# THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

# OFFICE OF COUNSEL 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

# DISCIPLINARY STAFF

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Nicole McLaughlin, Deputy Counsel	Ext. 238
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Heather Pattle, Administrator Sonya Sells, Paralegal Becky Carroll, Paralegal Wondella Payne, Paralegal Lori Reams, Administrative Assistant Dawn Whaley, Administrative Assistant Joshua Hoffman, Administrative Assistant	Ext. 227 Ext. 277 Ext. 234 Ext. 296 Ext. 232 Ext. 278 Ext. 295

# ATTORNEY/CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STAFF

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Sandra Saxton, Public Liaison	Ext. 264
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#### OFFICE OF COUNSEL

The Office of Counsel is the department of the North Carolina State Bar that receives and handles complaints concerning attorney misconduct and the unauthorized practice of law. Within the Office of Counsel are the disciplinary staff, the Authorized Practice staff, the Investigations Department and the Attorney/Client Assistance Program (ACAP) staff. The disciplinary staff receives, investigates and, where necessary, litigates claims of professional misconduct and disability against North Carolina attorneys. It also assists the Authorized Practice Committee to investigate and resolve complaints concerning the unauthorized practice of law by non-lawyers. The Office of Counsel also represents the State Bar in the federal and state trial courts and in federal and state appellate courts. The Office provides legal counsel to the Client Security Fund Board of Directors and pursues subrogation actions for recovery of funds paid by the CSF.

The ACAP staff helps members of the public resolve problems with attorneys other than matters involving potentially serious violations of the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct. The ACAP staff also provides information about the grievance process, the courts and justice system and helps resolve disputes between lawyers and their clients regarding fees.

The Office of Counsel includes eleven attorneys, one administrator, three paralegals, three administrative assistants and 10 investigators, including four financial auditors. The Attorney Client Assistance Program staff includes its director, who is also a fee dispute mediator, a second fee dispute mediator, an administrative assistant and three public liaisons. The Office of Counsel is located in the State Bar Building, 208 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

The Office of Counsel is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays and may be reached at 919-828-4620. Each staff person's telephone extension appears on page 2 of this report.

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT OFFICE OF COUNSEL THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

#### **Attorney Client Assistance Program**

The Attorney/Client Assistance Program ("ACAP") is comprised of six staff members; three public liaisons, two mediators and one administrative assistant. During 2007, the staff responded to a total of 21,110 calls from members of the general public, a significant increase over the 17,956 received in 2006. As a result of those calls, 2,789 attorneys were contacted in an attempt to resolve a concern expressed by the client. Additionally, the ACAP staff responded to 2,384 letters from inmates and the general public regarding the representation provided by an attorney. Staff also responded to 686

email messages from the general public requesting information. A graph summarizing call data for the last several years appears on page 19.

This past year there were 699 requests for fee dispute resolution filed with the State Bar; 147 of these requests were sent to one of the four judicial districts having a fee dispute committee, 34 were filed locally and monitored by the State Bar, the remaining 518 files were investigated and mediated, when appropriate, by the ACAP mediators. A graph summarizing the number of fee dispute cases handled by the State Bar since 1995 appears on page 20.

#### **Authorized Practice Committee**

The Authorized Practice Committee opened 120 files in 2007, contrasted with the 113 files opened in 2006. With the assistance of staff, the Committee completed 130 files in 2007.

On October 10, 2007, the Office of Counsel obtained an injunction in Wake County Superior Court against Nick Shelly, a Canadian resident who operated an internet divorce document preparation service called "Law Online." The injunction prohibits Shelly from preparing or offering to prepare legal documents for others and from acting as anything other than a scrivener service in providing form documents.

