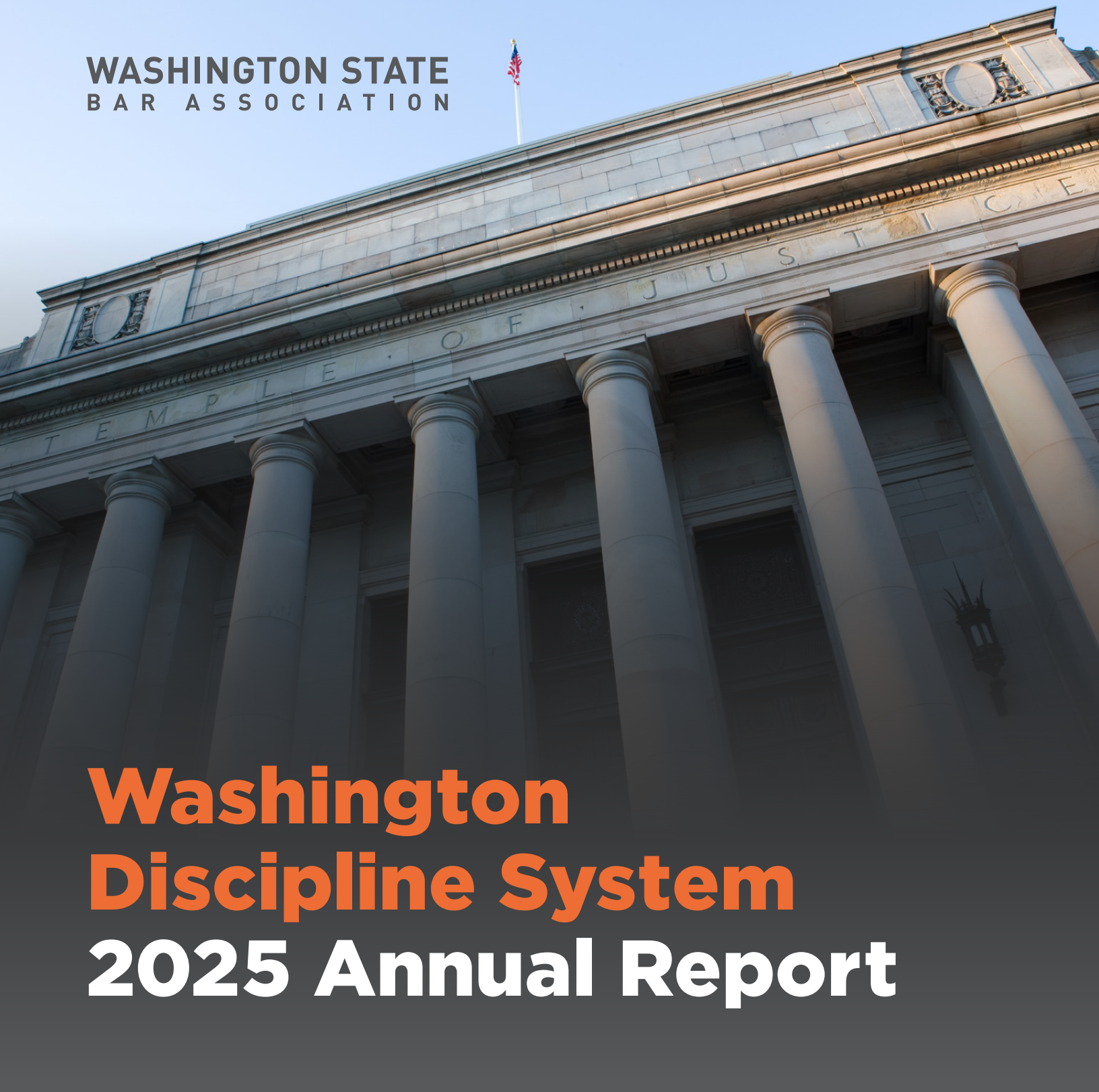


WASHINGTON STATE  
BAR ASSOCIATION



# Washington Discipline System 2025 Annual Report



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539  
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BAR ASSOCIATION

# Washington Discipline System 2025 Annual Report

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# Executive Summary

The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA, or the Bar) is pleased to present the 2025 Discipline System Annual Report.<sup>1</sup> This report is published to share publicly available information about the operations of Washington’s lawyer and limited license practitioner discipline system.

The Washington Supreme Court has exclusive governmental responsibility over the discipline system, many aspects of which are delegated by court rule to be administered by 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 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 (RSD), each license’s respective Supreme Court regulatory board, OGC, and Washington Supreme Court-appointed hearing officers.

This report summarizes the WSBA’s efforts in these areas and highlights accomplishments from the 2025 calendar year.

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

## 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 disputes regarding clients requesting their files;
- > **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.

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In 2025, ODC lawyers and auditors appeared as speakers in 24 programs around the state, at national conferences, and in webinars and webcasts, educating lawyers, law students, and legal professionals on topics of the discipline system, trust accounts and fee agreements, random examinations, discipline for ineffective assistance of counsel in immigration matters, ethical challenges faced by lawyers, and common ethical issues in litigation.

The WSBA Professional Responsibility Program—which is distinct from and independent of the discipline system—also provides ethics education and outreach to practitioners. In fiscal year 2025, the Ethics Line staff provided advice to 1,943 callers and engaged in 36 education programs around the state and nationally, including live, webinar, and webcast events.

Noteworthy for 2025 was an increase in the number of incoming grievances. Details can be found in the [Lawyer Grievance and Other ODC Statistics](#) section.



