



The North Carolina State Bar
Office of Counsel

2023
Annual
Report

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o B. Tessa Hale	o Rick Grayson
o J. Cameron Lee	o Doug Miller
o Savannah P. McLamb	o Carolyn Page
o Barry S. McNeill	o Fred Patton
o Ryan C. Meisnere	o Robert Powell
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o Brittany Wilson	Intake Coordinator
o Becky Carroll	Sylvia Santana
o Jennifer Slattery	Fee Dispute Facilitator
o Tyler Gibbens	Kerri Passarella
o Jeffrey Lundgren	Public Liaisons
o Elizabeth Myers	o Todd Bascom
o Wondella Payne	o Stephanie Hampton
o EJ Schultz	ACAP Administrative Assistants
Administrative Assistants	o Diane Melching
o Lori Brooks	Elizabeth Robbins
o Joan Renken	

THE OFFICE OF COUNSEL

The Office of Counsel (OOC) is the legal department of the North Carolina State Bar. The OOC consists of disciplinary staff, authorized practice staff, an investigations department, the Attorney/Client Assistance Program (ACAP), and the Trust Accounting Compliance Program (TACP). The OOC reports to the State Bar's Grievance Committee upon all grievance files alleging professional misconduct and disability of North Carolina lawyers. It investigates and prosecutes claims of professional misconduct and disability. The OOC assists the Authorized Practice Committee by investigating and reporting upon complaints concerning the unauthorized practice of law, including representing the State Bar in lawsuits to obtain injunctions prohibiting the unauthorized practice of law. It provides legal counsel to the Client Security Fund Board of Directors (CSF) and pursues subrogation actions for recovery of funds paid by the CSF. It coordinates the appointment of trustees to wind down the practices of deceased, disabled, disbarred and missing lawyers and obtains court orders to disburse funds in their trust accounts. The OOC represents the State Bar in litigation in federal and state trial and appellate courts, prosecutes disciplinary actions initiated by the judiciary when appointed to do so by the court, and provides legal opinions to departments, committees, and boards of the State Bar.

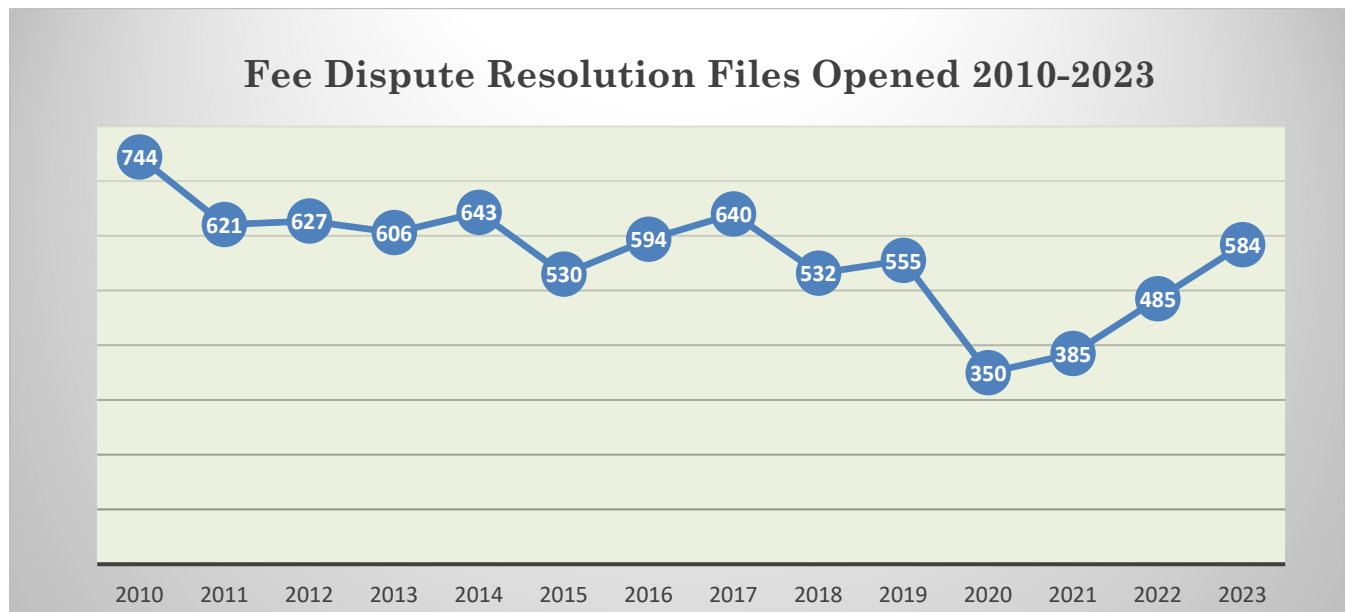
The ACAP staff helps clients resolve problems with their lawyers other than matters involving potentially serious violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The ACAP staff also provides information about the grievance process, the courts and the justice system. ACAP includes two fee dispute facilitators who help members of the public and lawyers reach voluntary resolution of disputes over legal fees.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR OFFICE OF COUNSEL 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ATTORNEY CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

