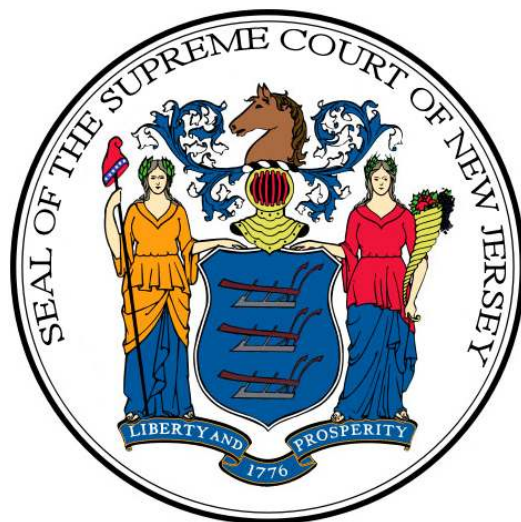


# *Disciplinary Review Board of the Supreme Court of New Jersey*



Annual Report

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

To the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of New Jersey:

I am pleased to present to the Supreme Court the 2024 Annual Report of the Disciplinary Review Board (the Board).

In 2024, the Board adjudicated 286 matters, docketed 302 new matters, and transmitted to the Court 110 disciplinary decisions for final disposition. Additionally, the Office of Board Counsel (the OBC) collected \$314,798.44 in disciplinary costs assessed against attorneys, pursuant to R. 1:20-17. Regarding technology, the OBC further enhanced the Board's public-facing website portal, improving search functionality for New Jersey disciplinary decisions and corresponding Court Opinions and Orders, in addition to the continued availability of all public disciplinary documents on the LexisNexis legal research platform.

As we progress through 2025, the Board remains steadfast in its commitment to its vital role, delivering fair and prompt decisions intended to uphold the integrity of the New Jersey legal profession and protect the public interest. The OBC will continue to support the Board in that important mission while incorporating the guidance provided by the Supreme Court.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Timothy M. Ellis

Timothy M. Ellis  
Chief Counsel

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## **HISTORY OF THE BOARD**

The Disciplinary Review Board (the Board) serves as the intermediate appellate level of New Jersey's attorney regulatory and disciplinary system. The Office of Attorney Ethics (the OAE) exercises statewide jurisdiction over complex and emergent matters while overseeing District Ethics Committees, which investigate, prosecute, and make recommendations in most disciplinary matters. In certain cases, the Supreme Court appoints special ethics adjudicators to hear disciplinary matters.

The Board reviews all recommendations for discipline from the Districts and from special ethics adjudicators. The Board's decisions are final in all cases, subject to the Supreme Court's confirming Order, except for those decisions recommending disbarment. The Board's determinations of both appeals from dismissals of ethics grievances and appeals from Fee Arbitration Committee rulings are final (not subject to appeal).

The Supreme Court created the Board in 1978 and the Office of Board Counsel (the OBC) in 1984. In mid-1994, the Supreme Court eliminated all private discipline and made public all disciplinary proceedings subsequent to the filing and service of a formal ethics complaint.

As part of the attorney regulatory and disciplinary system, the Board and the OBC are funded exclusively by the annual assessments paid by all New Jersey attorneys. In 2024, New Jersey attorneys admitted in their fifth to forty-ninth year of practice were assessed \$267 to fund various components of the disciplinary system. Attorneys in their third and fourth years of practice were assessed \$238. Attorneys in their second year of admission were assessed \$35. Attorneys in their first year of admission and attorneys practicing fifty or more years were not charged a fee.

All Board members are volunteers. However, the OBC staff is professional. The 2024 budget for the disciplinary system, as approved by the Supreme Court, allocated \$2,838,515 to cover salaries and benefits for OBC employees and an additional \$201,700 to cover the Board's operating costs.

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD**

The Board reviews disciplinary and fee cases de novo on the record, with oral argument at the Board's discretion. The Board's practice is to hear oral argument in all cases in which a District Ethics Committee or a special ethics adjudicator issues a report recommending discipline greater than an admonition. On occasion, the Board will remand a matter for further proceedings.