## 2025 > BY THE NUMBERS



**24**

Programs on  
Discipline and  
Professional  
Conduct



**1,943**

Calls Providing  
Ethics Advice



**36**

Ethics Education  
Programs

# The Lawyer Discipline System

The Washington discipline system for lawyers is composed of several entities that operate as part of the judicial branch of government under the authority of the Washington Supreme Court.

The lawyer discipline system is administered by the WSBA, which operates the investigative and prosecutorial functions separately from the adjudicative functions. ODC oversees the investigative and 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 [LPO and LLLT Discipline System](#) later in this Report for details about the discipline system for limited license legal professionals.

## The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC)

ODC is responsible for reviewing, investigating, and prosecuting grievances about the ethical conduct of Washington lawyers and allegations of incapacity to practice law.

ODC has an intake team, a team of legal administrative assistants, three investigation/prosecution teams, a team of investigators, a team of paralegals, and a team of auditors. The intake team receives inquiries and written grievances and conducts the first review of grievances against lawyers. Some grievances are dismissed at the intake stage, while others are referred for further investigation by ODC investigation/prosecution staff, which includes disciplinary counsel,

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## STRUCTURE OF THE LAWYER DISCIPLINE SYSTEM



### **WSBA Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC)**

- > 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** *(Administered by OGC)*

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



### **Disciplinary Board** *(Administered by OGC)*

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



### **Washington Supreme Court**

- > Has exclusive governmental responsibility for the system.
- > Conducts final appellate review.
- > Orders sanctions, interim suspensions, and reciprocal discipline.

CONTINUED >

investigators, paralegals, and legal administrative assistants. After investigation, disciplinary counsel determine whether grievances should be dismissed or reported to a review committee of the Disciplinary Board. Some less serious matters are diverted from discipline. Rule 6.2 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC) sets forth criteria for determining what conduct may qualify as “less serious misconduct.”

Disciplinary counsel prosecute matters when they are ordered to hearing by a review committee of the Disciplinary Board. If a hearing-level decision is appealed, disciplinary counsel brief and argue 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 staff provides 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 disciplinary 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 serves in a compensated capacity and supervises the hearing officers, assigns cases, assists with training, and monitors hearing officer performance. The WSBA’s OGC staff provides 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 staff provides legal and administrative support to the Disciplinary Board.

---

### **Washington Supreme Court**

The Washington Supreme Court has inherent and plenary authority to regulate the practice of law, including the power to dispose of individual cases of lawyer discipline. All proceeding resolutions are sent

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to the Court, 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 adjudicated 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 may 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 the lawyer’s own incapacity to defend against a disciplinary proceeding.



**2025 > BY THE NUMBERS**



**41,375**

Total Licensed Lawyers



**34,203**

Actively Licensed Lawyers



**7,172**

Other Licensed Lawyers\*



**2,228**

Grievance Files Opened



**27**

Public Formal Complaints Filed



**59**

Disciplinary (55) and Disability Proceedings (4) Opened



**8**

Interim Suspension Disciplinary (6) and Disability (2) Proceedings Opened



**9**

Disciplinary Hearings



**46**

Disciplinary Actions Imposed



**1**

Supreme Court Opinion

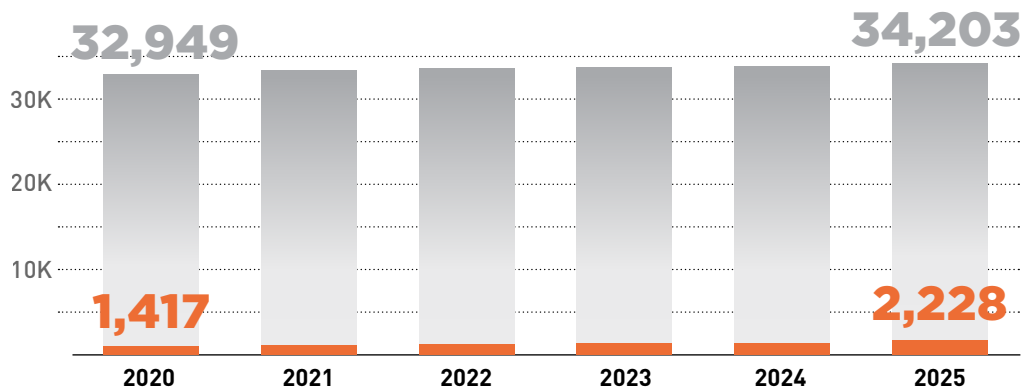
\* Honorary, Inactive, Pro Bono, and Judicial

# Lawyer Grievance and Other ODC Statistics

The following statistics relate to the intake, investigation, and prosecution by the ODC of grievances against lawyers in the 2025 calendar year.

## Grievances Received in Relation to Number of Actively Licensed Lawyers FOR 2020-2025

- Actively Licensed Lawyers
- Number of Grievances



## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

GRIEVANCE DATA & MORE	2023	2024	2025
Disciplinary Grievances Opened	1,759	1,822	2,228
Disciplinary Grievances Resolved <sup>2</sup>	1,795	1,802	1,895
Non-Communication Matters Informally Resolved	117	95	88
File Disputes Informally Resolved	43	49	28
Public Inquiries, Phone Calls, and Emails*	1,827	2,300	3,271

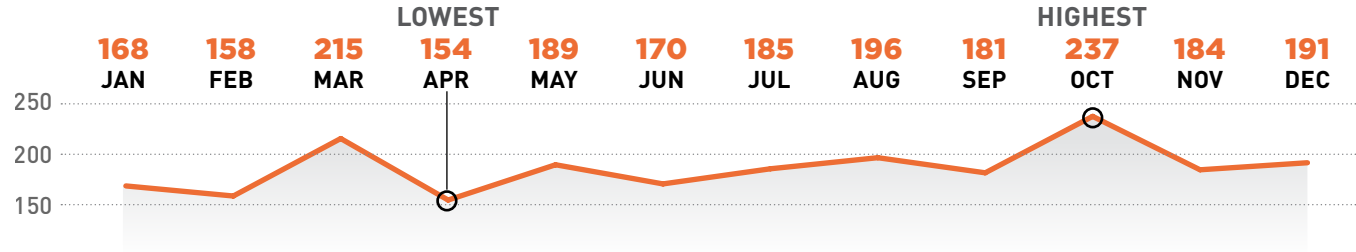
\*Excluding disciplinary history certificates and discipline checks previously reported in 2022 and 2023.

