

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BAR
Office of Counsel
2024
Annual Report



North Carolina State Bar Office of Counsel Staff	
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Carmen H. Bannon	Director of Investigations
Of Counsel	Joseph Commisso
Katherine E. Jean	Investigators
Senior Deputy Counsel	○ Fred Patton
○ Jennifer A. Porter	○ Wayne Truax
○ G. Patrick Murphy	○ Paul Sugrue
○ Alex G. Nicely	○ Martin Coolidge
Deputy Counsel	○ Rick Grayson
○ Barry S. McNeill	○ Doug Miller
○ Savannah P. McLamb	○ Carolyn Page
○ J. Cameron Lee	○ Robert Powell
○ Elizabeth F. Starnes	○ Stephan Lampert
○ Robert W. Weston	Investigations Administrative Staff
○ Kelley A. DeAngelus	○ Dawn Patton
○ B. Tessa Hale	○ Chris Woods
○ Jessica M. Arnold	○ Julie Ferrer
○ Ryan C. Meisnere	○ Frances Felts
○ Kathryn H. Shields	<u>Attorney/Client Assistance Program (ACAP)</u>
○ Alec J. Glenn	ACAP Director
○ Danielle Marquis Elder	Lee A. Ramos
Paralegals	ACAP Intake Coordinator
○ Lori Brooks	Todd Bascom
○ Becky Carroll	Fee Dispute Facilitators
○ Wondella Payne	○ Lee A. Ramos
○ Jennifer Slattery	○ Sylvia Santana
○ Brittany Wilson	○ Stephanie Hampton
○ Jeffrey Lundgren	Public Liaisons
○ Tyler Gibbens	○ Elizabeth Robbins
○ Elizabeth Myers	○ Stephon Frost/Dawn Patton
○ Stephen Dahlhoff	ACAP Administrative Staff
Administrative Staff	○ Diane Melching
○ Joan Renken	○ Amber Posada
○ Alexis Bilski	<u>Trust Account Compliance Department (TACD)</u>
	TACD Director
	Anne Parkin
	Field Auditor
	Anne Parkin/Kelly Young
	Trust Account Compliance Specialist
	Lori Garner
	TACD Administrative Staff
	Maritza Castañeda

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 Account Compliance Department (TACD). 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 (UPL) and representing the State Bar in lawsuits to obtain injunctions prohibiting UPL. 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.

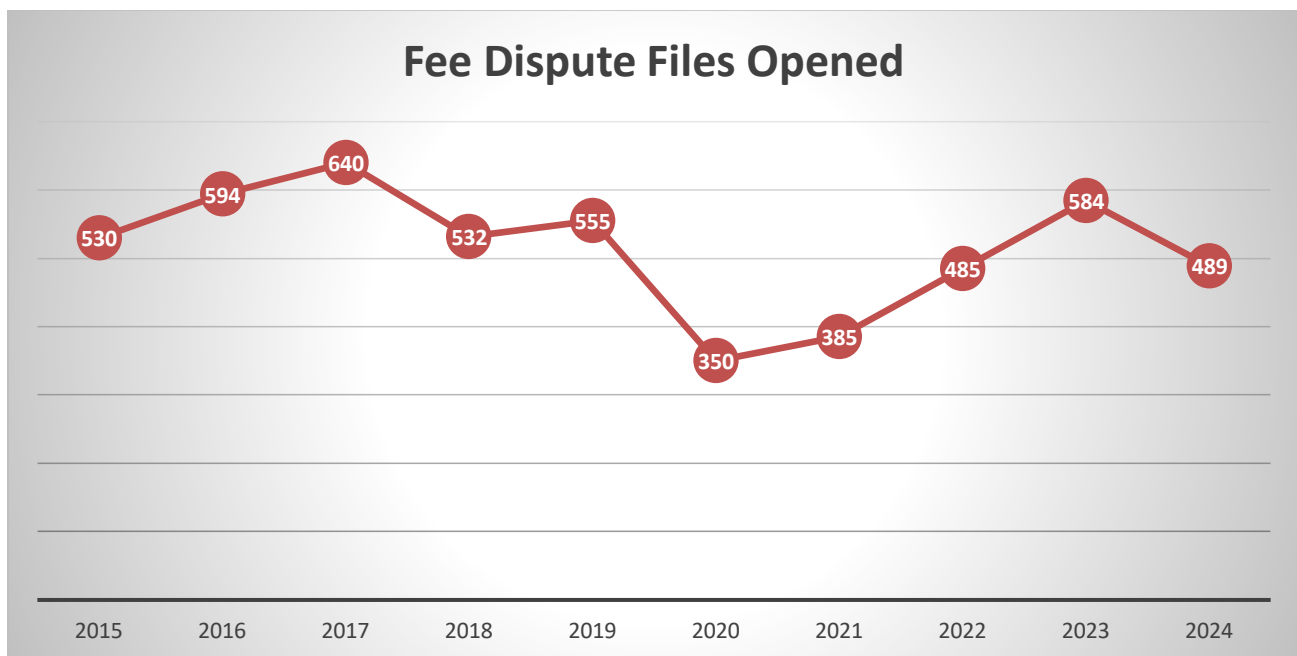
The ACAP staff help clients resolve problems with their lawyers other than matters involving potentially serious violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The ACAP staff also provide information about the grievance process, the courts, and the justice system. ACAP includes three fee dispute facilitators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