In addition to discipline, the Board may impose certain conditions or restrictions upon an attorney's continued practice of law, such as proctorship; continuing legal education requirements; proof of fitness certified by a medical doctor; periodic submissions of trust account reconciliations; periodic audits of trust account records; disgorgement of unearned fees; establishment or continuation of psychological/substance abuse treatment; the requirement that an attorney practice under the supervision of another attorney; and, occasionally, community service.

In matters where the Board recommends disbarment, the Supreme Court schedules an Order to Show Cause before it. In all other instances, the Board's determination that discipline is warranted is deemed final, subject to the attorney's or the OAE's right to file a petition for review prior to the Supreme Court's entry of a corresponding Order. Occasionally, the Supreme Court, on its own motion, schedules oral argument in non-disbarment cases.

When a trier of fact recommends an admonition, the Board reviews the matter on the written record, without oral argument. If an admonition is appropriate, the Board issues a letter of admonition without Supreme Court review. Alternatively, the Board may schedule the matter for oral argument, if it appears that greater discipline is warranted, or may dismiss the complaint. R. 1:20-15(f)(3) allows the Board to issue a letter of admonition, without Supreme Court review, in those cases where a District Ethics Committee or a special adjudicator recommends a reprimand but the Board determines that an admonition is the more appropriate form of discipline.

When an attorney has been convicted of a crime or has been disciplined in another jurisdiction, the OAE may file with the Board a motion for final discipline (R. 1:20-13(c)) or a motion for reciprocal discipline (R. 1:20-14), respectively. Following receipt of briefs, holding oral argument, and the completion of the Board's deliberations, the OBC files the Board's decision with the Supreme Court.

Pursuant to R. 1:20-10, motions for discipline by consent are filed directly with the Board, without a hearing. Discipline by consent is not plea bargaining, which is not permitted in disciplinary matters. In such motions, the parties stipulate to the unethical conduct, the specific Rules of Professional Conduct violated, and the level of discipline supported by precedent. Following the Board's review of the motion on the written record, it may either grant the motion and file a letter decision with the Supreme Court or deny the motion and remand the case to the District Ethics Committee or to the OAE for further proceedings.

If an attorney fails to timely file a verified answer to a formal ethics complaint, the District Ethics Committee or the OAE certifies the record directly to the Board for the imposition of discipline. R. 1:20-4(f)(2). The Board treats the matter as a default. If the attorney files a motion to vacate the default, the Board will review the motion simultaneously with the default case. If the Board vacates the default, the matter is remanded to the District Ethics Committee or to the OAE for further proceedings. Otherwise, the Board will proceed with the review of the case, deeming the allegations of the complaint admitted. R. 1:20- 4(f)(1). Thereafter, a decision is filed with the Supreme Court.

A disciplinary matter may also come to the Board in the form of a disciplinary stipulation. In these cases, the attorney and the ethics investigator jointly submit a statement of the attorney's conduct and a stipulation specifying the Rules of Professional Conduct that were violated. The Board may accept the stipulation and impose discipline by way of formal decision filed with the Supreme Court, or it may reject it and remand the matter either for a hearing or for other appropriate resolution.

In addition, the Board reviews cases, pursuant to R. 1:20-6(c)(1), in which the pleadings do not raise genuine disputes of material fact, the attorney does not request to be heard in mitigation, and the presenter does not request to be heard in aggravation. In those cases, the Board reviews the pleadings and a statement of procedural history in determining the appropriate discipline, if any, to be imposed.

The Board also reviews direct appeals from grievants who claim that an ethics investigator improperly dismissed their grievance after an investigation, or improperly dismissed their complaint after a hearing, and from parties (both clients and attorneys) to fee arbitration proceedings who contend that at least one of the four grounds for appeal set out in R. 1:20A-3(c) exists.

The Board reviews petitions for reinstatement, pursuant to R. 1:20-21, filed by attorneys who have been suspended from the practice of law by the Supreme Court. Typically, the Board considers these petitions without the need for oral argument and issues a recommendation to the Supreme Court regarding whether the attorney should be reinstated to the practice of law.