The Office of Counsel also represented the State Bar in *State of North Carolina* and the North Carolina State Bar v. American Family Legal Plans in Wake County Superior Court. In conjunction with the Attorney General's office, the State Bar sued American Family Legal Plans ("AFLP") for an injunction to prohibit its engaging in the unauthorized practice of law in its marketing a purported prepaid legal service plan that targeted seniors with a sales pitch to convince them to purchase a revocable living trust. After a contested hearing, the court entered a preliminary injunction on October 16, 2006. The State and the State Bar moved for summary judgment. On the eve of the summary judgment hearing, AFLP and one of the individual defendants filed bankruptcy. The court deferred consideration of the summary judgment motion against these defendants until the bankruptcy court notifies the court that the State Bar's action is exempt from the bankruptcy action. The court granted summary judgment against the insurance corporate defendant on unfair and deceptive trade practices only. The court denied summary judgment against the other individual defendant.

Finally, the State Bar sued disbarred West Virginia attorney P. Lee Clay for an injunction to prevent his practicing immigration law. Clay failed to answer. Counsel is seeking a default judgment.

#### **Grievance Committee Actions**

During the calendar year 2007, a total of 1,471 grievance files were opened by the State Bar and the district bar offices, compared with the 1,398 grievances filed in 2006. A chart summarizing the number of grievances filed each year since 1986 appears on page 21.

All grievances received by the North Carolina State Bar must be considered and acted upon by one or more members of the Grievance Committee. The Committee considered a total of 1,361 grievances during 2007. Of those grievances, 1,055 or about 78 percent were dismissed. In addition to the grievances that were dismissed outright in 2007, 20 grievances were dismissed with letters of caution and another 60 grievances were dismissed with letters of warning.

In other activity during calendar 2007, the Grievance Committee issued admonitions in 25 cases, reprimands in 24 cases and censures in 7 cases. A total of 89 cases were referred for trial before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission (DHC). Consequently, for the year, a total of 225 grievances resulted in imposition of discipline by the Grievance Committee or referral to the DHC. That figure represents approximately 17 percent of the grievances considered by the Committee in 2007. An itemized report detailing the disposition of the grievances considered by the Committee in 2007 appears on page 15.

#### **Completed Disciplinary Hearing Commission Actions**

#### 1. Disciplinary and Disability Cases

The DHC is the independent tribunal which hears attorney disciplinary cases. The 20-member Commission hears disciplinary matters involving alleged violations of the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct, cases in which it is alleged that an attorney is disabled, petitions from disbarred attorneys seeking reinstatement to the practice of law and show cause petitions alleging that an attorney has violated a prior DHC order. Each case is heard by a panel of 3, including two lawyers and one layperson.

During 2007, the staff attorneys completed a total of 27 disciplinary, reinstatement and show cause cases before the DHC. Of those, 20 were resolved by trial and 7 by consent. In 2006, staff attorneys completed 46 such cases. Of those, 30 were resolved by consent and 16 were tried.

In both 2007 and 2008, the DHC entered 8 orders of disbarment. In 2007, in 5 of the disbarment cases heard by the Commission, the attorney embezzled or misappropriated client funds. One disbarment case was the result of conduct involving dishonesty, fraud deceit and misrepresentation and one case involved a conviction in federal court for possession of child pornography. In a very public DHC trial, Michael B. Nifong was disbarred for concealing exculpatory evidence from defendants in a criminal

case, lying to the court on multiple occasions about the exculpatory evidence and making dozes of improper extrajudicial statements to the news media.

Also in 2007, the Commission reprimanded 3 attorneys and admonished 1 attorney for less serious violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Two cases were voluntarily dismissed by staff when the defendant-attorneys accepted the discipline originally imposed by the Grievance Committee. One case was dismissed by the DHC. Two attorneys' stayed suspensions were activated after show cause hearings. Two attorneys were given active suspensions and 7 attorneys were given active suspensions with the ability to seek a stay of a portion of the suspension upon compliance various conditions.

A chart summarizing the numbers of DHC cases filed each year since 1985 appears on page 22.

#### 2. Reinstatement Cases

Two petitions for reinstatement from disability inactive status were filed with the DHC in 2007. The DHC heard 1 of these cases and entered an order of reinstatement. The other case is set for hearing on February 8, 2008.

No petitions for reinstatement from disbarment were filed with the DHC in 2007. One such petition was filed in 2006, one was filed in 2005 and two were filed in 2004. A chart summarizing the outcome in reinstatement cases in recent years appears on page 23.