The number of grievances filed against lawyers in 2025 increased by approximately 20 percent over the number of grievances filed in 2024. This increase in grievance filings was significant and unexpected considering that grievance filings in 2024 increased by only about 3.5 percent over 2023, and those in 2023 only increased by about 7 percent over 2022. The underlying reasons for this increase are not fully known at this time.

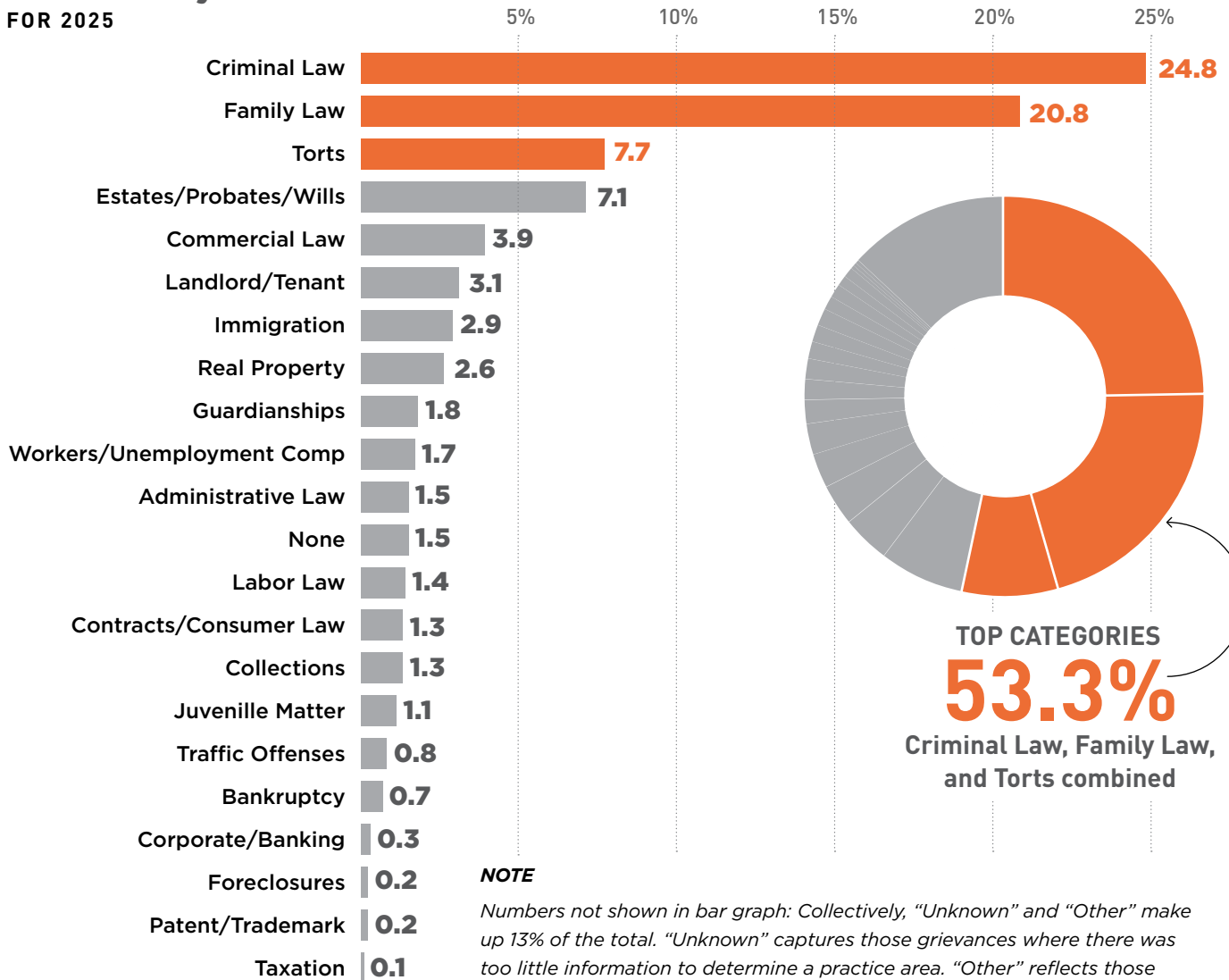
2. "Grievances resolved" include all grievances that closed during the calendar year, including, but not limited to, grievances that were dismissed in intake or after investigation and those for which disciplinary action was imposed.