Further, the Board reviews requests for the release of confidential documents in connection with a disciplinary matter, pursuant to R. 1:20-9, and requests for protective orders to prohibit the release of specific information. The Board also evaluates R. 1:20-12(b) motions for medical examination, as well as motions for reciprocal disability inactive status. Finally, the Board considers motions for temporary suspension filed by the OAE, in accordance with R. 1:20-15(k), following an attorney's failure to comply with a fee arbitration determination or a stipulation of settlement. In those cases, the Board recommends to the Supreme Court whether the attorney should be temporarily suspended until the fee and any monetary sanction imposed are satisfied.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD**

The Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Supreme Court who serve, without compensation, for a maximum of twelve years (four three-year appointments). Three appointees are nonlawyer, public members; one member is customarily a retired judge of the Appellate Division or of the Superior Court; and the remaining five members are attorneys. In 2024, the Board was chaired by the Honorable Maurice J. Gallipoli, A.J.S.C. (Ret.), until his final term expired and the Supreme Court appointed the Honorable Mary Catherine Cuff, P.J.A.D. (Ret.), as the Chair. Peter J. Boyer, Esq., served as Vice-Chair. The Supreme Court designated that the new Chair and the Vice-Chair continue to serve for terms lasting through March 31, 2025.

### **Chair, Hon. Mary Catherine Cuff, P.J.A.D. (Ret.)**

Mary Catherine Cuff was appointed to the Board in 2024 to serve as Chair. She served in the Judiciary for 28 years, from 1988 to 2016. She served in the Civil and Family Divisions of the Superior Court in Monmouth County, including two years as the Presiding Judge of the Family Division. In 1994, she commenced her service in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court and she was temporarily assigned to the Supreme Court between 2012 and 2016.

### **Vice-Chair, Peter J. Boyer, Esq.**

Peter J. Boyer was appointed to the Board in 2015. He previously served as a member, Vice-Chair, and Chair of the District IV Ethics Committee, and presently serves as a member of the American Law Institute and of the Business Torts and Unfair Competition Committee of the Section of Litigation of the American Bar Association. Mr. Boyer regularly lectures on the topic of Ethics and Professional Responsibility. Mr. Boyer concentrated his practice on commercial and business litigation matters and pre-litigation counseling with respect to commercial disputes, most recently as a partner at Hyland Levin Shapiro, LLP. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as an editor of the American Criminal Law Review.

### **Jorge A. Campelo**

Jorge A. Campelo was appointed to the Board in 2021. He previously served as a public member on the District IX Fee Arbitration Committee. Mr. Campelo is the owner and operator of BRISA Financial Services. The firm focuses on accounting, taxation, and management consulting for business and individual clients worldwide. He previously was a Director of Private Banking at American Express Company and Professor of accounting and business policy at Saint Peter's College/American Institute of Banking. Mr. Campelo is a graduate of Saint John's University (M.B.A.) and S.U.N.Y. Fredonia (B.S.), and is an E.A. and P.M.P.

### **Thomas J. Hoberman, CPA**

Thomas J. Hoberman, CPA/ABV/CFF, was appointed to the Board in November 2013. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Mr. Hoberman is the partner in charge of the Forensic and Valuation Services Department at the advisory, tax, and audit firm WithumSmith+Brown.

### **Steven L. Menaker, Esq.**

Steven L. Menaker is a partner at Chasan Lamparello Mallon & Cappuzzo, PC in Secaucus. He was appointed to the Board in 2021. For almost two decades, he has been certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Civil Trial Attorney and concentrates his practice in business, commercial, and professional liability litigation. Mr. Menaker served as a member, Vice Chair, and Chair of the District VI Ethics Committee, on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics, as Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association Ethics Diversionary Committee, and as Chair of the Hudson



County Bar Association Professionalism Committee. He is a graduate of Brooklyn College (City University of New York) and Rutgers University School of Law – Newark.

**Peter Petrou, Esq.**

Peter Petrou was appointed to the Board in April 2019, following previous appointments as a special ethics adjudicator, a member of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, and a member and former Chair of the District X Ethics Committee. Upon graduation from Duke Law School, where he was a member of the Duke Law Review, Mr. Petrou clerked for the Honorable Leo Yanoff, J.S.C. Mr. Petrou primarily practiced in the area of complex commercial litigation and commercial transactions. He also served as a court-appointed mediator and arbitrator for commercial disputes. His clients included many approved private schools for the developmentally disabled, leading to his current position as the Executive Director of ECLC of New Jersey, with administrative responsibility for its receiving schools, adult day programs, and agency providing job placement, supported employment, and support coordination services.