#### Actions Before the Council of the N.C. State Bar

#### 1. Tenders of Surrender of License

In 2007, 3 lawyers surrendered their law licenses to the Council and were disbarred. All 3 misappropriated entrusted funds. Seven attorneys surrendered their law licenses and were disbarred by the Council during 2006. A chart summarizing the numbers of surrenders and disbarments for each year since 1985 appears on page 24.

#### 2. Reinstatement Proceedings

The State Bar Council did not hear any reinstatement proceedings in 2007. The last time the Council considered a reinstatement case was in 2000.

#### **Actions Before the Secretary**

The Secretary receives reinstatement petitions from attorneys whose licenses are suspended for disciplinary violations and enters reinstatement orders in uncontested cases. Contested cases are referred to the DHC for trial.

Five North Carolina attorneys filed reinstatement petitions with the Secretary in 2007. Three petitions were granted without opposition and without a hearing. One was heard before the DHC and the petition was granted. One case is pending before the DHC.

#### **Actions Before the State Trial Courts**

#### 1. <u>Appointment of Trustees of Law Practices of Missing,</u> Deceased, Disabled & Disbarred Attorneys

In 2007, the Office of Counsel prepared petitions to the courts to appoint trustees to wind down the practices of 7 attorneys. Of that number, 1 attorney was missing or had abandoned his practice, 1 attorney was disbarred and did not follow the proper procedure for winding down her law practice and 5 attorneys had died. The State Bar filed 9 trustee petitions in 2006.

#### 2. Disciplinary and Disability Cases in the State Trial Courts

On October 4, 2007, James T. Stroud filed a petition to be transferred to active status in Gaston County Superior Court. Stroud had been transferred to disability inactive status by an interim order in October 2006. A pre-trial hearing was held on December 7, 2007 before the judge assigned to hear the case. The hearing is scheduled for February 18-19, 2008 in Gaston County Superior Court.

#### 3. Injunction Proceedings

During 2007, the Office of Counsel sought injunctions barring 5 attorneys from handling entrusted funds. The Office of Counsel filed such proceedings against 10 attorneys in 2006.

#### 4. Miscellaneous

As usual, the staff attorneys appeared in a variety of litigation matters in the state trial courts in 2007.

During 2007, the staff represented the State Bar in trial level and appellate proceedings involving Willie Gilbert. Gilbert, whose law license was suspended by the DHC in 2000, filed a lawsuit in state court seeking to enjoin the State Bar from proceeding with a second DHC case on a separate issue of misconduct. Gilbert alleged

that the Bar had violated his constitutional rights by filing the second disciplinary action. The trial court entered a permanent injunction prohibiting the Bar from pursuing its disciplinary action and reserved judgment on monetary damages and attorneys' fees. The Court of Appeals dismissed the Bar's appeal as interlocutory. The Supreme Court allowed the Bar's petition for discretionary review and heard oral argument in the case on December 11, 2007.

In June 2007, the State Bar filed a brief in Gilbert's second appeal from the judgment the State Bar obtained in Wake County District Court awarding double damages for funds the Client Security Fund reimbursed to one of Gilbert's clients. The case was scheduled to be considered by the Court without oral argument on October 15, 2007 and we await the court's decision.

In the John G. McCormick bankruptcy case, counsel filed a verified request for payment of administrative expenses seeking reimbursement of the \$53,870.16 the State Bar paid to wind down McCormick's practice. The trustee objected to the request. At a hearing on March 22, 2007, the judge delayed consideration of the request until late in the bankruptcy when the judge would have more information on what assets have been recovered and what the competing claims will be. Counsel was asked to file an amended request deleting the pre-petition costs. On June 14, 2007, after a hearing, the judge denied the request to have the costs treated as an administrative expense.

The Attorney General represents the State Bar and the DHC in a Tort Claims Act case filed by Robert Talford. Talford contends the State Bar and the DHC acted wrongfully in disbarring him. The order of disbarment was later reversed on appeal. In 2007, the Deputy Commissioner orally announced his decision to dismiss Talford's claims but has not entered a written order. Talford is expected to appeal when the order is entered.