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR OFFICE OF COUNSEL 2024 ANNUAL REPORT¹

ATTORNEY CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Attorney Client Assistance Program (ACAP) is comprised of eight staff members: The program director, who is also a fee dispute resolution facilitator; two other fee dispute resolution facilitators; an intake coordinator; two public liaisons; and two administrative assistants. During 2024, ACAP staff responded to 6,161 calls from clients and other members of the public. ACAP staff also responded to 1,922 letters from inmates and 3,626 email messages from clients and lawyers. The ACAP staff contacted 491 lawyers to attempt to resolve client concerns.

Another core ACAP function is to assist in resolving disputes between clients and lawyers regarding fees. Four hundred eighty-nine fee dispute files were opened in 2024. This compares to previous years as follows:



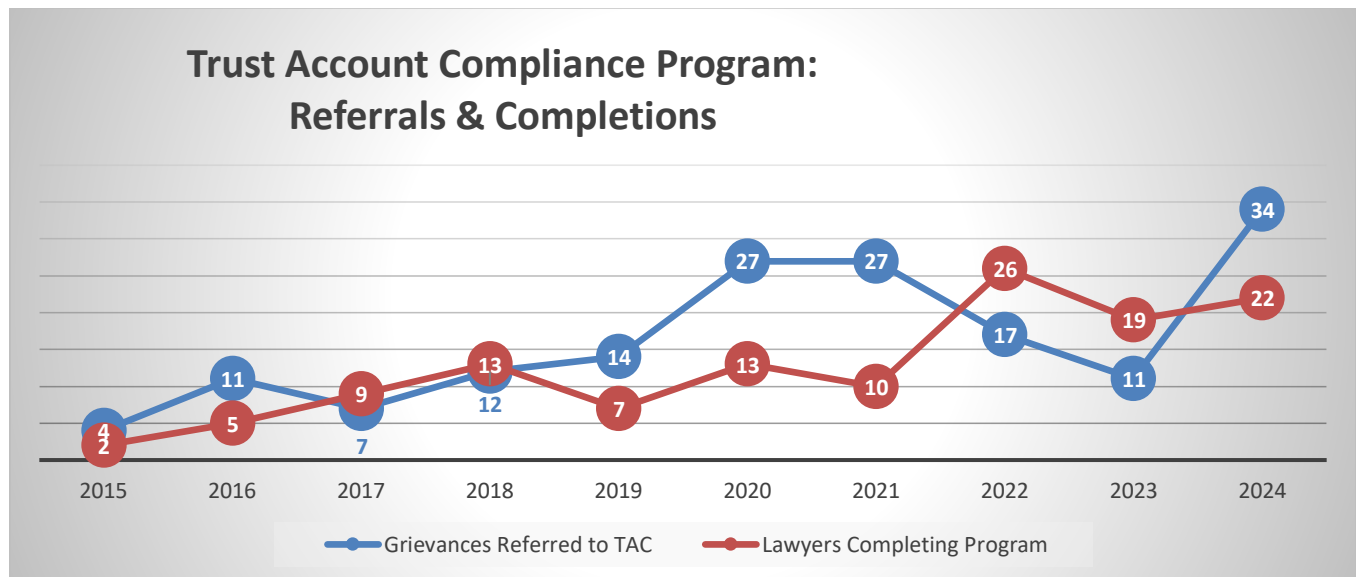
¹ Office of Counsel data is compiled quarterly in advance of each quarterly meeting of the State Bar Council. This annual report aggregates data for the preceding quarter that was originally compiled on 4/11/2024, 7/11/2024, 10/12/2024, and 1/13/2025.

TRUST ACCOUNT COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

In 2024, the State Bar restructured its existing programs to monitor and improve lawyers' handling of entrusted funds. The resulting Trust Account Compliance Department (TACD) encompasses the random audit program, evaluation of lawyers' mandatory reports of misapplication of entrusted funds, educational resources on trust accounting, and the Trust Account Compliance Program (TACP) through which lawyers receive instruction and oversight regarding compliance with the trust accounting rules. The new system allows lawyers under certain circumstances to participate in TACP without Grievance Committee involvement; previously, TACP participation was limited to those who had been referred to the program by the Grievance Committee. The revised TACP also affords more flexibility in tailoring the intensity and duration of program participation to a lawyer's individual needs.