**Lisa J. Rodriguez, Esq.**

Lisa Rodriguez is Counsel at Dilworth Paxson LLP. She joined the Board in 2023. Her law firm practice concentrates on complex litigation in the areas of securities fraud, antitrust, intellectual property, and consumer litigation. Ms. Rodriguez is a trustee of the Board of Governors of the Bar Association of the Third Circuit and is a member of the Lawyers Advisory Committee of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. She is a past president of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey and a past Chair of the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. She is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School.

**Remi L. Spencer, Esq.**

Remi L. Spencer is a partner in the Criminal Defense and Investigations practices at Pashman Stein Walder Hayden P.C. A Chambers-ranked lawyer, she joined Pashman Stein in 2024 after nearly two decades leading her own boutique litigation firm. Remi joined the Board in 2024. She previously served as Vice-Chair of the New Jersey Supreme Court Ethics Fee Arbitration Committee, District V-A. She is a board member of the Seton Hall University School of Law Board of Visitors, a trustee for the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, New Jersey Chapter, and a founding member of both the New Jersey Chapter of the Women's White Collar Defense Association and the

Women’s Leadership Advisory Committee at Seton Hall University School of Law. Additionally, she is an active member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Essex County Bar Association. Remi is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law and Boston College.

### **Sophia A. Modu**

Sophia A. Modu was appointed to the Board in December 2024. She was a public member of the District VI and VA Ethics Committees before her service on the Board. She was employed until 2019 as Dean, Academic Advisement at Berkeley College. Sophia graduated from Rutgers University, earning a B.A., then attended Wagner College, obtaining her M.B.A. in their Executive Program. Sophia is the Estate Manager and owner of the Chi Modu Collection Inc.

## **OFFICE OF BOARD COUNSEL**

The OBC is responsible for all administrative aspects of the Board, including docketing; case processing; calendaring; distribution of all decisions; and records retention. Additionally, the OBC acts as a cost assessment and collection agency, invoicing disciplined attorneys for administrative and actual costs, recording payments, and enforcing assessments by filing judgments and seeking temporary suspensions for non-payment, when applicable. Moreover, the OBC functions as in-house counsel to the Board, providing legal research, memoranda, and advising on all matters adjudicated by the Board.

Since 1991, the OBC has furnished pre-hearing memoranda to the Board in serious disciplinary cases, motions for consent to discipline greater than an admonition, and matters (such as defaults) containing novel legal or factual issues. To provide greater assistance in connection with the Board’s case review function, this policy was modified. In mid-2003, the OBC began supplying the Board with memoranda on all matters scheduled for consideration, except motions for temporary suspension. These extremely detailed memoranda set out the facts relevant to the issues raised; the applicable law; a pertinent analysis of both; and a recommendation regarding the appropriate quantum of discipline, if any, to be imposed.

In 2024, the OBC was comprised of nine attorneys (Chief Counsel, First Assistant Counsel, Deputy Counsel, and six staff attorneys) and seven

administrative support staff members, including a dedicated technical support professional.

## **THE BOARD'S CASELOAD**

The Board carried eighty-two matters into January 2024. A total of ninety-eight matters were pending on December 31, 2024. Figure 4 provides a graphic representation of the pending Board caseload at the close of 2024 compared to year-end pending caseloads for 2018 through 2023.

The largest number of matters were in the categories of defaults (19.4%), fee and ethics appeals (19.4%), presentments (16.3%), and Rule 1:20-7(j) determinations (15.3%). The smallest number of matters were admonitions (1%), motions for medical exams (1%), matters not requiring a disciplinary hearing (1%), and petitions for reinstatement (2%). The remainder of the Board's docket was comprised of motions for reciprocal discipline (3.1%), motions to temporarily suspend for fee arbitration enforcement (3.1%), motions for discipline by consent (4%), stipulations (7.1%), and motions for final discipline (7.1%).

See Figures 2 and 3.

