

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR



ANNUAL REPORT

2018



WWW.NCBAR.GOV



To the extent that lawyers meet the obligations of their professional calling, the occasion for government regulation is obviated. Self-regulation also helps maintain the legal profession's independence from government domination. An independent legal profession is an important force in preserving government under law, for the abuse of legal authority is more readily challenged by a self-regulated profession.



*- Preamble to the
North Carolina Rules of
Professional Conduct*

BY THE NUMBERS

29,017

Active Lawyers

\$642,403.64

Reimbursed to
Members of the
Public

4,650

Ethics
Inquiries
Answered

523

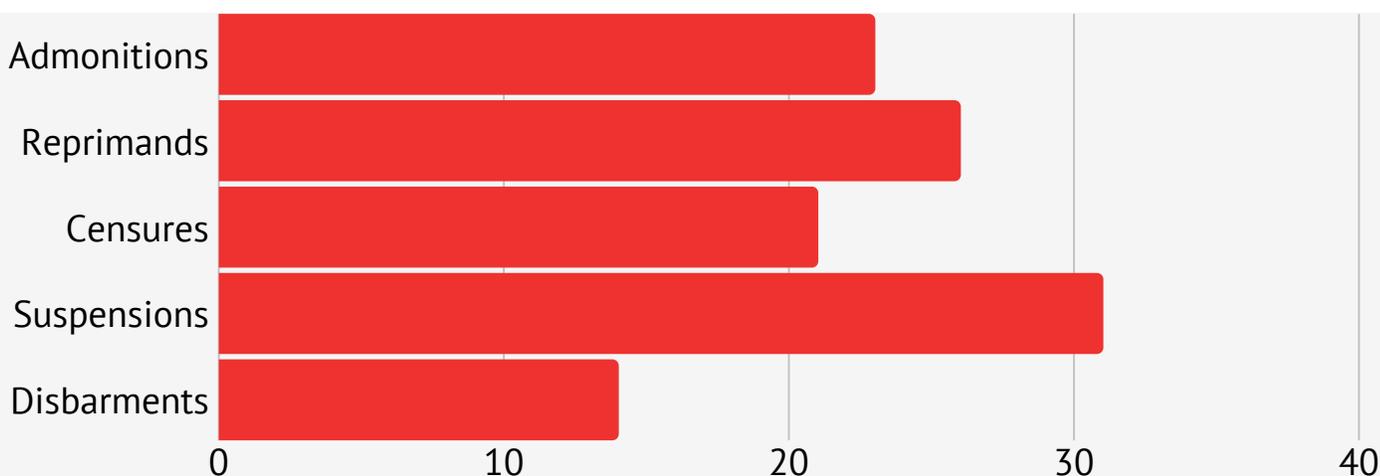
Fee
Disputes
Opened

19,139

Client
Calls/Emails
Answered

The North Carolina State Bar is the government agency that regulates the legal profession for the protection of the public. The State Bar currently regulates over 29,000 active North Carolina lawyers. Although the State Bar is responsible for the administration of numerous programs for the improvement of the legal profession, the key regulatory responsibilities of the State Bar are the promulgation of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the investigation and prosecution of lawyers who violate the State Bar's code of ethics.

DISCIPLINARY RESULTS



PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

Protecting the people of North Carolina

DISCIPLINE

The State Bar protects the public by issuing professional discipline to lawyers. Allegations of lawyer misconduct are investigated by the State Bar's professional staff and reviewed by the Grievance Committee of the State Bar Council. Cases that are not resolved at the Grievance Committee level are tried before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission, an independent administrative tribunal composed of lawyers and non-lawyers.

ETHICS

The State Bar provides advice to lawyers who are faced with ethical questions through its Ethics Committee and its professional staff. The committee regularly reviews and recommends changes to the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct, the ethical code to which North Carolina lawyers must conform their conduct and pursuant to which a lawyer may receive professional discipline.

AUTHORIZED PRACTICE

The State Bar, through its Authorized Practice Committee and professional staff, investigates complaints and obtains injunctions to prevent violations of the statutes prohibiting the unauthorized practice of law. These cases often involve non-lawyers who mislead the public about their ability to provide legal services and who take money from members of the public without providing the offered service.

PROGRAMS

CLIENT SECURITY FUND

Reimburses clients who suffered financial loss as a result of dishonest conduct by lawyers.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT ASSISTANCE

Responds to thousands of inquiries each year from members of the public who need assistance with their lawyers.

FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Offers clients a way to resolve their fee disputes with their lawyers. All lawyers are required to participate in the process when initiated by a client.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Establishes annual minimum educational requirements and enforces lawyers' compliance with these standards.

LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Protects the public from impaired lawyers and assists lawyers suffering from and impaired by chemical dependency and/or mental illness.

PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION

Certifies paralegals who meet certain criteria indicative of special competence in their profession.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Provides training for military and civilian lawyers to enable them to better serve the legal needs of members of the armed services and their dependents in North Carolina.

INTEREST ON LAWYERS' TRUST ACCOUNTS

Collects interest on lawyers' general trust accounts and makes grants under the direction of its Board, primarily to support the provision of free legal services to North Carolina's indigent citizens.

LAW PRACTICE WIND DOWN

Facilitates the wind down of law practices of lawyers who are unavailable due to death, disappearance, disability, or disbarment by identifying and providing resources to court-appointed trustees.

SPECIALIZATION

Certifies lawyers who satisfy certain criteria demonstrating special substantive knowledge, skill, and proficiency in several discrete areas of the law.

LAW SCHOOL THIRD-YEAR PRACTICE

Certifies law students as eligible for supervised clinical practice in the courts in accordance with certain criteria.



STATUS REPORT - 2018

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ACTIVITY

REMARKS



Hurricane Relief

The State Bar and Supreme Court adopted a temporary rule allowing lawyers from across the country to provide needed pro bono legal services to indigent victims of Hurricane Florence.



Increase Transparency

The State Bar's first Annual Report was released in March, and the first live stream of a State Bar Council Meeting occurred in October.



Leadership Transition

Alice Neece Mine was installed as the agency's Executive Director, succeeding Tom Lunsford, who had held the post since 1992.



Improve Technology Competence

North Carolina became the second state in the nation to add a mandatory technology hour to lawyers' continuing legal education requirements.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

ABOUT US FOR LAWYERS BAR PROGRAMS LAWYER DISC

Home • News and Publications • News & Notices • Statewide Disaster Relief Legal Resources

STATEWIDE DISASTER RELIEF LEGAL RESOURCES

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

The State Bar is compiling a list of legal resources for those in need of legal assistance in t Hurricane Florence. If you would like your organization's information posted on this page information is incorrect, please contact Peter Bolac at pbolac@ncbar.gov.

North Carolina Disaster Legal Services

The North Carolina Bar Association, FEMA, the American Bar Association, and Legal Aid are collaborating to provide immediate pro bono legal assistance to Hurricane Florence su NC Disaster Legal Services Program.

For assistance, call the Disaster Legal Services Hotline at 1-833-242-3549. Additional



North Carolina State Bar was live.

about 2 months ago

Following

1,031 People Reached

216 Engagements

Boost Post

7 Shares 601 Views

From the Mountains to the Sea

THE STATE BAR COUNCIL



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Winston-Salem

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Colon Willoughby
Raleigh

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Raeford

David F. Branch, Jr.
Lumberton

Richard Buckner
Rockingham

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Roxboro

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Eden

Thomas W. Anderson
Pilot Mountain

Patrice A. Hinnant
Greensboro

Stephen E. Robertson
Greensboro

David N. Allen
Charlotte

Raymond A. Bretzmann
High Point

Herbert Jay White
Concord

Robert C. Bowers
Charlotte

A. Todd Brown
Charlotte

Mark Henriques
Charlotte

Dewitt (Mac) McCarley
Charlotte

Gena G. Morris
Charlotte

Eben T. Rawls, III
Charlotte

Jennifer D. Hammond
Salisbury

John Webster
Albemarle

Richard J. Costanza
Southern Pines

H. Ligon Bundy
Monroe

George M. Cleland, IV
Winston-Salem

Kevin G. Williams
Winston-Salem

Kimberly S. Taylor
Taylorsville

Sally Strohacker
Mocksville

John S. Willardson
Wilkesboro

Andrea N. Capua
Boone

M. Alan LeCroy
Morganton

Clark R. Bell
Asheboro

Timothy L. Patti
Gastonia

Anna Hamrick
Asheville

Rebecca J. Pomeroy
Lincolnton

H. Russell Neighbors
Marion

Christopher S. Stepp
Hendersonville

Gerald Collins
Murphy

Thomas W. Elkins
Raleigh

Joseph E. Johnston
Greensboro

Mohan Venkataraman
Morrisville

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