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**Number of Grievances Opened - By Month**  
FOR 2025



**Grievances by Practice Area**  
FOR 2025

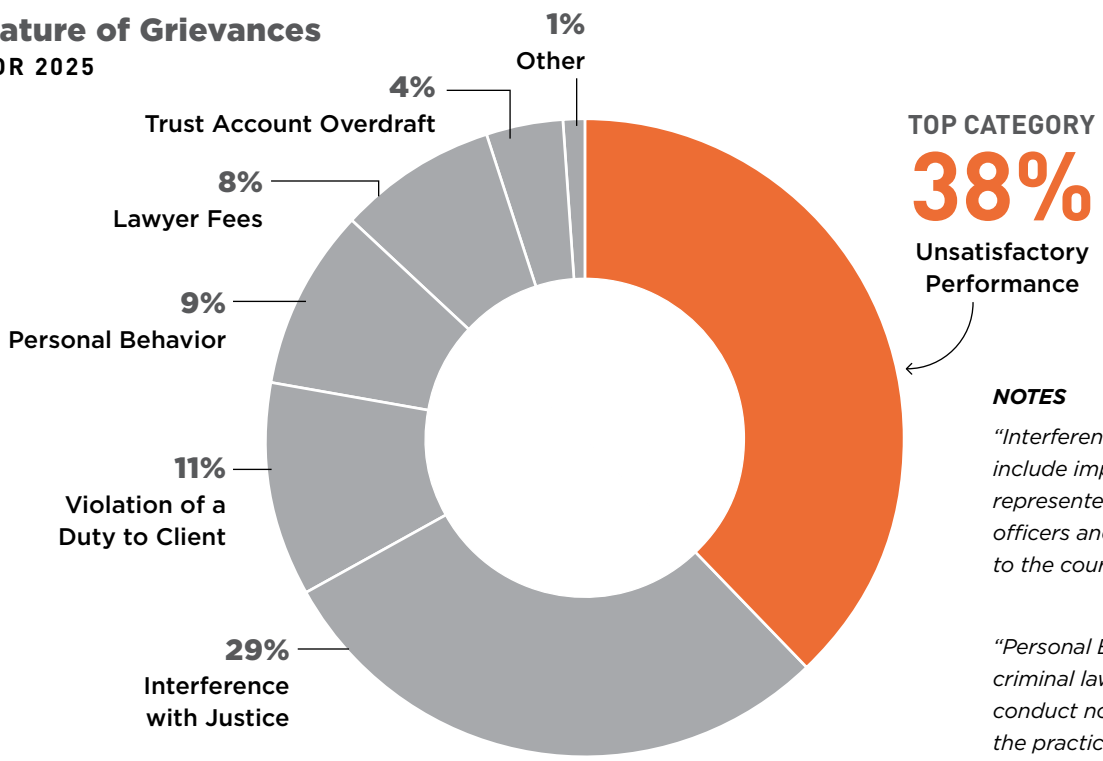


**NOTE**

Numbers not shown in bar graph: Collectively, "Unknown" and "Other" make up 13% of the total. "Unknown" captures those grievances where there was too little information to determine a practice area. "Other" reflects those practice areas that arise infrequently.

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**Nature of Grievances FOR 2025**

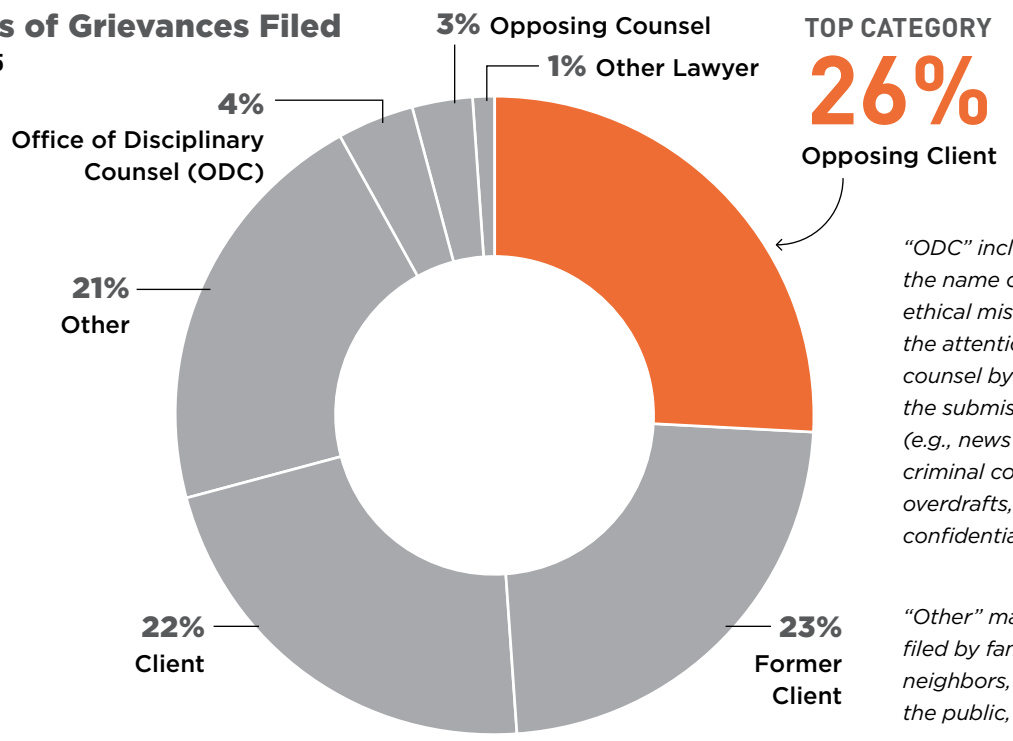


**NOTES**

*"Interference with Justice" may include improper contacts with represented parties or judicial officers and misrepresentations to the court.*

*"Personal Behavior" may include criminal law violations and other conduct not necessarily related to the practice of law.*

**Sources of Grievances Filed FOR 2025**



*"ODC" includes files 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, non-client members of the public, or other individuals.*

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### Diversions

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.<sup>3</sup>

	2023	2024	2025
<b>New Diversions</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Completed Diversions</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Failed to Complete Contract</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

### 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 grievances involving trust account issues, conduct random examinations of lawyer trust accounts to ensure compliance with the ethics rules, and review trust account records for lawyers on disciplinary probation.