During calendar year 2024, the OBC docketed 302 matters for review before the Board, twenty more than the previous year. See Figure 1. The number of cases filed with the Board are expected to continue to increase, once again approaching common historic numbers.

In all, the Board resolved 286 of the 384 matters carried into or docketed during calendar year 2024. Pursuant to R. 1:20-8(c), recommendations for discipline are to be resolved within six months of the docket date, and all ethics and fee arbitration appeals have a three-month set timeframe. In 2024, the Board met its time goal in 100% of disciplinary cases and in 74% of appeals.

See Figures 5 and 6.

## **THE BOARD'S ACTIONS**

### **Discipline**

In 2024, the Board rendered dispositions in eighteen presentments; sixteen stipulations; six motions for reciprocal discipline; and ten motions for final discipline. The Board decided twenty motions by consent for the imposition of discipline greater than an admonition.

Of the forty defaults resolved by the Board, thirty-two were determined on the merits. Of the remaining eight, one was dismissed as moot; five were administratively dismissed (one because it did not conform to required docketing standards and the rest to correct service issues); and two were remanded by the Board by granting motions to vacate default.

The Board reviewed seven admonition matters. Of these, four resulted in letters of admonition after review on the papers, two were treated as presentments, and one was dismissed. In addition, the Board granted four motions for imposition of admonition by consent, and one was denied due to the unique circumstances of the case.

The Board also determined thirteen motions for temporary suspension; eleven petitions for reinstatement; five R. 1:20-6(c)(1) matters; two miscellaneous matters; four motions for a medical exam; eleven R. 1:20-7(j) matters; and two subpoenas.

### **Appeals**

The Board considered one hundred and ten appeals in 2024 (ethics and fee combined). Of the fifty-six ethics appeals reviewed, the Board decided all but three (5.7%), which were remanded: two to the District Ethics Committees for new investigations, and one to the OAE for investigation.

Of the fifty-four fee appeals reviewed, the Board remanded nine cases (16.7%) to the District Fee Arbitration Committees. This is a 23.9% decrease compared to 2023's 40.6% rate.

## **THE SUPREME COURT'S ACTIONS**

In 2024, the Supreme Court decided 130 matters, including issuing six disbarments by consent. The Court agreed with the Board's determination in 117 matters, constituting ninety-percent of final Court Orders. See Figure 7.

## **COLLECTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACTUAL COSTS**

The Board assesses reimbursement of administrative costs and actual expenses to the Disciplinary Oversight Committee (the DOC) in all disciplinary cases by way of the Supreme Court's final Order or the Board's Letter of Admonition. Following the adoption of R. 1:20-17 in 1995, as modified in 2004, administrative costs have included a standardized fee based upon the case type ranging from \$650 to \$2,000, plus expenditures advanced by the disciplinary system such as transcripts, court reporter services, special ethics adjudicator fees, and file reproduction costs.

The OBC invoices and collects these assigned costs on behalf of the DOC. R. 1:20-17 authorizes several methods of enforcement when an attorney does not remit assessed costs, including temporary suspension and entry of judgment. Judgments are revived prior to their twenty-year expiration. When available, the OBC will petition for the release of funds belonging to the respondent that are held in the Superior Court Trust Fund to offset any unpaid balance.

During calendar year 2024, the OBC assessed disciplined attorneys a total of \$405,837.79 in 140 cases and collected \$314,798.44, an increase of \$41,357.43 from the previous year.

In 2024, the OBC filed four motions for temporary suspension against attorneys who failed to pay the imposed costs in full. Forty-five judgments were submitted, totaling \$132,374.96, and payments totaling \$61,986.19 were received towards outstanding judgments.