The Attorney General also represents the State Bar in a Tort Claims Act case filed by Angela Dozier. Dozier sued the State Bar, Lawyers Mutual and her former lawyer for \$3 million, but did not articulate for what acts or omissions she is suing. Our motion to dismiss has not yet been scheduled for hearing.

In October 2007, Catherine M. El-Khouri, Laura E. Oberbauer and W. Anthony Prucell brought an action against the State Bar, Tom Lunsford and the Administrative Committee members seeking a declaratory judgment that G.S. § 84-3, which mandates payment of a \$50 surcharge by each active member of the State Bar, is unconstitutional. Plaintiffs also seek a permanent injunction prohibiting collection of the surcharge, a refund of surcharges already collected with interest, attorney fees and costs. The Attorney General represents the State Bar and has filed a motion to dismiss. No hearing has been scheduled.

In other work during the year, the staff appeared in Wake County Superior Court to obtain permission to disburse funds from the trust accounts of 9 disbarred, deceased or disabled lawyers.

#### **Actions Before the State Appellate Courts**

The staff represented the State Bar in several appellate matters.

The Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the DHC's orders of discipline against Amiel Rossabi and Emily Meister. The Office of Counsel filed voluntary dismissals of the DHC cases.

The DHC ordered a partial activation of a stayed suspension of Mark Key following Key's misconduct before the Wake County Superior Court. The Superior Court had entered an order finding Key in criminal contempt and suspended his privilege to practice in Wake County for a year. The Court of Appeals affirmed the DHC and the Supreme Court denied Key's petition for discretionary review.

The Court of Appeals affirmed the DHC's dismissal of the disciplinary action against Kenneth Honeycutt and Scott Brewer. The Supreme Court denied the State Bar's petition for discretionary review on October 11, 2007.

The Court of Appeals and Supreme Court both denied Michael McGee's petitions for certiorari. The underlying disciplinary action resulted in his federal lawsuit against the State Bar (see below).

James Ethridge appealed a DHC order of disbarment. Oral argument occurred January 15, 2008.

Garey Ballance filed a document called "Appellate Entries" reciting that he gave "oral notice of appeal in open court" from entry of a DHC order suspending his license for 5 years. In a civil case, the Rules of Appellate Procedure require that one file written notice of appeal within 30 days of entry of the order from which appeal is taken and serve the notice of appeal with opposing counsel. Balance did neither. The DHC dismissed the appeal on January 7, 2008.

Elizabeth Lefler's appeal from a DHC order of discipline was dismissed.

#### **Actions Before the Federal Courts**

In September, 2007, the 4th Circuit dismissed members of the State Bar Administrative Committee as defendants in a lawsuit challenging the \$50 surcharge. Plaintiffs did not appeal.

In 2007, the 4th Circuit affirmed the trial court's dismissal of a lawsuit filed by Michael McGee against the DHC, the State Bar, its officers and various employees. McGee had sought damages under 42 U.S.C. 1983 for discipline imposed upon McGee by the DHC in two separate proceedings. McGee allowed his time to petition the Supreme Court to expire.

On April 9, 2007, after receiving letters of notice from the AP Committee, ARBREP.com and Gerald Collette filed a lawsuit in the Middle District federal district court against "the Councilors of the North Carolina State Bar and an Unknown Number of Unidentified Agents of the State of North Carolina." The plaintiffs sought a declaratory judgment that they are not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law because, they contend, the state statute prohibiting unauthorized practice is preempted by the Federal Arbitration Act. On November 16, 2007, the court dismissed the complaint on grounds that plaintiffs' claims are not ripe because the State Bar is simply making inquiry and is not presently attempting to prohibit plaintiffs' activities.