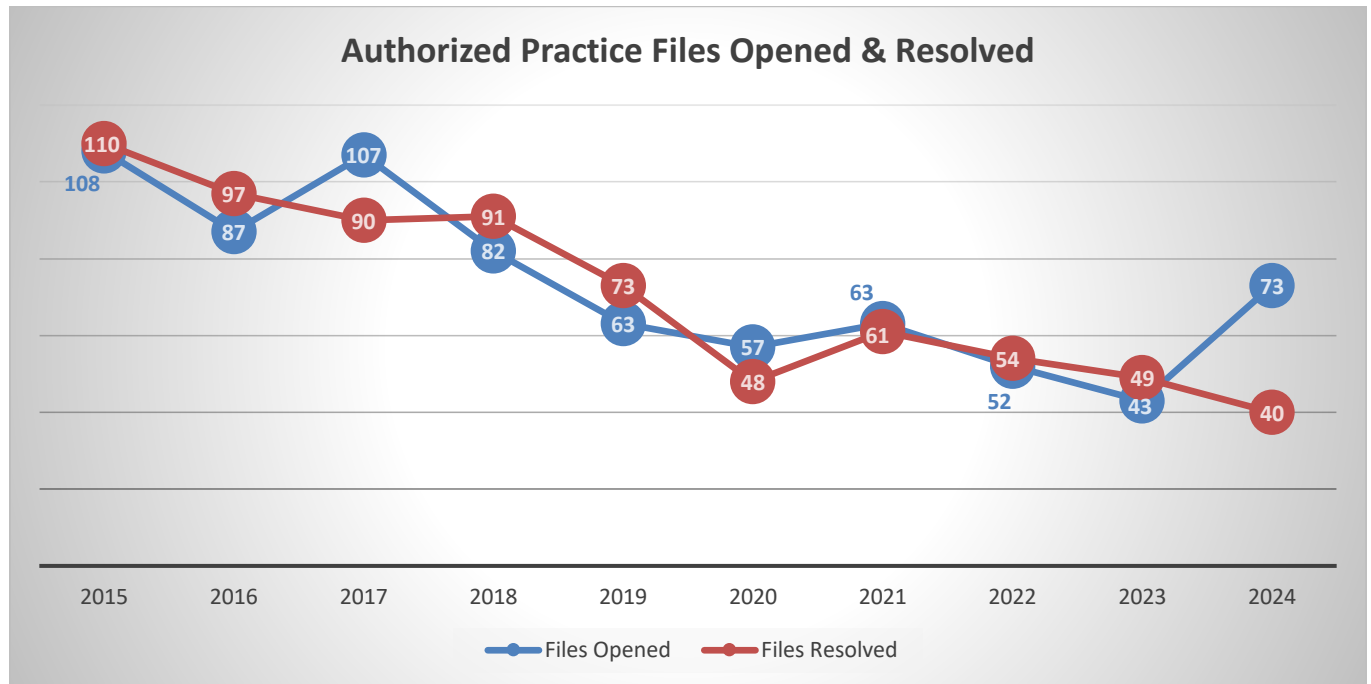
The TACD is comprised of four staff members: The Director, the Trust Account Compliance Specialist who provides training and monitoring for TACP participants, the Field Auditor who conducts random procedural audits of lawyers' trust accounts, and an administrative assistant.

In 2024, twenty-two lawyers successfully completed the trust account management training and oversight provided by the Trust Account Compliance Program. The Grievance Committee referred thirty-four lawyers to the program in 2024. There were thirty-nine active TACP participants as of the end of 2024. The number of Grievance Committee referrals to TACP and the number of lawyers successfully completing the program annually is as follows:



AUTHORIZED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The OOC investigates allegations of unauthorized practice of law and presents findings and recommendations to the State Bar's Authorized Practice Committee. In 2024, the Authorized Practice Committee opened seventy-three files and resolved forty files. This compares to previous years as follows:



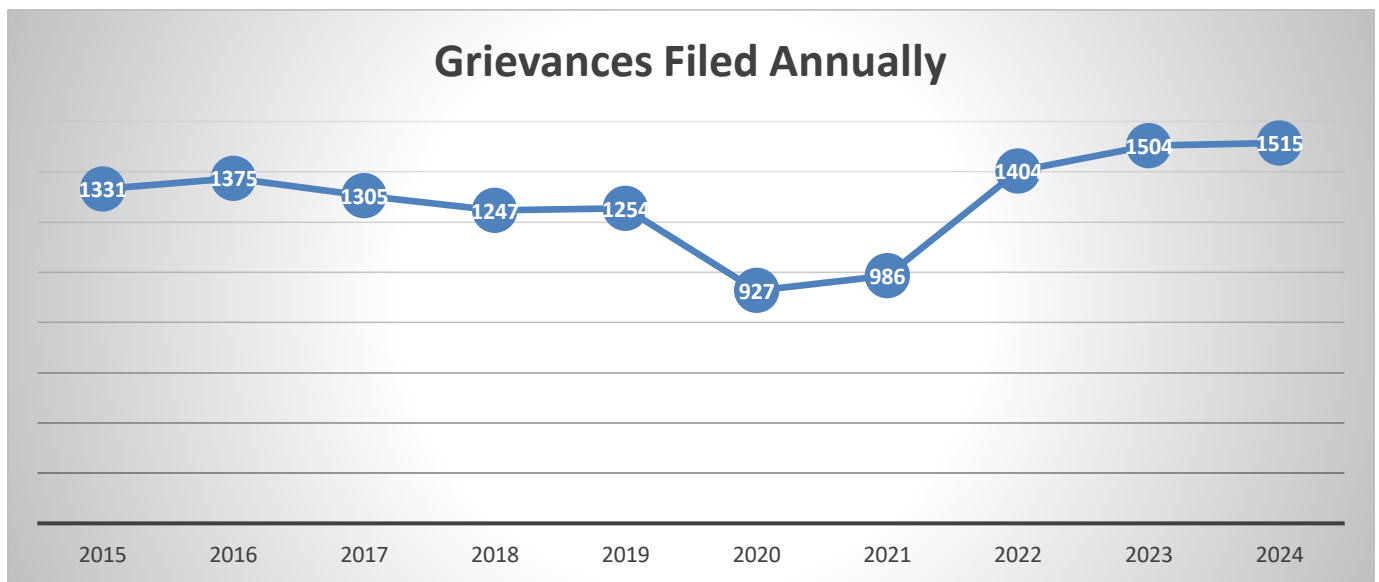
Actions Filed in 2024 to Enjoin Unauthorized Practice of Law

N.C. State Bar v. Tigress McDaniel (Wake County Superior Court file no. 24 CV 16269-910). At its January 2024 meeting, the State Bar's Executive Committee authorized the OOC to pursue injunctive relief against Tigress McDaniel, the recipient of a juris doctorate from a non-accredited law school who has not been licensed to practice. McDaniel maintains a website and Facebook page operating under the name "The Ethical Gatekeeper" on which she offers legal document preparation and legal advice. In May 2024, the State Bar filed a Complaint for Permanent Injunction and Motion for Preliminary Injunction in Wake County Superior Court alleging that McDaniel engaged in activities constituting the unauthorized practice of law. Shortly thereafter, McDaniel filed a notice of removal to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. The case was remanded to state court in August 2024 and the State Bar's Motion for Temporary Injunction was granted in November 2024. McDaniel, who did not participate in the hearing on the temporary injunction, filed notice of appeal from that decision. The hearing on permanent injunction was scheduled for May 2025.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Beginning 1 August 2024 (the effective date of Senate Bill 790, which modified certain State Bar grievance procedures), all grievance complaints are now screened by an OOC lawyer to determine whether they meet statutory criteria (e.g., standing, allegation of cognizable Rule violation) before a grievance file is opened. The OOC established an Intake Unit to screen complaints, increase consistency and efficiency in grievance processing, and improve assignment of grievance files for investigation. Under the new screening process required by Senate Bill 790, the Office of Counsel declined to open 138 files in 2024.

During 2024, the State Bar opened 1,515 grievance files. The volume of grievances the Office of Counsel is tasked with evaluating and investigating continues to increase, as indicated by the following data²:



² The totals on this chart for 2018, 2019, and 2023 vary slightly from previously published reports. The totals in this report are based on a review and reevaluation of Office of Counsel data in late 2024. The discrepancies are believed to derive from errors related to a ransomware attack on the State Bar and several transitions between case management databases.

In 2024, the State Bar's Grievance Committee considered a total of 1,644 grievance files, 1,471 of which (89.5%) were dismissed. In the grievances that were not dismissed, the Committee authorized the following dispositions:

Referral to Lawyers Assistance Program	4 lawyers
Referral to Trust Account Compliance Program	34 lawyers
Dismissal with Letter of Caution	16 files
Dismissal with Letter of Warning	35 files
Admonition	14 files
Reprimand	12 files
Censure	11 files
Referral for Hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission	29 files (involving 19 lawyers)
The Committee also declined to reconsider the disposition of 2 files and continued 16 files for consideration at a subsequent meeting.	