The OBC also collects payments of monetary sanctions that the Board imposes on attorneys, typically when the OAE files a motion for temporary suspension to enforce a fee arbitration award. The Board imposed seven such sanctions in 2024, totaling \$3,500. \$500 payments were received to satisfy two

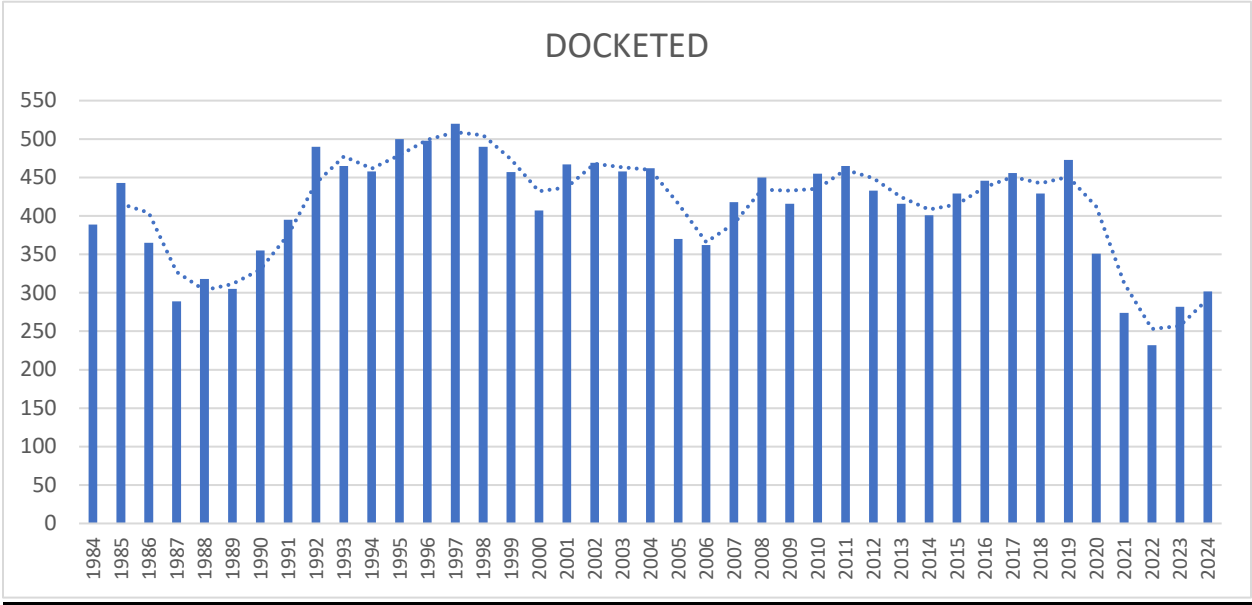
of those sanctions, totaling \$1,000 paid.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

The Board continues to carry out its responsibilities with impartiality, promptness, and integrity. The OBC remains dedicated to efficiently screening, docketing, and managing cases filed with the Board, while adhering to the directives of the Court, administrative guidelines, and established legal precedent. Furthermore, the OBC is committed to seeking and implementing staffing and procedural improvements aimed at increasing efficiency and advancing the Board's mission to resolve all matters under its jurisdiction promptly and fairly. These forthcoming initiatives, coupled with the unwavering dedication of the Board, are poised to uphold public protection and preserve confidence in the legal profession in New Jersey.