# SUMMARIES OF DISCIPLINARY, DISABILITY & REINSTATEMENT ACTIONS

#### **BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

#### Tenders of Surrender of License

Attorney Name	File No.	Date of Council Disbarment
Edwin A. Peters	07BCS1	4/20/2007
John Lee	06BCS9	1/19/2007
D. Scott Turner	06BCS10	1/19/2007

#### JUDICIAL DISBARMENTS

Attorney Name	File No.	Date of Judicial Disbarment
Daniel Fulco	07CVS5892	8/13/2007
Robert K. Hunoval	07CVS018912	11/30/2007

#### BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION

#### Reinstatement Cases Completed in 2007

Attorney Name	File No.	<u>Disposition</u>
John G. Freeman	07BSR1	Reinstated from Suspension
Allen W. Rogers	07BSR2	Reinstated from Suspension
Bounthani Vongxay	07BSR3	Reinstated from Suspension
E. Daniels Nelson	07DR1	Reinstated from Disability
	Completed Show Comple	ause Cases
Attorney Name	File No.	<u>Disposition</u>
Mohammed Shyllon	03DHC12	Suspension Activated
D :10 6	OFDITOSO	0

05DHC52

David Craft

Suspension Activated

## BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION

## Completed Discipline & Disability Cases

File No	o. Case Caption	Type of Misconduct	Action
05DHC15	ELIZABETH HICKMON	Embezzlement/misappropriation of client funds	Disbarred
05DHC45	TERESA SMALLWOOD	Embezzlement/misappropriation of client funds	Disbarred
05DHC45	GAREY M. BALLANCE	Mishandled entrusted funds, tax evasion	5 year suspension
06DHC6	CHARLES D. BLACKWELL, II	Federal conviction of possession of child pornography	Disbarred
06DHC11	CHRISTOPHER LIVINGSTON	Unauthorized practice of law in U.S. District Court	Admonition
06DHC20	E. ELIZABETH LEFLER	Abandoned active practice; did not reconcile trust account	Suspended 5 yrs
05DHC21	LAWRENCE U. DAVIDSON, II	Misrepresented facts and collected unearned closing fees	Disbarred
06DHC29	JONATHAN M. BROOKS	False statements and falsified documents to the court, disclosed confidential client information	3 yr suspension, possible 2 yr stay
06DHC31	JANET P. REED	False representations to court, violations of local and general rules of practice	5 yr suspension stayed 5 yrs
06DHC32	MARVA MCKINNON	Failed to file a timely notice of appeal, drafted a divorce complaint while suspended	1 yr suspension, reinstated
06DHC33	MICHAEL P. HUGO	Failed to respond to a letter of notice	Reprimand
06DHC34	JOHN G. MCCORMICK	Embezzlement/misappropriation of client funds	Disbarred
06DHC35	MICHAEL B. NIFONG	Improper statements to media, lying to court	Disbarred
07DHC1	W. RICKERT HINNANT	Negotiated and executed a settlement without clients' authority, did not reveal this to court	5 yr suspension, stayed 5 yrs
07DHC2 07DHC3	KENNETH B. DARTY SCOTT E. HAWKINS	False statements to court, Engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in FL and SC, contacted a represented party and entered into a business transaction with his "client"	Dismissed 3 yr suspension, possible 2 yr stay
07DHC5	TRACY T. HATCHER	Filed a frivolous claim	Reprimand

07DHC6	KEITH L. CLARK	Neglect of multiple client matters, failed to refund unearned fees, failed to participate in the fee dispute program, failed to respond to the State Bar	5 yr suspension, possible 2 yr stay
07DHC7	NANCY P. QUINN	Failed to reconcile trust account, failed to disburse funds ordered by the court	Reprimand
07DHC8	DAVID R. SHEARON	Disbursed funds in a manner contrary to the HUD-1 Settlement statement, misrepresentations to client; failed to respond to State Bar	3 yr suspension, possible 2 yr stay
07DHC11	VAN H. JOHNSON	Conflict of interest during representation of a client, failing to disclose pertinent facts about a case to a judge, misleading the State Bar.	Dismissed
07DHC15	LEROY R. CASTLE	Failed to keep client reasonably informed about the status of case, failed to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, failed to respond to the State Bar	2 yr suspension, possible 30 month stay
07DHC16	ALLAN L. SHACKELFORD	Conflict of Interest	Dismissed
07DHC18	WILLIAM C. MYERS	Embezzlement/misappropriation of client funds	Disbarred
07DHC26	RALPH T. BRYANT	Embezzlement/misappropriation of client funds	Disbarred