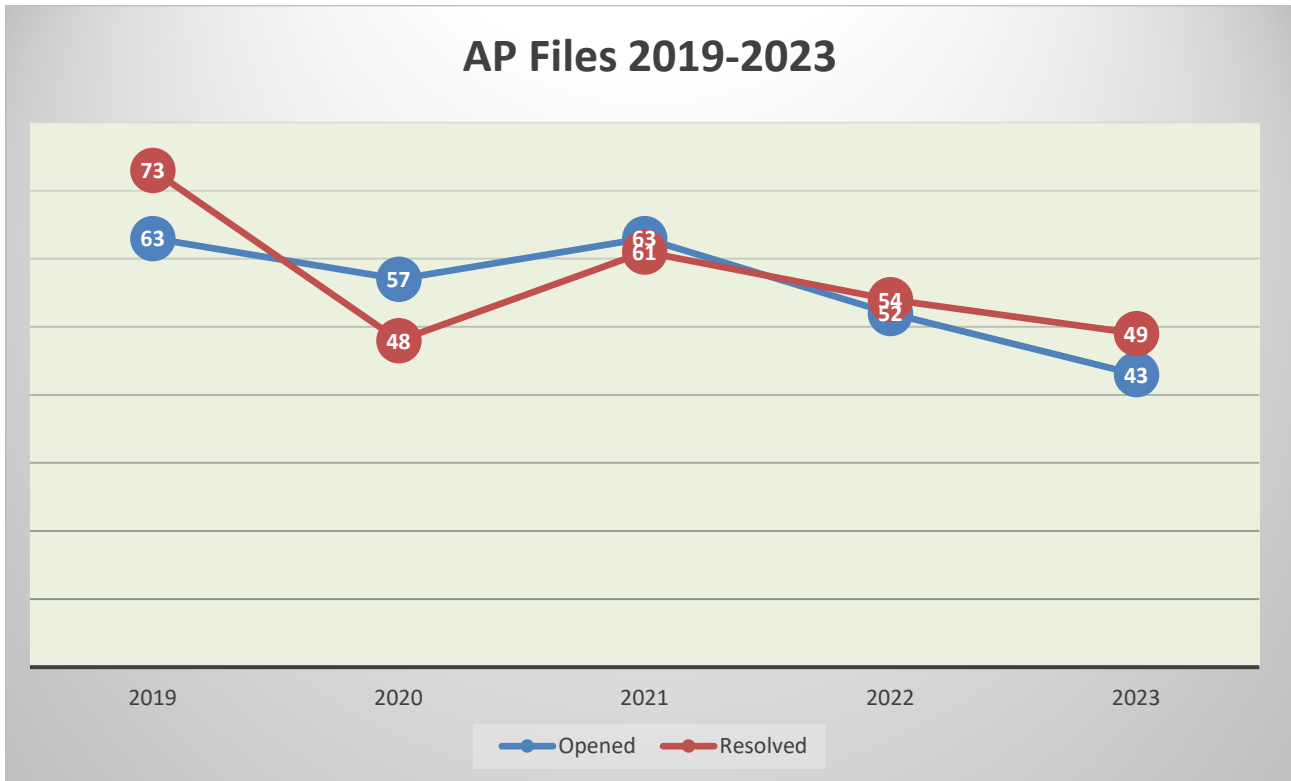
The Attorney Client Assistance Program (ACAP) is comprised of seven staff members: The program director, who is also a fee dispute resolution facilitator, a second fee dispute resolution facilitator, an intake coordinator, two public liaisons and two administrative assistants. During 2023, the staff responded to 8,494 calls from clients and other members of the public. The ACAP staff also responded to 2,148 letters from inmates and 4,650 email messages from clients and lawyers. The ACAP staff contacted 743 lawyers in attempts to resolve clients' concerns. ACAP's intake coordinator logged 18,764 entries in 2023.