	2023	2024	2025
<b>New Overdraft Files</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Overdraft Files Closed</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Investigation File Assignments</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Random Examinations<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Re-examinations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

3. Total completed diversions include diversions entered into in the prior reporting year but completed in the reporting year.

4. Due to a staffing shortage, no new files were opened in 2021-2023.

# Lawyer Hearings and Appeals

Year-over-year statistics for Review Committees, Hearing Officers, Disciplinary Board and Washington Supreme Court.



In 2025, the review committees of the Disciplinary Board met 16 times to consider 408 matters, including review of dismissals; admonition, advisory letter, and hearing recommendations; and other requests, e.g., deferrals of investigation, orders for costs, and other non-routine matters.

	2023	2024	2025
<b>Dismissals</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>312</b>
<b>Orders to Hearing</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Other (Deferrals, Costs, etc.)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>More Investigation</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Advisory Letters</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Admonitions</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>



## Hearing Officers

In fiscal year 2025,<sup>5</sup> 20 volunteer lawyers appointed by the Washington Supreme Court served as hearing officers.

	2023	2024	2025
<b>Hearings Held</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>Stipulations Approved</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Settlement Conferences Held</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>

5. The WSBA's fiscal year is October 1 through September 30.

6. One order involved a Limited License Legal Technician.

7. One order involved a Limited Practice Officer.

CONTINUED >



### Disciplinary Board

The Disciplinary Board considered 27 disciplinary and disability matters (excluding denials of *sua sponte* review) and ordered the transfer of five lawyers to disability inactive status.

	2023	2024	2025
Cases Reviewed by Appeal	4	1	3
Stipulations Considered	13	26	17
Oral Arguments	3	1	3



### Washington Supreme Court

The Supreme Court reciprocally disciplined 14 lawyers and suspended 11 lawyers on an interim basis.

	2023	2024	2025
Interim Suspensions	7	7	11
Reciprocal Discipline	15	13	14
Oral Arguments	0	3	2
Published Opinions	0	3	1

# Final Outcomes in Lawyer Discipline Cases

Disciplinary “actions,” which include both disciplinary sanctions and admonitions, result in a permanent public disciplinary record.

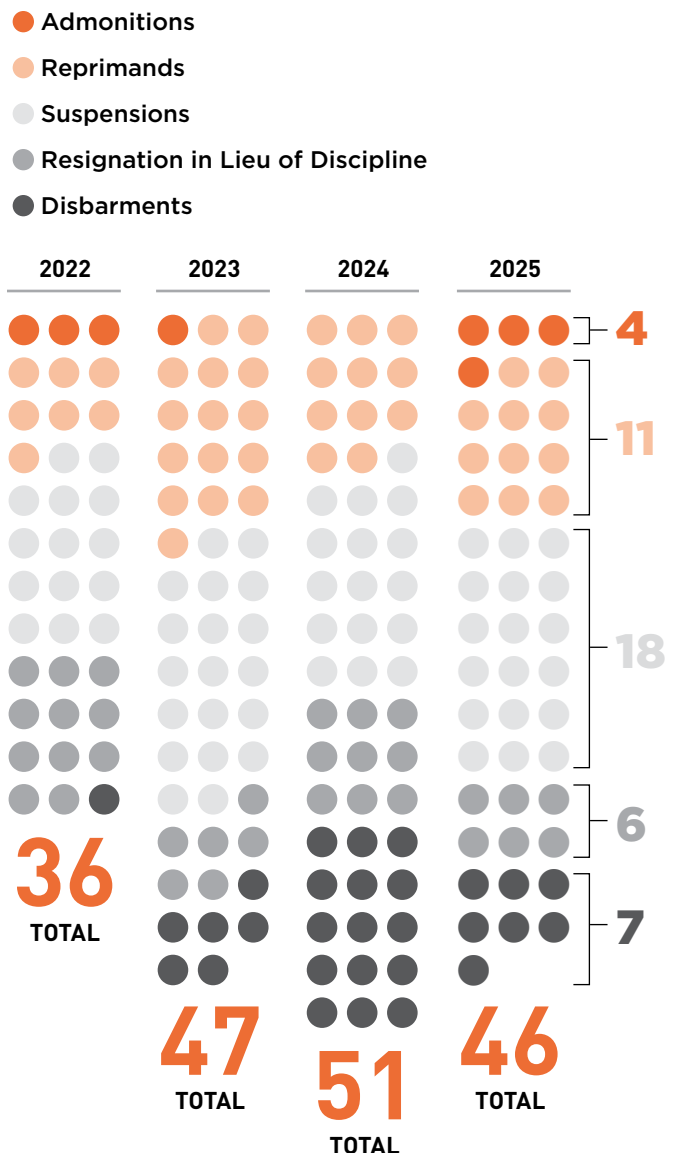
Disciplinary “actions,” which include both disciplinary sanctions and admonitions, result in a permanent public disciplinary record. In order of increasing severity, disciplinary actions are admonitions, reprimands, suspensions, and disbarments. A lawyer may be suspended from the practice of law for up to three years,<sup>8</sup> and may be required to fulfill conditions before being reinstated. A disbarment revokes the lawyer’s license to practice law. Disbarred lawyers may not seek reinstatement 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 is determined that a lawyer should be cautioned. Advisory letters are neither a sanction nor a disciplinary action and are not public information.