# Reinstatement Cases Pending as of 12/31/07

File Number	Case Caption	Hearing Date
07DR2	Bonnie Lee O'Neal	2/8/08
07BSR4	Melvin L. Wall, Jr.	no date

# Disciplinary & Disability Cases Pending as of 12/31/07

Attorney Name	File No.	Trial Date
William Butner	01DHC2	TBA
Michael H. McGee	04DHC21	2/22/08
Ralph E. McLaurin	05DHC39	TBA
Rick F. Shumate	05DHC56	3/14&15/08
		(Interim Suspension)

Clyde G. Triggs	06DHC30	2/14&15/08
Tamla T. Scott	07DHC4	2/15/08
Creighton W. Sessomon	07DHC9	2/29/08
Shonna R. Alexander	07DHC10	3/14/08
Robert M. Talford	07DHC12	2/1/08
Peter K. Gemborys	07DHC13	Reschedule
Robert N. Weckworth, Jr.	07DHC14	2/8/08
Paul L. Erickson	07DHC17	3/28/08
Paul E. Hemphill	07DHC19	1/11/08
Jeffrey A. Howle	07DHC20	Reschedule
D. Bernard Alston	07DHC21	Reschedule
Charles E. Robinson	07DHC22	3/7/08
Amanda S. Smith	07DHC23	4/11/08
Thomas P. Heller	07DHC24	3/31/08
William L. Durham	07DHC25	3/7/08
Susanna G. Garza	07DHC27	4/4/08
Bradley R. Lamb	07DHC28	Reschedule
		(Interim Suspension)
Michelle V. Mallard	07DHC29	4/11/08
Rhonda R. Hipkins	07DHC30	TBA

# Show Cause Cases Pending as of 12/31/07

Attorney Name	File No.	Trial Date
Randal S. Marsh	05DHC28	2/1/08

#### **BEFORE THE STATE TRIAL COURTS**

#### Appointment of Trustees Completed in 2007

Name of Missing, Disabled, Deceased Attorney	Reason Trustee Sought
Evander Britt, III	Deceased
Curtis Vaught	Deceased
Lee Craig Biggar	Deceased
Kirk Osborne	Deceased
Elizabeth Hickmon	Disbarred
Darryl Bolduc	Abandonment
William D. McNaull, Jr.	Deceased

#### <u>Injunction Proceedings in 2007</u>

Edwin A. Peters Daniel Fulco Ralph T. Bryant Robert K. Hunoval Tonya Crew

#### BEFORE THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

#### Totals for 2007

Total Grievances Filed – 1,471 Total Cases Considered by Committee – 1,361

Dismissed – 1,028
Cases dismissed & retained – 27
Dismissed with letters of caution – 20
Dismissed with letters of warning – 60
Referred to LAP, LMAP or both – 15
Admonitions – 25
Reprimands – 24
Censures – 7
Cases referred to DHC – 89

#### Grievance Totals for January 2007

There were 327 cases considered this quarter.

During the quarter, pursuant to .0105(19) and (20), the following cases were concluded by the 3 subcommittees, or on vote of the Chair or the Chair and Vice Chair:

- 235 Dismissed
- 3 Dismissed and Retained (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 6 Lawyers received Letters of Caution
- 21 Lawyers received Letters of Warning
- 3 Lawyer referred to LAP (1 lawyer had 3 cases)
- 2 Lawyers who were previously issued Letters of Warning were denied reconsideration
- 3 Lawyers received Reprimands (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 6 Lawyers received Admonitions (1 lawyer had 3 cases)
- 4 Lawyers were continued for further investigation (1 lawyer had 7 cases)

- 3 Lawyers received Censures
- 10 Lawyers were sent to the DHC (1 lawyer had 7 cases, 1 lawyer had 2 cases, 1 lawyer had 3 cases)
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously referred to the DHC was reconsidered and issued a Reprimand
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously issued an Admonition was reconsidered and issued a Letter of Warning
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously issued a Reprimand was reconsidered and given Letter of Warning
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously issued a Reprimand was reconsidered and issued an Admonition
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously continued was reconsidered and referred to LAP
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously continued was issued an Admonition
- 1 Lawyer who had 3 cases that were previously continued was issued Censures for all three of his cases
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously continued was referred to the DHC

#### Grievance Totals for April 2007

There were 339 cases considered this quarter.