The State Bar opened 584 fee dispute resolution files during 2023. This compares to previous years as follows:



AUTHORIZED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

In 2023, the Authorized Practice Committee opened 43 files and resolved 49 files. This compares to previous years as follows:



The committee also registers prepaid legal service plans. Plans must file initial registration statement forms and amended registrations and submit annual renewals. The committee does not approve plans but does review registrations to confirm that proposed plans and amendments fall within the definition of a prepaid legal service plan. During 2023, eight proposed plans were submitted for registration; six were registered. Two amendments were submitted for existing plans, both of which were registered.

The OOC collaborates with the Consumer Protection Division of the North Carolina Attorney General's Office to prevent the unauthorized practice of law in North Carolina, particularly involving persons and entities that offer legal services in the areas of debt adjusting, loan modification, and preparation of living trusts for senior citizens.

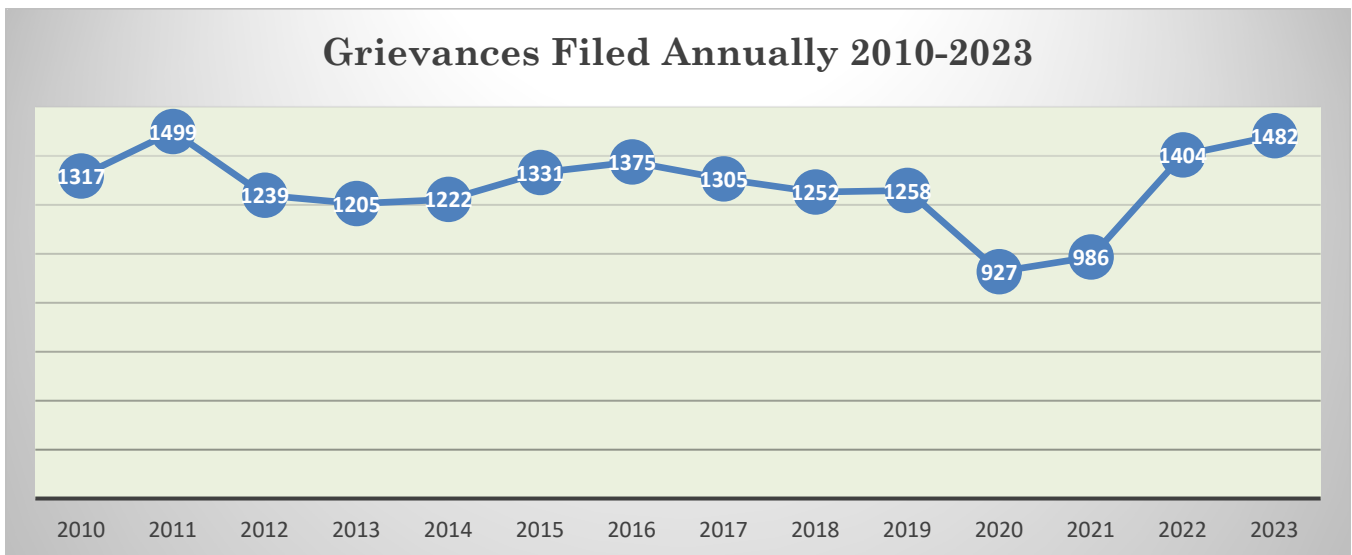
TRUST ACCOUNTING COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

In 2023, nineteen lawyers successfully completed the trust account management training and oversight provided by the Trust Accounting Compliance Program (TACP). Twenty-seven lawyers were participating in TACP at the end of 2023. The number of lawyers successfully completing the program annually is as follows:



GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

During 2023, the Grievance Committee opened 1,482 grievance files. This compares to previous years as follows:



The Grievance Committee considered a total of 1,038 grievance files in 2023. The following actions were recommended:

- 850 files were dismissed
- 3 files were deferred for future disposition
- 3 files were referred to the Lawyers Assistance Program
- 11 files were referred to the Trust Accounting Compliance Program
- 35 files were dismissed and retained (Respondent disbarred)
- 2 files were abated (Respondent disabled)
- 16 files were dismissed with letters of caution
- 28 files were dismissed with letter of warning
- 20 files recommended for admonitions
- 14 files recommended for reprimands
- 8 files recommended for censures
- 48 files (involving 29 lawyers) were referred for hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission

Ten files were considered by Grievance Review Panels.

The Committee entered consent orders transferring four lawyers to disability inactive status.

CASES BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION

The DHC is the independent tribunal that hears lawyer discipline and disability cases. The 26-member commission hears cases involving alleged violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, cases in which it is alleged that a lawyer is disabled, petitions from disbarred and suspended lawyers seeking reinstatement of their law licenses, and actions requiring lawyers to show cause they should not be found to have violated an existing order of the DHC. Each case is heard by a panel of three, consisting of two lawyers and one public member. DHC hearing schedules are available online [here](#) and orders of the DHC are available [here](#).

During 2023, the OOC completed a total of 21 disciplinary cases before the DHC representing 66 files referred by the Grievance Committee. Of those, six were resolved by hearing or default judgment and 15 were resolved by consent. The OOC also filed one petition for grievance noncompliance suspension and one petition for interim suspension in the DHC in 2023.

The 2023 DHC actions are listed below:

Lawyer	File No.	Outcome
		<u>Disbarments</u>
Kathie L. Willard	23DHC2	Disbarred (consent)
Kenneth A. Free, Jr.	22DHC8	Disbarred (consent)
J. Brent Garner	22DHC10	Disbarred (hearing)
Charles R. Gurley	22DHC12	Disbarred (hearing)
Michelle C. Smith	22DHC13	Disbarred (consent)
		<u>Suspensions</u>
Robert T. Hedrick	23DHC3	5-year Suspension (consent)
Mark A. Key	21DHC23	5-year Suspension; possible stay after 3 years (hearing)
Valerie B. Queen	22DHC18	5-year Suspension; possible stay after 18 months (default)
Suzanne A. Nelson	22DHC20	5-year Suspension; possible stay after 6 months (consent)
Gregory A. Bullard	21DHC14	3-year Suspension; stayed 5 years (consent)
Kenneth R. Davis	22DHC26	3-year Suspension; stayed 5 years (consent)
Monica R. Savidge	22DHC17	3-year Suspension; stayed 3 years (hearing)
Lonnie W. Carraway	23DHC7	1-year Suspension; stayed 1 year (consent)
Andre N. Hogan	22DHC22	1-year Suspension; stayed 2 years (consent)
		<u>Disability Inactive</u>
Stephanie L. Villaver	17DHC3D	Disability Inactive
Robert Lewis, Jr.	18DHC26	Disability Inactive
Richard T. Dail	22DHC7	Disability Inactive
		<u>Other</u>
Frank J. Chut, Jr.	21DHC6	Voluntary Dismissal
Matthew S. Schrum	23DHC9	Involuntary Dismissal
Cindy Huntsberry	21DHC20	Voluntary Dismissal
Kevin L. Wingate	23DHC16	Interim Suspension

Michael A. DeMayo	22DHC1	[Reversed on Appeal]
Earnest N. Bailey	23DHC1N	Suspended for Grievance Noncompliance

Petitions for Stay and for Reinstatement

In 2023, the DHC considered six petitions for stay of suspension or reinstatement to practice. Three lawyers were reinstated and three lawyers were denied reinstatement:

<u>Lawyer</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Kelly R. Routh	21DHC24	Reinstated (consent)
Lloyd R. Kelso	21DHC21	Reinstated (consent)
Gregory Bartko	23BCR1	Reinstatement Denied
Christopher C. Peace	22RD1	Reinstated from disability(consent)
David Shawn Clark	22BCR2	Reinstatement Denied
Demetrius G. Rainer	22BCR3	Reinstatement Denied

APPEALS

The OOC represented the State Bar in eight cases before the appellate courts in 2023.