In 2025, 45 lawyers were disciplined and one lawyer had more than one disciplinary action, for a total of 46 disciplinary actions. The following chart reports the number of disciplinary actions imposed over the last four calendar years.

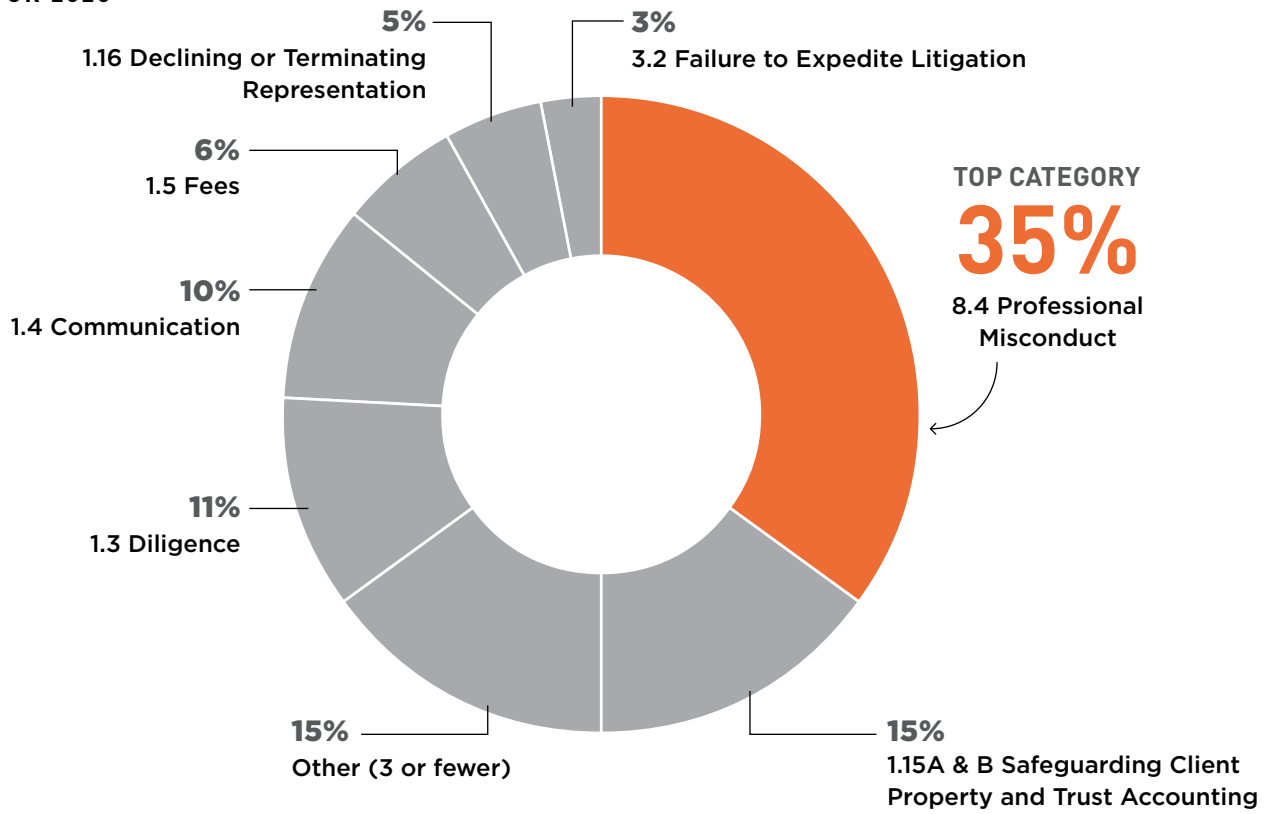
## Disciplinary Actions in 2025



8. Reciprocal suspensions may exceed three years to align with the discipline imposed in the originating jurisdiction.

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**Ethics Rules Violations – By Grouped Percentage**  
**FOR 2025**



**Ethics Rules Violations**

In 2025, the most common rule violations in disciplinary proceedings were related to professional misconduct (RPC 8.4)<sup>9</sup>, safeguarding client property and trust accounting (RPC 1.15A, 1.15B), diligence (RPC 1.3), and communication (RPC 1.4). The chart above and on the next page detail the RPC violations found in 2025 by group percentage and by individual count.<sup>10,11</sup>



To review these and other RPC, visit the Washington Supreme Court’s website at [www.courts.wa.gov/court\\_rules](http://www.courts.wa.gov/court_rules).

9. RPC 8.4 violations may include, among other misconduct, criminal conduct, dishonesty, and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