The Chair of the Grievance Committee entered consent orders transferring seven lawyers to disability inactive status in 2024.

One matter was considered by a Grievance Review Panel in 2024.

CASES BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION

The Disciplinary Hearing Commission (DHC) is an independent administrative tribunal that hears lawyer discipline and disability cases. The twenty-six 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 or stays of the remainder of a suspension, and actions requiring lawyers to show cause why they should not be found to have violated an existing order of the DHC. Each case is heard by a three-member panel consisting of two lawyers and one public member. DHC [hearing schedules](#) and [orders of the DHC](#) are available on the State Bar's website.

During 2024, the OOC completed eighteen discipline and/or disability cases before the DHC. Of the eighteen cases decided by the DHC in 2024, six were resolved by hearing or default judgment and twelve were resolved by consent. The OOC also filed six petitions for grievance noncompliance suspension and two petitions for interim suspension in the DHC. Matters addressed by the DHC in 2024 are listed in the following table:

Lawyer	File No.	Outcome
Mark A. Key	02 DHC 22	Defendant's Rule 60 Motion Denied
Penny K. Bell	21 DHC 17	3-year Suspension; possible stay after 1 year (hearing)
Mark A. Key	21 DHC 23	5-year suspension; possible stay after 3 years (rehearing after remand from Court of Appeals)
Thomas C. Goolsby	22 DHC 14	Admonition (consent)
Martin Musinguzi	22 DHC 21	Disbarred (default) ³
Mark T. Cummings	22 DHC 25	5-year Suspension; possible stay after 3 years (hearing) ⁴
Neil Scarborough	23 DHC 5	2-year Suspension; stayed for 3 years (consent)
Nicolle T. Phair	23 DHC 11	3-year suspension; possible stay after 6 months (consent)
Earl H. Strickland	23 DHC 12	4-year Suspension; possible stay after compliance with conditions (consent)
Ronnie P. King	23 DHC 13	Disability Inactive (consent)
Meredith Ezzell	23 DHC 14	4-year Suspension (consent)
Derek R. Fletcher	23 DHC 16	5-year Suspension; possible stay after 1 year (consent)
Richard E. Batts	24 DHC 1	1-year stayed suspension (hearing) ⁵

³ Decision has since been reversed by Court of Appeals and vacated.

⁴ Stayed pending appeal.

⁵ Stayed pending appeal.

Randall Place	24 DHC 2	30-day Suspension (consent on reciprocal discipline)
Christopher Peebles	24 DHC 3	2-year Suspension; stayed 3 years (consent)
Laura Nidosik	24 DHC 6	Reprimand (consent)
Jonathan Metcalf	24 DHC 9	Disbarred (consent)
Antwoine Edwards	24 DHC 10	4-year Suspension; possible stay after 6 months (consent)
Derek R. Fletcher	23 DHC 16-I	Interim Suspension
R. Scott Lindsay	24 DHC 14	Interim Suspension
Duane S. Miller	24 DHC 4-N	Suspended for Grievance Non-Compliance
Ryan P. Ames	24 DHC 8-N	Suspended for Grievance Non-Compliance
Erin J. Phillips	24 DHC 12-N	Suspended for Grievance Non-Compliance
Andrew K. Chafin	24 DHC 14-N	Suspended for Grievance Non-Compliance
Steven B. Wright	24 DHC 17-N	Suspended for Grievance Non-Compliance
Karen S. Biernacki	24 DHC 20-N	Suspended for Grievance Non-Compliance

Petitions for Stay and for Reinstatement

In 2024, eight petitions for stay of suspension or reinstatement to practice were filed in the DHC. Three lawyers were reinstated and one lawyer was granted a stay of suspension.

Lawyer	File No.	Outcome
Kenneth B. Holmes	18 DHC 34-R	Suspension stayed
Arnold O. Jones	18 DHC 3-R	Reinstated from suspension
Theodore G. Hale	20 BCR 1	Petition withdrawn
Peter K. Gemborys	07 DHC 13-RD	Reinstated from suspension
Charles K. Blackmon	24 BCR 1	Petition withdrawn
Douglas T. Simons	24 BCR 2	Denied reinstatement from disbarment
Brooke M. Webster	19 DHC 10-SC-R	Reinstated from suspension
Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr.	24 BCR 3	DHC recommended reinstatement from disbarment ⁶

⁶ The State Bar Council subsequently denied reinstatement at its January 2025 meeting.

APPEALS

The OOC represented the State Bar in five cases that were decided by North Carolina appellate courts in 2024.