Appeals Completed in 2023

<u>Lawyer</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Patrick Megaro	18DHC41	Affirmed/Discretionary Review Denied
Brooke M. Crump	22CVS220 (Montgomery County)	Dismissed
Kenneth Irek	92DHC17	Affirmed/Discretionary Review Denied
Lonnie P. Merritt	21DHC5	Affirmed/Discretionary Review Denied
Michael DeMayo	22DHC1	Reversed

Appeals Pending as of December 31, 2023

Lawyer	File No.	Status
Mark A. Key	21DHC23	Cross Appeal; To Be Decided Without Oral Argument
Gregory Bartko	23BCR1	To Be Decided Without Oral Argument
David Shawn Clark	22BCR12	Settling Record

ACTIONS BEFORE THE STATE BAR COUNCIL

Tenders of Surrender of License

In 2023, six lawyers surrendered their law licenses to the State Bar Council and were disbarred:

Lawyer	File No.	Date of Disbarment
David E. Gurganus	23BCS1	January 20, 2023
Stuart L. Egerton	23BCS2	January 20, 2023
Sean Thomas Dillenbeck	23BCS3	April 21, 2023
Omowunmi O. Odedere	23BCS4	April 21, 2023
Charles M. Kunz	23BCS5	April 21, 2023
Rebecca A. Nelson	23BCS6	July 21, 2023

Reinstatement Petitions

In 2023, the Council considered one petition for reinstatement by a disbarred lawyer, David Shawn Clark 22BCR2. The Council denied the petition for reinstatement. The petitioner appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals.

ACTIONS IN THE STATE TRIAL COURTS

Proceedings Initiated by the Judiciary

In 2023, the OOC participated in the following judicial discipline and disability matters before the courts:

Lawyer	File No.	Outcome
Jack W. Daly	Wake Co. 23CV28591-910	Disbarred
Christie A. Misocky	Wake Co. 17CVS9550	Disbarred
Jasmine H. Gregory	Stokes Co. 22CR412	Dismissed
Phillip Entzminger	Pitt Co. 17CRS1930	Suspension stayed

Trusteeships

In 2023, the OOC petitioned the courts to appoint trustees to wind down the law practices of 14 lawyers:

Lawyer	Reason Trustee Sought
Benner Jones, III	Disability Inactive Status
Ernest J. Wright	Deceased
Benjamin Hudson Bridges, III	Deceased
John Gray Lewis, Jr.	Deceased
Charles Michael Kunz	Deceased
Arthur M. Blue	Deceased
Gerald S. Schafer	Deceased
Douglas R. Hux	Disability Inactive Status
David Herman Harris, Jr.	Deceased
Stephanie Lynne Villaver	Disability Inactive Status
Fred Henry Moody, Jr.	Deceased
James Barnes Weeks	Deceased
Frederick Kingsley Sharpless	Deceased
Ann B. Peterson	Deceased

Injunctions

During 2023, the OOC obtained injunctions in Wake County Superior Court prohibiting five lawyers from handling entrusted funds:

Lawyer	Date of Injunction
Arthur M. Blue, Carthage	April 6, 2023
Michael J. Edney, Hendersonville	April 13, 2023
Richard D. Allen, Pittsboro	August 24, 2023
Brooke M. Crump, Mount Gilead	September 21, 2023
Julie A. Paker, Emerald Isle	November 28, 2023

Disbursements

During 2023, on behalf of the Disbursements Committee, the OOC obtained court authorization to disburse or escheat funds totaling \$69,101.14 from the trust accounts of suspended or disbarred lawyers. Of that, \$52,907.98 resulted from follow-up trust account investigation. Escheatment to the North Carolina Department of the State Treasurer totaled \$16,193.16.

LITIGATION AGAINST THE STATE BAR OR ITS CONSTITUENTS

The OOC and the Attorney General represented the State Bar in various state and federal courts and administrative tribunals in 2023.

Litigation Completed During 2023

North Carolina Superior Courts

N.C. State Bar v. Michelle Meeks (Wake County Superior Court). Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(i), the State Bar petitioned the Wake County Superior Court for an injunction enforcing a subpoena issued to Meeks by the Grievance Committee. The court ordered Meeks to participate in the subpoenaed interview without frivolous objections. That interview was completed and this action is, therefore, concluded. The Office of Counsel represented the State Bar.

