

2025 DHC Annual Report
As of 10/15/25

| Type of Case | Oct. 2021-2022 | Oct. 2022-2023 | Oct. 2023-2024 | Oct. 2024-2025 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Disbarments | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Suspensions & Stayed Suspensions | 15 | 16 | 15 | 12 |
| Censures | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dismissals | 0 | 3* | 1 | 3 |
| Other discipline (reprimands, admonitions, etc.) | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Reinstatement Cases (includes contested reinstatements from suspension & disability) | 6 | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| Disability Cases | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Stayed pending Reinstatement from Disability | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Totals | 30 | 35 | 34 | 34 |
| Show Causes (Show Cause number included in the suspension number) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Disbarments/Council or Courts 4 | | 10 | 6 | 5 |

*Two were dismissed when defendant died

Discipline & Disability Cases

| Case No. | Case Name | Order |
|----------|---------------------------|--|
| 21DHC23 | Mark A. Key | Suspended 5 yrs, poss 3 yr stay (2 days) Appealed |
| 22DHC16 | R. Jonathan Charleston | Censure (4 days) Stayed while on Appeal |
| 23DHC11 | Nicolle T Phair | Suspended 3 yrs, poss 30 mon stay (Consent) |
| 23DHC13D | Ronnie P. King | Disability Inactive (Consent) |
| 23DHC15 | Kevin Leigh Wingate | Dismissed without prejudice (Surrendered license to Courts) |
| 24DHC15 | Eddie Lamar Meeks | Disbarred (Default – 1 day) |
| 24DHC16N | J. Michael Edney | Dismissed without prejudice (Grievance Noncompliance) |
| 24DHC18 | Anastasia Elizabeth Cowan | Dismissed with Prejudice (1 day) |
| 24DHC19 | John D. Mansfield | Suspended 2 yrs, poss 18 mon stay (Consent) |
| 24DHC20N | Karen S. Biernacki | Suspended (Grievance Noncompliance) |
| 24DHC22N | Mary Leazer Rogers | Motion Withdrawn (Grievance Noncompliance) |
| 25DHC1 | Elizabeth J. Caviness | Suspended 5 yrs, poss 2 yr stay (Default) |
| 25DHC2 | Robert P. Tucker, II | Suspended 3 yrs, poss 2 yr stay (Default) |
| 25DHC3N | Tabitha Ann Etheridge | Suspended (Grievance Noncompliance) |

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|--|
| 25DHC4N | Jonathan E. Speight | Suspended (Grievance Noncompliance) |
| 25DHC5N | Tiana Danise Young Morris | Suspension (Grievance Noncompliance) |
| 25DHC6N | Richard E. Batts | Suspension (Grievance Noncompliance) 2 days |
| 25DHC9N | Andre N. Hogan | Suspended (Grievance Noncompliance) |
| 25DHC11 | Christopher S. Sanders | Suspended 6 months (Consent) |

REINSTATEMENT CASES

| <u>Case</u> | <u>Caption</u> | <u>Order</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 15DHC27R2 & 18DHC26R2 | Jeffrey D. Smith | Reinstatement Denied (1 day) |
| 17DHC3DR | Stephanie L. Villaver | Reinstated (Consent) |
| 19DHC24R | Emily C. Moore Tyler | Reinstated (Consent) |
| 21DHC5R2 | Lonnie P. Merritt | Reinstated (Consent) |
| 21DHC17R | Penny K. Bell | Pending |
| 23DHC11R | Nicolle T. Phair | Suspension Stayed (Consent) |
| 24DHC17NR | Steven B. Wright | Reinstated (Griev Noncompliance – complied) |
| 24BCR3 | Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr. | Reinstatement Denied |
| 24BCR4 | Matthew J. Ragaller | Reinstatement Dismissed |
| 25BCR1 | Charles K. Blackmon | Reinstatement Denied (1 day – appealed) |
| 25BCR2 | David R. Payne | Reinstatement Denied (1 day – appealed) |
| 25BCR3 | Matthew J. Ragaller | Withdrawn |
| 25BCR4 | Carson Freeman Taylor | Pending |
| 25DHC6NR | Richard E. Batts | Reinstated (Consent) |
| 25RD1 | Tony Sami Botros | Pending |

SHOW CAUSE CASES

| <u>Case</u> | <u>Caption</u> | <u>Order</u> |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
|-------------|----------------|--------------|

There were no show cause matters in this timeframe.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| # of Consent orders | 21 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 9 |
| Default orders | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Hearings 2 days or more | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 |

Notes Of Interest:

1. Eight matters were heard under Rule .0135 – suspension for Grievance non-compliance.
2. One matter is stayed while on appeal.
3. One matter was heard on remand from the Court Of Appeals; it has been appealed to the Court Of Appeals again.
4. Four reinstatements from disbarment petitions were filed – three were denied – two of which have appealed to the NCSB Council; one is pending.
5. One petition for reinstatement from disability inactive status to active status was filed and is pending.
6. Two matters need to be scheduled for two-day hearings.