Appeals Completed in 2024

Case	File No.	Outcome
<i>State Bar v. Michael DeMayo</i>	22 DHC 1	Reversed
<i>State Bar v. Mark Key</i>	21 DHC 23	Vacated in part and remanded ⁷
<i>State Bar v. Jonathan Charleston</i>	22 DHC 16	Defendant's Petition for Writ of Prohibition and Petition for Writ of Certiorari Denied
<i>In re Petition for Reinstatement of Law License of Gregory Bartko</i>	23 BCR 1	Petitioner's Petition for Discretionary Review Denied
<i>In re Petition for Reinstatement of Law License of David Shawn Clark</i>	22 BCR 12	Affirmed

Appeals Pending as of December 31, 2024

Case	File No.	Status as of 12/31/2024
<i>State Bar v. Martin Musinguzi</i>	22 DHC 21	Oral Argument scheduled
<i>State Bar v. Mark T. Cummings</i>	22 DHC 25	Awaiting service of proposed record on appeal
<i>State Bar v. Richard E. Batts</i>	24 DHC 1	Awaiting service of proposed record on appeal
<i>State Bar v. Jaime Halscott</i>	24 DHC 13	Proposed record on appeal served December 2024

⁷ Relief granted by Court of Appeals upon the State Bar's cross-appeal of the DHC decision.

ACTIONS BEFORE THE STATE BAR COUNCIL

Authority to grant or deny petitions for reinstatement filed by disbarred lawyers is vested in the State Bar Council. The Council also has the authority to enter orders of disbarment when a lawyer facing allegations of misconduct surrenders his or her law license. The OOC advises the Council in connection with reinstatement and surrender cases.

No petitions for reinstatement from disbarment came before the Council in 2024.

Six lawyers surrendered their law licenses to the State Bar Council and were disbarred:

Lawyer	File No.	Date of Disbarment
Jonathan Washburn	23 BCS 7	19 January 2024
Julia Boseman	23 BCS 8	19 January 2024
Nathanael Pendley	24 BCS 1	19 January 2024
Mimi Rankin	24 BCS 2	19 April 2024
Jonathan Silverman	24 BCS 3	30 July 2024
Michael Glenn Wilson, II	24 BCS 4	19 July 2024

ACTIONS IN THE STATE TRIAL COURTS

Judicial Discipline & Disability Proceedings

In 2024, the OOC participated in the following judicial discipline and disability matters before the courts:

Case	File No.	Disposition
<i>In re Eric Inhaber</i>	Rowan Co. 23 CR 464843	Order requiring compliance with conditions
[Confidential Caption]	Currituck Co. 23 SP 36	Reinstated from disability inactive status
<i>State Bar v. Kevin Wingate</i>	Wake Co. 24 CV 040438-910	Consent Order of Disbarment
<i>In re Taylor Dant</i>	Alamance Co. 24 SP 1304	Pending as of 12/31/2024

Trusteeships

The State Bar has statutory authority to seek “orders necessary to protect the interests of clients of missing, suspended, disbarred, disabled, or deceased attorneys,” including appointment of a trustee to wind down the law practice. N.C.G.S. § 84-28(j).

In 2024, the OOC petitioned the courts to appoint trustees to wind down the law practices of nineteen deceased lawyers:

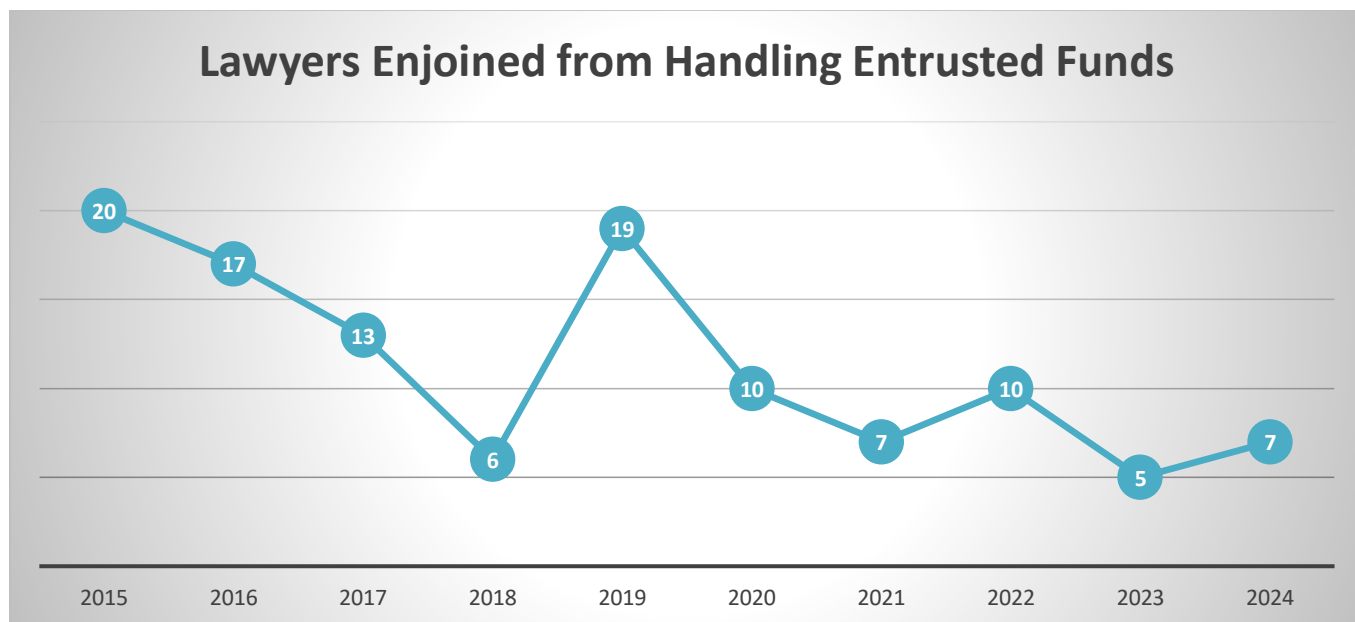
Lawyer	Location of Practice
David T. Robinson	Research Triangle Park
Stanley Lee Allen	Wentworth
Corey D. Buggs	Lexington
Michael A. Schlosser	Greensboro
David M. Dansby	Greensboro
Bacchus Holland Carver	Lillington
Howard Stanley Kohn	Raleigh
Clyde Franklin Stanley, Jr.	Supply
Katherine Suzanne Parker-Lowe	Ocracoke
Larry Grant Reavis	Yadkinville
Gilbert Hugh Moore, Jr.	Sanford
David Bruce Collins, Jr.	Wilmington
James C. Marrow, Jr.	Tarboro
David Russell Frankstone	Chapel Hill
Theodore Patrick Matus	Charlotte
Ronald Lee Moore	Chocowinity
Dean Franklin Murphy	Cary
Kenneth Walter Honeycutt	Monroe
Joseph Charles Hoyle	Kings Mountain

Injunctions

The State Bar has statutory authority to petition the Wake County Superior Court to enjoin misconduct by a lawyer “where the necessity for prompt action exists regardless of whether a disciplinary proceeding in the matter of the conduct is pending.” N.C.G.S. § 84-28(f). During 2024, the OOC obtained injunctions in Wake County Superior Court prohibiting seven lawyers from handling entrusted funds:

Lawyer	Date of Injunction
Michael Wilson II	17 January 2024
Erin Phillips	8 April 2024
Patrick Wood	21 May 2024
Tyler L. Pierce	10 May 2024
Java Warren	17 June 2024
Angela J. Casa	31 July 2024
Juan Arreola	13 December 2024

This compares to previous years as follows:



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 2024.

Litigation Completed During 2024

North Carolina Superior Courts

Ertle Chavis v. N.C. State Bar (Brunswick County Superior Court). Chavis, formerly a North Carolina lawyer, was disbarred by the DHC in 2015. Before his disbarment, the Wake County Superior Court enjoined him from handling entrusted funds. After his disbarment, Chavis periodically asked the Office of Counsel to give him the remaining money in his trust account, contending that it belonged to him. He did not respond to the OOC's repeated requests for proof that he was entitled to the funds in the account. In January 2024, Chavis filed a "petition" in Brunswick County Superior Court, asking the court to order the State Bar to "release the block on the account." Chavis agreed to dismiss the action in exchange for the OOC's agreement to file a motion in Wake County Superior Court for permission to escheat the remaining funds. In February 2024, Chavis dismissed the petition with prejudice. The Office of Counsel represented the State Bar and will file a motion to escheat the remaining entrusted funds. Chavis indicated that he will object to that motion.

McRorie v. Culler (Sampson County Superior Court). The State Bar was not a party to this action, which was brought by an inmate against his former lawyer and the lawyer's firm. In connection with the case, McRorie decided to pursue "discovery" from the State Bar concerning an informal ethics inquiry that Culler allegedly made during the representation, inquiring about his ability to withdraw. In 2023, the superior court denied a "Motion for Discovery From: The North Carolina State Bar" that McRorie filed unbeknownst to the State Bar, concluding that the motion did not comply with the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. In March 2024, McRorie sent the State Bar a "Motion for Order to Compel Discovery From The North Carolina State Bar." Once again, the motion was not premised on any legally cognizable discovery procedure and was not served on the State Bar via any recognized method. Nevertheless, the Sampson County Superior Court granted the motion in April. Neither the State Bar nor Culler was served with, or otherwise notified of, the April 2024 order granting McRorie's motion. In September 2024, when the Office of Counsel learned an order had been entered requiring the agency to produce information that is confidential by statute and regulation, it filed a Motion for Relief from Order and for Protective Order. The court granted the State Bar's motion and entered a protective order.