“Class, Rodney Dale” v. Entities of the Gaston County District 27A et al (Rowan County Superior Court). Dale filed a claim at NCOAH against judicial officials, a private lawyer, and the North Carolina Bar Association. The deputy commissioner dismissed the claims. Dale filed this “Petition for Administrative Review of Administrative Court Decision,” again naming judicial officials and a private lawyer, but this time naming the State Bar as a respondent. Before receiving this petition, the State Bar was unaware of the action at OAH. The allegations were largely incomprehensible but appeared to arise from a divorce proceeding. The court affirmed dismissal of all claims against the State Bar and judicial officials. Dale did not appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

Teresa Waters v. “North Carolina State Bar Standards Association” or “State of North Carolina Bar Association” (Union County Superior Court). Waters filed grievances against three lawyers. The grievances were dismissed. Waters filed this action alleging that former State Bar deputy counsel Susannah Cox “failed to possess the entire case files” relating to a motor vehicle accident that underlies the grievances. Waters also alleged that Waters herself failed to produce the entire case files to the State Bar. Waters sought unquantified recovery for alleged financial harm and emotional distress and sought costs and attorney fees in excess of \$90,000. In April 2023, the court dismissed the complaint with prejudice and entered a gatekeeper order enjoining Waters from filing any further documents in the case without prior leave of the senior resident superior court judge. Waters did not timely appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

Teresa Waters v. “North Carolina State Bar Standards Association” or “State of North Carolina Bar Association” (Union County Superior Court). Waters filed grievances against three lawyers. The grievances were dismissed. Waters’ allegations are largely incomprehensible. She alleges that former State Bar deputy counsel Susannah Cox “failed to possess the entire case files” relating to a motor vehicle accident that underlies the grievances. Waters also alleges that Waters herself failed to produce the entire case files to the State Bar. In April 2023, the court allowed the State Bar’s motion to dismiss and entered a gatekeeper order against Waters. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

N.C. State Bar v. Valerie Arroyo (Wake County Superior Court). In April 2021, the Executive Committee authorized the OOC to file this action seeking to enjoin Valerie Arroyo’s unauthorized practice of law. Arroyo, who is not licensed to practice law in North Carolina, had filed multiple tort claim actions and lawsuits on behalf of others. The court denied Arroyo’s motion to dismiss, granted the State Bar’s motion to dismiss Arroyo’s counterclaim, entered a preliminary injunction prohibiting Arroyo’s unauthorized practice of law, and denied Arroyo’s motion for summary judgment. In December 2022, the court granted summary judgment for the State Bar and entered a permanent injunction. Arroyo filed a notice of appeal but failed to perfect the appeal. The Office of Counsel represented the State Bar.

North Carolina Industrial Commission and Office of Administrative Hearings

Valerie Arroyo v. Daniel Zamora et al (NC Industrial Commission). This and the following two entries are purported tort claims filed by Arroyo against the State Bar and other entities and officials. These three files, and six additional claims Arroyo filed against other individuals and agencies, were all dismissed and were consolidated into a single appeal to the Full Commission. In this claim, Arroyo alleged that the State Bar failed to “stop, act or prosecute” Daniel Zamora. The Full Commission granted the State Bar’s motion to dismiss. Arroyo filed notice of appeal but failed to perfect the appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

Valerie Arroyo v. N.C. State Bar (NC Industrial Commission). In this claim, Arroyo alleged that the State Bar violated her rights by refusing to discipline licensee Zamora. The Full Commission granted the State Bar’s motion to dismiss. Arroyo filed notice of appeal but failed to perfect the appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

Valerie Arroyo v. N.C. State Bar (NC Industrial Commission). In this claim, Arroyo alleged that the State Bar violated her rights by refusing to discipline another licensee. The Full Commission granted the State Bar’s motion to dismiss. Arroyo filed notice of appeal but failed to perfect the appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

Kareem Abdullah Kirk v. N.C. State Bar Grievance Committee (NC Office of Administrative Hearings). This is the second claim Kirk, aka Kareem Abdullah Kirk-Bey, has filed against the State Bar at OAH. In this claim, Kirk again alleged that the Grievance Committee did not properly address a grievance. OAH dismissed the claim,

concluding that it does not have subject matter jurisdiction. The Wake County Superior Court denied Kirk's petition for judicial review. Kirk filed notice of appeal to the North Carolina Court of Appeals but failed to perfect the appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