APPENDIX

FIGURE 1



**FIGURE 2**

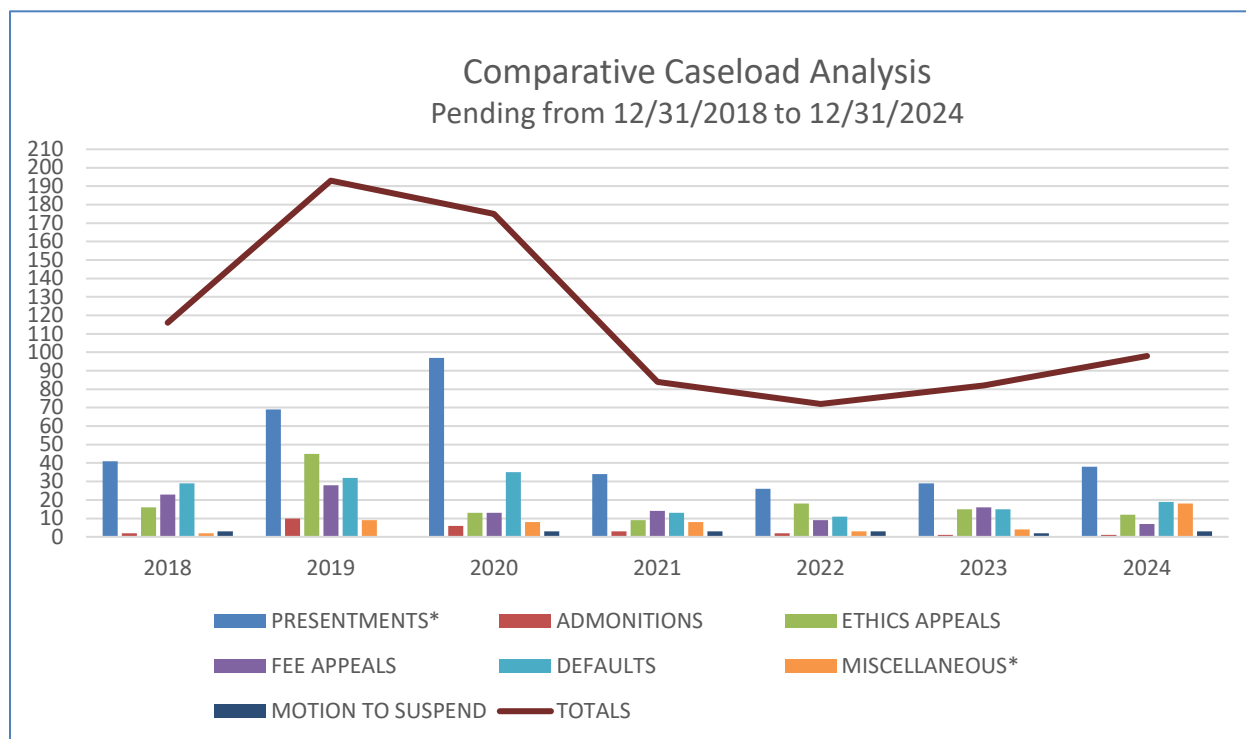
<b>DRB ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024</b>					
<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Carried</b>	<b>Docketed</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Disposed</b>	<b>Pending</b>
Admonition/Presentment	0	2	2	0	2
Admonition	1	7	8	7	1
Appeal/Presentment	1	0	1	1	0
Consent to Admonition	1	5	6	5	1
Consent to Discipline	4	19	23	20	3
Consent to Disbarment	0	6	6	6	0
Default	15	44	59	40	19
Ethics Appeal-Post Hearing	0	1	1	1	0
Ethics Appeal	15	52	67	55	12
Fee Appeal	16	45	61	54	7
Miscellaneous	0	2	2	2	0
Motion for Final Discipline	4	13	17	10	7
Motion for Medical Examination	0	5	5	4	1
Motion for Reciprocal Discipline	4	5	9	6	3
Motion for Temporary Suspension	2	14	16	13	3
Petition for Reinstatement	0	13	13	11	2
Presentment	7	24	31	17	14
<u>R. 1:20-6(c)(1)</u>	5	1	6	5	1
<u>R. 1:20-7(j)</u>	3	23	26	11	15
Stipulation	3	20	23	16	7
Subpoena	1	1	2	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>98</b>



**FIGURE 3**

<b>AGE OF PENDING DRB CASES – BY CASE TYPE as of December 31, 2024</b>				
<b>Case Type</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Prior</b>	<b>Total Pending</b>
Admonition	1	0	0	1
Consent to Discipline	4	0	0	4
Default	19	0	0	19
Ethics Appeal	12	0	0	12
Fee Appeal	7	0	0	7
Motion for Final Discipline	5	2	0	7
Motion for Reciprocal Discipline	3	0	0	3
Motion for Medical Exam	1	0	0	1
<u>R.</u> 1:20-7(J)	15	0	0	15
Motion for Temporary Suspension	3	0	0	3
Presentment	16	0	0	16
<u>R.</u> 1:20-6(c)(1)	1	0	0	1
Reinstatement	2	0	0	2
Stipulation	7	0	0	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98</b>

**FIGURE 4**



\* “Presentments” includes Presentments, Stipulations, Motions for Final Discipline, Motions for Reciprocal Discipline, Consents to Discipline, and R. 1:20-6(c)(1) matters. “Miscellaneous” includes Miscellaneous, Petitions for Reinstatement, Motions for Reconsideration, Subpoenas, R. 1:20-7(j), and Motions for Medical Examination.