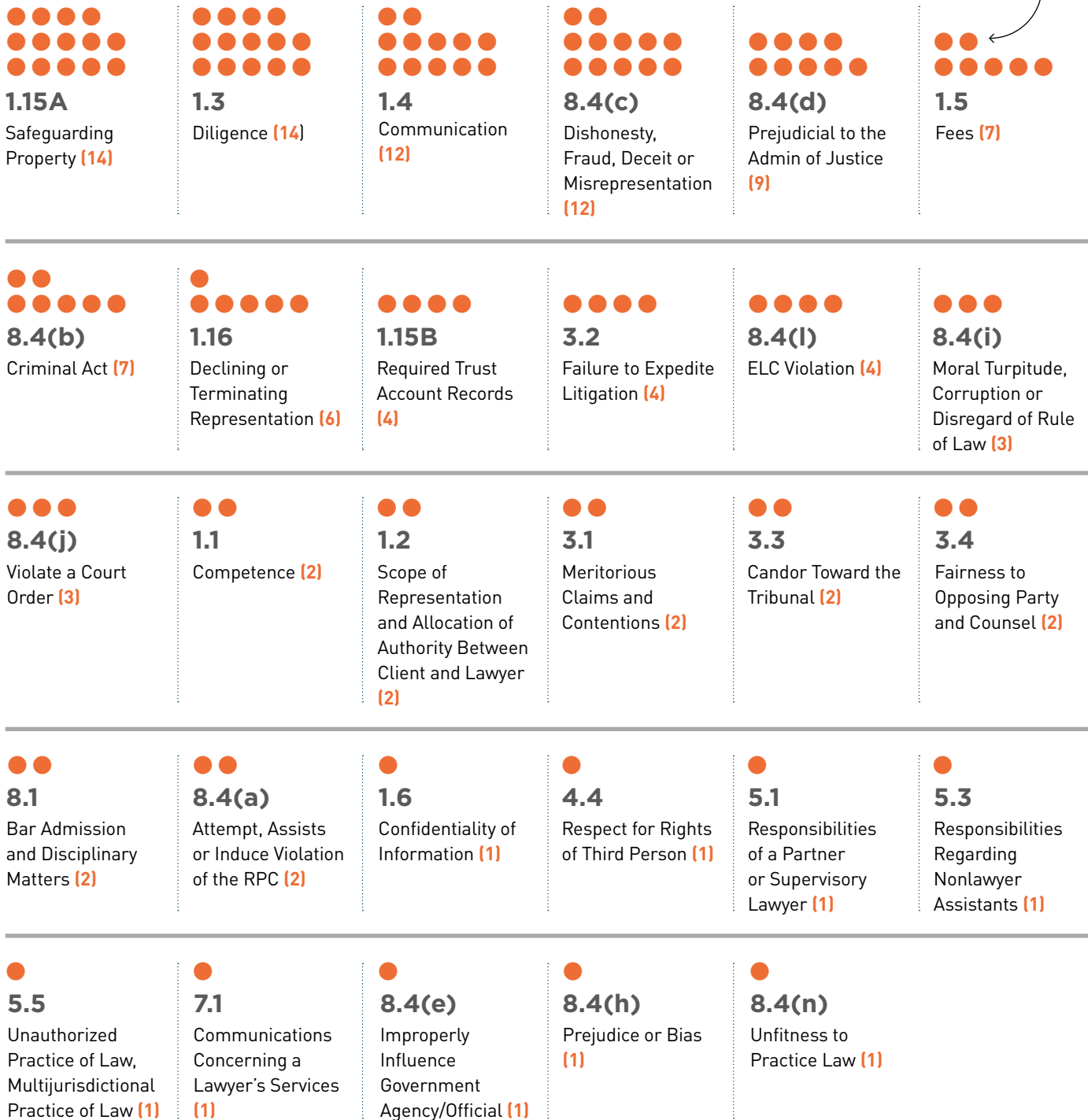
10. The Ethics Rules Violations graph does not reflect multiple repeat rule violations in the same proceeding. Additionally, the chart does not reflect reciprocal discipline matters, as the applicable ethics rules vary among jurisdictions.

11. “Other” reflects categories of RPC violations that consisted of three or fewer instances in 2025.

CONTINUED >

**Ethics Rules Violations - By Count**  
**FOR 2025**

*Each dot denotes one count*



# Lawyers Disciplined

SUPREME COURT OPINIONS >  
In re Disciplinary Proc. Against Wallstrom

## Disbarments (7)

LAWYER NAME	BAR NO.
John Cochran	38909*
Matthew Philip Goldman	54657
Stephen Wray Jackson	49023
Nathan L McAllister	37964
Talwinder Singh	56762
Paul Arnold Wallstrom	8605
Charles Douglas Young	22818*

## Resignations in Lieu of Discipline (6)

LAWYER NAME	BAR NO.
Donald Robert Buehler	14284
Teresa Thais Keene	40045
Marion (Ted) E. Knauss	9668
Josephine C Townsend	31965
Terence Kain Wong	24502
Kenneth Richard Zigler Jr	41723

## Reprimands (11)

LAWYER NAME	BAR NO.
John Phillip Abrams	31068
Gary M. Bullock	21367*
Frederic Ernest Cann	15962
Sullen Howard	20506
Louis Hunter	43818
Kristopher Delbert Leavitt	54618*
Karan Veer Phambota	55628
Robert E. Repp	14504*
Rory Brian Riley	53300*
Lawrence Leroy Taylor	20595*
Benjamin Richard Tramposh	61770

\*Reciprocal Discipline

## Suspensions (18)

LAWYER NAME	BAR NO.
Alistair Chan (60 Days)	55568
Thomas Michael Geiger (30 Days)	6885
D. Michael Hatch (1 Year)	40410
Paul Heath Hattaway (60 Days)	46853*
Roger Edwin Hawkes (30 Months)	5173
Melissa Ann Huelsman (1 Year)	30935
Sean Patrick Kuhlmeier (9 Months)	38972
Daniel Jeffrey McCormick (9 Months)	42986
Angus F Ni (5 Months)	53828*
Roger A. Pearce (60 Days)	21113*
Jeffery Aaron Rank (30 Months)	58098*
James E. Shaddock (60 Days)	22366*
Patrick Francis Shearer (90 Days)	52831
Timothy R South (1 Year)	26267
Timothy R South (18 Months)	26267
Jeremiah Spencer Styles (3 Years)	49543
Jeffery P. Thayer (30 Days)	33921*
Philip Saint John Wakefield (8 Months)	22599

## Admonitions (4)

LAWYER NAME	BAR NO.
Brett Andrews Purtzer	17283
James Joseph Raffa	20394
Andrequita Silva	17314
Travis Richard Walker	50110*



For more information, please visit [wsba.org](https://wsba.org)  
or our webpage on [Professional Discipline](#).

