



# Ohio Board of Professional Conduct

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

---

## **Board of Professional Conduct Issues 2021 Annual Report February 25, 2022**

COLUMBUS - The Ohio Board of Professional Conduct has issued its [2021 annual report](#), highlighting the disposition of 69 disciplinary cases, including five cases involving serious allegations of judicial misconduct.

The 69 cases disposed of by the Board included 41 cases in which the Board recommended the imposition of discipline against an Ohio attorney or judge. The Board also conducted hearings on five reinstatement petitions and dismissed three complaints based on insufficient evidence to establish ethical violations. The Board conducted 34 panel hearings, spanning 37 days, and held six meetings to review reports from hearing panels and Board committees.

The report notes a continued increase in judicial misconduct cases. The Board conducted five judicial discipline hearings in 2021, each resulting in findings of misconduct. The Board recommended the imposition of actual suspensions for sitting judges in three cases, the first such recommendation since 2009, highlighting the severity of the misconduct by each judge. Four new judicial misconduct complaints were filed in January and are scheduled for hearing in the Spring of 2022.

The Board issued 12 advisory opinions and 22 staff opinion letters. Four of the advisory opinions addressed issues of first impression in Ohio, and eight opinions updated and replaced previously issued advisory opinions.

The Board's education and outreach activities returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2021. Staff participated in 34 education seminars for lawyers, judges, and judicial candidates, many of which were offered via real-time, interactive video technology. Included in the presentations were the inaugural Ethics "Boot Camp" offerings in June and September. The "Boot Camps" are half-day courses designed for lawyers with fewer than 10 years of legal experience and focus on topics that are the frequent subject of professional misconduct complaints. A total of 681 lawyers attended the two sessions offered in 2021.

"The 2021 Annual Report reflects the continued commitment of the 28 volunteer commissioners and four staff to promoting high standards of ethical conduct by Ohio's judges and lawyers," said Board Director, Richard A. Dove.

The Board of Professional Conduct is a quasi-independent body established in 1957 to assist the Supreme Court of Ohio in its constitutional obligation to regulate the practice of law. The Board consists of 28 volunteer commissioners, appointed by the Supreme Court, and employs a staff of four. The activities of the Board are funded entirely by attorney registration fees assessed by the Supreme Court.

**Contact:** Rick Dove at 614.387.9370 or [rick.dove@bpc.ohio.gov](mailto:rick.dove@bpc.ohio.gov)