***HGGLBT International Express Trust v. Clerk of Superior Court, "NC State Bar and members"* (NC Industrial Commission).** This was a purported tort claim. HGGLBT wrote at length about common law and alleged generally that members of the State Bar took actions to which HGGLBT objects in connection with a foreclosure. HGGLBT alleged no acts or omissions by the State Bar and identified no viable theories of recovery. The deputy commissioner dismissed the claim. The Full Commission affirmed the deputy commissioner's ruling in January 2023. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

***Amy Allen v. N.C. State Bar* (NC Office of Administrative Hearings).** Allen filed a grievance arising from her domestic case. Before the grievance was resolved, Allen filed a petition for contested case hearing with OAH alleging that the State Bar substantially prejudiced her rights, acted erroneously, failed to use proper procedure, acted arbitrarily or capriciously, and failed to act as required by law or rule. The deputy commissioner dismissed the claim, concluding that Allen lacks standing and that OAH lacks subject matter jurisdiction. Allen filed a petition for judicial review in the Forsyth County Superior Court, which granted the State Bar's motion to dismiss in February 2023. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

***Kelvin Exum v. N.C. State Bar* (NC Office of Administrative Hearings).** Exum filed a grievance, which was dismissed. Exum demanded an explanation for the dismissal. The OOC complied with that demand, sending Exum a written response. Exum alleged in this action that the written response was unsolicited, that it contained false and unfounded information about him, and that it served no purpose other than to embarrass and harass him. The OAH dismissed Exum's claim. He petitioned the Wake County Superior Court for judicial review. In June 2023, the court dismissed Exum's appeal for failure to prosecute. Exum did not timely appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

United States District Court

***Christopher Livingston v. N.C. State Bar, Susannah Cox, & Katherine Jean* (U.S. District Court EDNC).** Livingston is a licensee whose license is suspended. In June 2021, Livingston filed this lawsuit in the US District Court EDNC against the State Bar, counsel Katherine Jean, and former deputy counsel Susannah Cox. He purported to assert claims under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1989 for alleged violations of his speech, petition, due process, and equal protection rights under the United States Constitution; his freedom of speech, open courts, law of the land, and equal protection rights under the North Carolina Constitution; and alleged "malicious administrative prosecution." He alleged that the State Bar did not discipline lawyers who he alleged committed violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct against him, has a practice and official policy of arbitrarily disciplining some lawyers and not disciplining other lawyers, selectively prosecutes solo practitioners, is overfunded and its staff is underworked; that Jean and Cox violated the

RPCs by requiring him to respond to letters of notice; and that Cox should have dismissed a grievance filed against him. In March 2023, the court dismissed the complaint with prejudice and declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Livingston's remaining state law claims. Livingston appealed. In June 2023, the Fourth Circuit affirmed dismissal of the claims against Cox and Jean in their individual capacities with prejudice but indicated that dismissal of the claims against the State Bar, Cox and Jean in their official capacities was without prejudice. The Office of Counsel represented the defendants.

Anthony McNeill v. State of North Carolina et al (U.S. District Court EDNC). McNeill filed this lawsuit against the State of North Carolina, the State Bar, multiple private lawyers, loan servicers, and the substitute trustee on a deed of trust. The allegations are largely incomprehensible. McNeill asserted that there were irregularities in the making of a mortgage loan and that, therefore, foreclosure is or was wrongful. He alleged that "[t]he state is guilty of real estate deed fraud which is verified by the day-to-day process of registering homeowners' property deeds in their office." He claimed violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, wrongful foreclosure, breach of contract, negligence, forgery, infliction of emotional distress, and unspecified common law theories. He did not allege any acts or omissions by the State Bar or by any of its employees or agents. He sought compensatory and punitive damages in excess of five million dollars. In June 2023, the court dismissed the complaint and closed the file. McNeill did not timely appeal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

Pending Litigation as of December 31, 2023

North Carolina Superior Courts

Valerie Arroyo v. North Carolina State Bar (Cabarrus County Superior Court). In September 2023, Arroyo filed another suit against the State Bar, this time alleging that the State Bar denied her due process by obtaining an injunction preventing her engaging in the unauthorized practice of law and by failing to discipline lawyers against whom she filed grievances. She seeks unspecified damages. The Attorney General represents the State Bar.