# Other Components of the Discipline System

## Adjunct Disciplinary Counsel Panel

The Adjunct Disciplinary Counsel (ADC) Panel is established by Rule 2.9 of the Washington Supreme Court’s Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC). Under ELC 5.3(c), disciplinary counsel may assign a grievance to an ADC for investigation either under the supervision of the ODC or independently of WSBA if the matter involves a conflict. In addition, members of the ADC Panel may be called upon to serve as volunteers in the discipline system in a variety of other capacities, such as:

- > **Assisting** disciplinary counsel with a portion of an investigation by reviewing court files, interviewing witnesses, or analyzing evidence;
- > **Serving** as Special Disciplinary Counsel to represent the WSBA in the prosecution of a disciplinary case;
- > **Providing** disciplinary counsel with an opinion on an area of law relevant to a disciplinary hearing or investigation;
- > **Providing** disciplinary counsel with advice on an aspect of a pending disciplinary proceeding; and
- > **Serving** as a probation monitor following imposition of a disciplinary sanction.

In 2025, the ADC Panel consisted of 28 volunteer lawyer members. Members of the ADC Panel were assigned to three new disciplinary related probations, assisted RSD in resolving one investigation, and assisted ODC in resolving four investigations and two proceedings — both of which resulted in admonitions being ordered.

Learn more about the Adjunct Disciplinary Counsel Panel on our [website](#).

## Probation and 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, and 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.

FILE OPENINGS	2023	2024	2025
Probation	16	15	14
Restitution	10	13	11
Costs	34	38	32

CONTINUED >

**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 is incapable of practicing law due to a mental or physical incapacity. In some cases, the lawyer must have counsel appointed at the WSBA’s expense. In these 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 a judicial determination of a lawyer’s incapacity, such as involuntary commitment. Although disciplinary procedural rules under the ELC govern disability proceedings, the proceedings are not disciplinary in nature.

<b>TRANSFERS TO DISABILITY INACTIVE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>



**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 lawyer’s or LLLT’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. To finance the Fund, WSBA lawyers on active status, lawyers with *pro hac vice* admissions, house counsel, foreign law consultants, and limited license legal technicians (LLLTs) on active status pay an annual assessment imposed by order of the Washington Supreme Court.

**In 2025, the Fund gave over \$400,000 in gifts.**

<b>CLIENT PROTECTION FUND<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Member Assessment</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Number of Requests Granted</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Of These, Number of Members Involved</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TOTAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$342,424</b>	<b>\$436,328</b>	<b>\$412,963</b>

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

CONTINUED >

## Funding the Lawyer Discipline System

License fees fund the lawyer discipline system—there is no public funding.<sup>13</sup>

### DISCIPLINE SYSTEM REVENUE AND EXPENSES<sup>14</sup>

REVENUE	2023	2024	2025
Recovery of Discipline Costs	\$51,271	\$54,568	\$49,963
Discipline History Summaries	\$17,969	\$18,510	\$21,317
Misc <sup>15</sup>	\$850	\$170	\$680
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$70,090</b>	<b>\$73,248</b>	<b>\$71,960</b>
EXPENSES	2023	2024	2025
Investigation/Prosecution	\$5,683,853	\$6,039,598	\$6,199,120
Disciplinary Board Expenses	\$260,801	\$305,508	\$277,099
Hearing Officer Expenses	\$30,891	\$40,870	\$40,373
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,975,545</b>	<b>\$6,385,976</b>	<b>\$6,516,592</b>
<b>NET TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,905,455</b>	<b>\$6,312,728</b>	<b>\$6,444,632</b>

<sup>13</sup>. Approximately two percent of the discipline system revenue is funded from alternative revenue sources, including recovery of discipline costs, issuance of discipline history certificates, and recovery of revenue for auditor review of trust account records.

<sup>14</sup>. Lawyer discipline system expenses are based on the WSBA fiscal year.

<sup>15</sup>. Miscellaneous revenue includes audit revenue.

# LPO and LLLT 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.<sup>16</sup>

LPOs may select, prepare, and complete forms approved by the Limited Practice Board for use in closing a loan, extension of credit, sale, or other transfer of real or personal property. See Admission and Practice Rule (APR) 12 for more information about the LPO license. LLLTs are licensed to provide limited legal assistance to clients in family law matters. See APR 28 for more information about the LLLT scope of practice.

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) RSD staff and the chair of each discipline committee conduct an 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.

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

LPO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS	2023	2024	2025
Number of Active Licensees	731	706	704
Disciplinary Grievances Received	7	9	4
Disciplinary Grievances Resolved	7	10	2
Matters Diverted	0	0	0
Disciplinary Actions Imposed	0	1	0

LLLT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS	2023	2024	2025
Number of Active Licensees	81	77	70
Disciplinary Grievances Received	5	1	16
Disciplinary Grievances Resolved	5	1	11
Matters Diverted	0	0	0
Disciplinary Actions Imposed	0	0	1

### 2025 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS IMPOSED

#### Suspension (1)

Mika'il Rashid #155LLLT (11 month suspension)

<sup>16</sup>. On June 4, 2020, the Washington Supreme Court decided to sunset the Limited License Legal Technician program, and on June 9, 2022, the Court extended the deadline for LLLT applicants to complete the preadmission requirement to July 31, 2023. Further information is available on our [website](#).

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