North Carolina Industrial Commission

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 contained 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

and in August 2024 the Full Commission affirmed the dismissal. The Attorney General represented the State Bar.

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. Waters sought unquantified recovery for alleged financial harm and emotional distress, costs, and attorney fees. She also filed a purported tort claim against the Judicial Standards Commission. The two claims were consolidated for hearing by the deputy commissioner. The Attorney General represented the State Bar. The deputy commissioner dismissed the claims with prejudice in June 2023. Waters appealed and the Full Commission affirmed the dismissal. Waters filed notice of appeal to the Court of Appeals but failed to serve a proposed record, so the appeal was never docketed. Various additional motions and petitions for writs filed by Waters were denied by the Court of Appeals. There was no additional activity in the case after May 2024.

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 alleged that Weston and Powell violated 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and committed abuse of process in their investigation of Meeks’ alleged professional misconduct by serving subpoenas upon him and his wife and by investigating additional allegations that came to light during the investigation. The District Court dismissed the complaint in February 2024. The Attorney General represented Weston and Powell.

United States Bankruptcy Court

Brittany Mae Love v. North Carolina State Bar (U.S. Bankruptcy Court WDNC). Licensee Brittany Love filed an adversary proceeding against the State Bar in her Chapter 7 bankruptcy case, alleging that the State Bar attempted to collect membership dues in violation of the Bankruptcy Court’s discharge order. The Office of Counsel represented the State Bar. The Court approved the parties’ consent resolution and closed the case in October 2024.

Pending Litigation as of December 31, 2024

Federal Courts

In January 2024, **Morag Black Polaski, Shawana Almendarez, and the North Carolina Justice for All Project** filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Plaintiffs alleged that they would like to provide legal services to North Carolinians both without charge and for compensation but are prohibited from doing so by North Carolina’s statutes and regulations prohibiting the unauthorized practice of law. They sought a declaratory judgment that enforcement of North Carolina’s statutes and regulations prohibiting UPL violates the First Amendment

as applied to them; a permanent injunction enjoining future enforcement of those statutes and regulations; attorney fees; and costs. Although the complaint was originally against then-Attorney General Josh Stein, a March 2024 amended complaint removed Stein as the defendant and replaced him with five elected district attorneys and State Bar President A. Todd Brown in his official capacity. The amended complaint sought the same relief from the new defendants. The State Bar retained outside counsel to represent President Brown and his motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim was granted by Judge Boyle in December 2024. Plaintiffs filed Notice of Appeal to the 4th Circuit.

Richard Polidi v. A. Todd Brown & Margaret Cloutier (U.S. District Court, EDNC). Polidi did not sue the State Bar or any of its representatives in his first complaint in this action. In November 2023, he filed an amended complaint asserting claims against State Bar President A. Todd Brown and former (now retired) State Bar Deputy Counsel Margaret Cloutier, in both their individual and official capacities. In the amended complaint, Polidi alleges that Brown, Cloutier, and others engaged in a conflict of interest when the State Bar investigated and dismissed a grievance he filed against a lawyer employed by the State Bar. The Attorney General represents Cloutier and Brown. In July 2024, the District Court entered an order dismissing all claims with prejudice. In August 2024, Polidi filed a motion to set aside the judgment and for a new hearing. That motion was denied in October 2024. Polidi filed notice of appeal to the Fourth Circuit.

Hankins v. Wells Fargo et al (U.S. District Court, EDNC). In December 2024, a former grievance complainant filed a complaint containing wide-ranging, vague, and unintelligible allegations of purported malfeasance by the State of North Carolina, several municipalities, State, county, and local officials, approximately a dozen lawyers, four banks, an insurance company, and Whole Foods Market, among others. State Bar Senior Deputy Counsel Jennifer Porter was not listed as a defendant in the case caption but was served with a summons and copy of the complaint, which cited more than a dozen federal statutes but only occasionally specified which claims he was asserting against which defendants. Porter was only mentioned in a single sentence fragment in the complaint. The Office of Counsel filed a Motion to Dismiss for failure to state a claim on behalf of Porter.

State Courts

State Bar v. Sydney Harr (Wake County Superior Court). On 11 December 2024, the Wake County Superior Court *ex mero motu* issued an Order to Show Cause requiring Sydney Harr to show cause why he should not be held in criminal contempt for violating the Court's 2013 injunction prohibiting Harr from engaging in the unauthorized practice of law. The Court appointed the Office of Counsel to prosecute the show cause proceeding which was set for initial hearing in January 2025.