Christopher Livingston v. N.C. State Bar, et al (Wake County Superior Court). Livingston is a licensee. In July 2016, the DHC suspended him for five years. The DHC order was affirmed on appeal. In January 2018, Livingston sued the State Bar and the district bar in federal court alleging that the district bar improperly used mandatory district bar dues. Livingston added John Silverstein (Chair of the Grievance Committee that found probable cause) and Deputy Counsel Leonor Hodge (who prosecuted Livingston) as defendants, alleging that they selectively prosecuted him. In February 2019, the federal court granted the State Bar defendants' motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. In March 2019, Livingston filed this action, a nearly identical complaint, in Wake County Superior Court. Livingston never served any defendant. In June 2019, he obtained alias and pluries summonses but never served them. The State Bar first learned of the Wake County lawsuit in September 2019, when the trial court administrator directed

the parties to prepare a case management order. The State Bar notified the trial court administrator that, because no defendant has been served, the case should be discontinued. The State Bar has heard nothing further from the trial court administrator and the case has not been scheduled for hearing. If the State Bar defendants are ever served, the Office of Counsel will represent them.

Richard Polidi v. Colon Willoughby et al (Wake County Superior Court). Polidi surrendered his law license and was disbarred by the Wake County Superior Court in 2014. He filed this action in July 2017 against Colon Willoughby in his official and individual capacities, against State Bar Counsel Katherine Jean in her official and individual capacities, and against many others. It is unclear whether Polidi sued Colon Willoughby in his official capacity as the former elected district attorney of Wake County or in his official capacity as a State Bar councilor/officer. Polidi makes vague, generalized allegations of wrongful conduct in connection with his decision to surrender his law license and consent to be disbarred. He has never served Willoughby or Jean. If he does, the Office of Counsel will represent them.

Richard Polidi v. Carmen Bannon (Wake County Superior Court). Polidi surrendered his law license and was disbarred by the Wake County Superior Court in 2014. In July 2017, he filed this action against State Bar Deputy Counsel Carmen Bannon in her official and individual capacities. Polidi makes vague, generalized allegations relating to his decision to surrender his law license and consent to be disbarred. He has never served Bannon. If he does, the Office of Counsel will represent her.

North Carolina Industrial Commission and Office of Administrative Hearings

Teresa Waters v. “State of North Carolina Bar Association” (NC Industrial Commission). Waters filed this purported tort claim, alleging that the “State of North Carolina Bar Association” failed to investigate grievances she filed. She also filed grievances at the Judicial Standards Commission alleging that the Commission failed to investigate grievances she filed. Her allegations are largely incomprehensible. Waters sought unquantified recovery for alleged financial harm and emotional distress, costs and attorney fees. The deputy commissioner dismissed the claims with prejudice in June 2023. Waters appealed. A Full Commission hearing was scheduled for October 2023 but the Commission announced that it will decide the case on the written record. The Attorney General represents the State Bar.

Shahsultan Jaffer v. Archie Smith et al (NC Industrial Commission). Jaffer filed this purported tort claim against the State Bar and other government agencies and officials. It contains no allegations of acts or omissions by the State Bar or by any of its employees or agents. The deputy commissioner dismissed the claim in December 2023. Jaffer appealed to the Full Commission. The Attorney General represents the State Bar.

United States District Court

Eddie Meeks v. Robert Weston & Robert Powell (U.S. District Court WDNC). Meeks, a respondent in a pending grievance, filed this lawsuit in February 2023 against Deputy Counsel Weston and State Bar Investigator Powell. Meeks alleges that Weston and Powell violated 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and committed abuse of process in their investigation of allegations of Meeks' professional misconduct by serving upon him and upon his wife subpoenas issued by the Chair of the Grievance Committee and by investigating additional allegations that came to light during the investigation. The magistrate judge recommended that the court grant the defendants' motion to dismiss. Meeks did not object to that recommendation. The Attorney General represents Weston and Powell.