**FIGURE 5**

<b>ANNUAL DISPOSITION RATE OF DRB CASES</b>					
<b>2018 – 2024</b>					
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	<b>DOCKETED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DISPOSED</b>	<b>DISPOSITION RATE</b>
<b>2018</b>	138	429	567	451	<b>80%</b>
<b>2019</b>	116	473	589	396	<b>67%</b>
<b>2020</b>	193	351	544	369	<b>68%</b>
<b>2021</b>	175	274	449	365	<b>81%</b>
<b>2022</b>	84	232	316	244	<b>77%</b>
<b>2023</b>	72	282	354	272	<b>77%</b>
<b>2024</b>	82	302	384	286	<b>75%</b>

**FIGURE 6**

AVERAGE RESOLUTION TIMES FOR DRB CASES (IN MONTHS)								
R. 1:20-8(c)			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Discipline:								
Presentments	6		5.9	8.8	9	5.7	5.5	5.3
MFD	6		7	7	9	5	4.1	4.7
MRD	6		6.9	9.3	9	4.1	4.5	5.3
Defaults	6		6.3	7.6	6.8	4.2	4.1	4.4
Consents	6		3.2	3.5	4.9	4.2	2.3	2.5
Stipulations	6		6	8.3	8.5	5.1	5.0	4.7
R. 1:20-6(c)(1)	6		7	8.3	7	3.4	5.0	5.1
Admonitions:								
Standard	6		3.2	4	4.7	2.8	2.4	2.6
By Consent	6		2.9	3.7	4.6	3.4	2.7	2.5
Appeals:								
Ethics Appeals	3		3	5.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	2.2
Fee Appeals	3		3.2	3.6	3.4	2.9	2.6	2.6
Other:								
MTS	-		1.4	1.9	1	1.5	1.6	1.3
Petitions to Restore	-		1	1.3	2.6	1.3	1.6	1.6

## **FIGURE 7**

### **2024 DISCIPLINE COMPARISONS DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD & NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT**

<b>SUPREME COURT DISCIPLINE GREATER THAN DRB DECISION</b>		
<b>ATTORNEY</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD DECISION</b>	<b>SUPREME COURT ACTION</b>
Nickolas Mourtos	Three-Month Suspension	One-Year Suspension
<b>SUPREME COURT DISCIPLINE LESS THAN DRB DECISION</b>		
<b>ATTORNEY</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD DECISION</b>	<b>SUPREME COURT ACTION</b>
Martin Eagan	Disbar	Two-Year Suspension
Joshua McMahon	Two-Year Suspension	One-Year Suspension
Joseph Campbell	Indefinite Suspension	One-Year Suspension Retroactive
Marcel Wurms	Three-Month Suspension	Censure
Brian Smith	Six-Month Suspension	Censure
Glen Diehl	Six-Month Suspension	Reprimand
Christopher Supsie	Admonition	Dismiss
Mary Thurber	Reprimand	Dismiss
Kevin Shannon <sup>1</sup>	Reprimand	Dismiss
Kathleen Cehelsky <sup>2</sup>	Disbar	Vacate
<b>SUPREME COURT RESOLUTION OF SPLIT DECISION</b>		
<b>ATTORNEY</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD DECISION</b>	<b>SUPREME COURT ACTION</b>
Tomas Espinosa	Disbar (3); Three-Year Suspension (3)	Three-Year Suspension
Giovanni DePierro	Censure (3); Reprimand (3)	Reprimand

<sup>1</sup> Dismissed by Order dated October 16, 2024, without prejudice to the OAE filing a motion to re-open if respondent seeks reinstatement from his ongoing temporary suspension.

<sup>2</sup> Dismissed as moot by Order dated April 4, 2024, due to respondent's consent to disbarment docketed under DRB 24-067.



**STUART RABNER**  
CHIEF JUSTICE

**HEATHER JOY BAKER**  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

**DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

**MARY CATHERINE CUFF, P.J.S.C. (RET).**  
CHAIR

**PETER J. BOYER, ESQ.**  
VICE-CHAIR

**JORGE A. CAMPELO**  
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