During the quarter, pursuant to .0105(19) and (20), the following cases were concluded by the 3 subcommittees, or on vote of the Chair or the Chair and Vice Chair:

- 254 Dismissed
- 21 Dismissed and Retained
- 5 Lawyers received Letters of Caution
- 14 Lawyers received Letters of Warning
- 2 Lawyers received Reprimands (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 3 Lawyers received Admonitions (1 lawyer had 3 cases)
- 6 Lawyers' cases were continued for further investigation (llawyer had 3 cases)
- 9 Lawyers were sent to the DHC (1 lawyer had 3 cases; 3 lawyers had 2 cases each; 1 lawyer had 8 cases, 1 lawyer had 6 cases)
- 1 Lawyer whose case was previously issued an Admonition was reconsidered and dismissed
- 1 Lawyer's case was dismissed and referred to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.
- 1 Lawyer's case was dismissed upon completion of LAP

#### Grievance Totals for July 2007

There were 344 cases considered this quarter.

During the quarter, pursuant to .0105(19) and (20), the following cases were concluded by the 3 subcommittees, or on vote of the Chair or the Chair and Vice Chair:

- 279 Dismissed
- 2 Dismissed and Retained
- 5 Lawyers received Letters of Caution
- 12 Lawyers received Letters of Warning
- 10 Lawyers received Reprimands (2 lawyers had 2 cases each)
- 6 Lawyers received Admonitions
- 3 Lawyers received Censures
- 5 Lawyers' cases were continued for further investigation (1lawyer had 2 cases)
- 2 Lawyers' cases were referred to LAP (1lawyer had 2 cases)
- 1 Lawyer's cases which were previously referred to LAP were continued to remain in LAP (1lawyer had 2 cases)
- 6 Lawyers were sent to the DHC (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 1 Lawyer's case which was previously referred to the DHC was reconsidered and continued
- 1 Lawyer's case which was previously referred to the DHC was reconsidered and dismissed
- 1 Lawyer's cases which were previously given Censures were denied reconsideration (1 lawyer had all three cases)

#### **Grievance Totals for October 2007**

There were 351 cases considered this quarter.

During the quarter, pursuant to .0105(19) and (20), the following cases were concluded by the 3 subcommittees, or on vote of the Chair or the Chair and Vice Chair:

#### 260 Dismissed

- 1 Lawyer's case which was previously dismissed with a Letter of Warning was reconsidered and dismissed.
- 4 Lawyers received Letters of Caution
- 13 Lawyers received Letters of Warning
- 5 Lawyers received Reprimands
- 5 Lawyers received Admonitions (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 1 Lawyers received Censures
- 1 Lawyer's case was continued for further investigation
- 1 Lawyer's case was continued for further investigation by the Ethics Committee

- 1 Lawyer's cases which previously received Reprimands were reconsidered and continued for further investigation by the Ethics Committee (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 2 Lawyers' cases were referred to LAP (1 lawyer had 6 cases)
- 1 Lawyer's cases which were previously referred to LAP were reconsidered upon completion of LAP and received Reprimands (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 3 Lawyers' cases which were previously referred to LAP were reconsidered upon completion of LAP and dismissed
- 1 Lawyer's case which was previously dismissed with a Letter of Warning was reconsidered and dismissed with a Letter of Caution
- 12 Lawyers were sent to the DHC (1 lawyer had 12 cases, 1 lawyer had 9 cases, 2 lawyers had 2 cases each, 2 lawyers had 3 cases each)
- 1 Lawyer's cases which were previously referred to the DHC was reconsidered and dismissed (1 lawyer had 3 cases)
- 1 Lawyer's case which was previously referred to the DHC was reconsidered and received Censures
- 1 Lawyer's cases which were previously referred to the DHC was reconsidered and received Reprimands (1 lawyer had 2 cases)
- 1 Lawyer's case which was previously referred to the DHC was reconsidered and referred back to the DHC