

2008 Statistical Summary

Lawyer Discipline in Washington



DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>						
<i>(Names and Bar Numbers for 2008 Discipline Listed Below)</i>						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Disbarments	34	16	12	19	23	15
Resignations in Lieu of Disbarment	2	3	1	4	2	3
Suspensions	31	24	32	26	26	26
Reprimands	18	20	22	17	17	20
Censures*	1	0	0	0	0	0
Admonitions	27	13	17	3	5	16
Total Disciplinary Actions	113	76	84	69	73	80
Matters Diverted From Discipline	43	32	74	69	63	43

* Last Available 10/1/02

Ethical Violations with Disciplinary Actions Imposed in 2008

Violation	Disbarments	Resignations in Lieu of Disbarment	Suspensions	Reprimands	Admonitions	TOTAL	% of TOTAL
Dishonesty	6	2	3	2	2	15	19 %
Diligence/ Competence/ Communication	1	0	7	8	10	26	33 %
Trust Account/Theft	4	1	0	1	3	9	11 %
Criminal Conduct	3	0	6	3	0	12	15 %
Conflicts	0	0	4	3	1	8	10 %
Fees	1	0	4	0	0	5	6 %
Practice While Suspended	0	0	1	0	0	1	1 %
Litigation Misconduct	0	0	1	3	0	4	5 %
TOTAL	15	3	26	20	16	80	100%

Practice Areas of Disciplinary Actions and Diversions in 2008

Area of Practice	Disbarments	Resignations in Lieu of Disbarment	Suspensions	Reprimands	Admonitions	Diversions	TOTAL	% of TOTAL
Family Law	0	0	6	2	2	9	19	16 %
Torts	5	0	2	5	4	4	20	16 %
Criminal Law	3	1	7	7	3	6	27	22 %
Estates/Probates	1	0	2	0	0	7	10	8 %
Labor Law	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	3 %
Immigration	1	0	1	3	1	2	8	7 %
Bankruptcy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 %
Real Property	1	2	2	0	0	4	9	7 %
Commercial	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	2 %
Corp./Banking	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2 %
Administrative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 %
Juvenile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 %
Intellectual Prop.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 %
Taxation	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1 %
Other	2	0	3	1	4	9	19	16%
TOTAL	15	3	26	20	16	43	123	100%

GRIEVANCES

Disciplinary Grievances, Mediated Matters and Consumer Affairs Contacts

	2006	2007	2008
New Disciplinary Grievances (written) Received During Year	1,847	2,029	1,904
Disciplinary Grievances (written) Resolved During Year	1,781	1,980	1,981
Non-Communication Matters Mediated	383	365	293
File Dispute Mediations	303	188	130
Consumer Affairs Phone Calls and Interviews	10,693	11,093	9,787

Practice Area of Grievances - 2008

Criminal Law	32 %
Family Law	15 %
Torts	11 %
Estates/Probates/Wills	5 %
Real Property	5 %
Immigration	3 %
Commercial Law	3 %
Other	22 %
Unknown	4 %

Source of Grievances Filed

	2006	2007	2008
Former Client	34 %	28 %	29 %
Client	15 %	19 %	21 %
Opposing Client	17 %	17 %	18 %
Opposing Counsel	3 %	1 %	2 %
Other Lawyers	2 %	2 %	2 %
Judicial	1 %	< 1 %	< 1 %
WSBA	10 %	11 %	8 %
Other	17 %	21 %	19 %

Audit Staff Activity

	2006	2007	2008
Investigatory "For Cause" audits	26	24	19
Trust Account Overdraft Investigations	85	73	68
Random Audits of Law Firms/Number of Lawyers	67/840	40/388	7/37

DISCIPLINE SYSTEM COSTS

Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

(Makes Gifts to Victims of Lawyers' Dishonesty)

	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Gifts Made	\$ 468,695	\$539,789	\$148,817
Number of Requests Granted	66	34	30
Number of Lawyers Involved	26	16	18
Annual Assessment Per WA Lawyer	\$ 13	\$ 15	\$15

Costs Collected from Disciplinary Respondents

	Collected Costs	Costs Assessed
FY 2006	\$120,159	\$161,708
FY 2007	\$76,375	\$146,959
FY 2008	\$124,513	\$185,123

Funding the Discipline System

(Fully funded by lawyers' dues – no public funding)

Discipline System Expenses:	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Investigation/ Prosecution (net of costs collected from respondents)	\$3,222,928	\$3,554,239	\$3,761,614
Trust Account Audits	212,644	214,539	203,922
Disciplinary Board Expense	8,238	*145,794	156,880
Hearing Officer Expenses	33,281	37,599	34,650
Total Discipline System Expenses	\$3,477,145	\$3,952,171	\$4,157,066
Percentage of Bar Dues Spent on Discipline	34 % of dues	37 % of dues	37 % of dues

* Prior year's figures for Disciplinary Board expense did not include cost of the staff that supports the Disciplinary Board.

LAWYERS DISCIPLINED

2008 Supreme Court Disciplinary Opinions

In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Burtch, 162 Wn.2d 873, 175 P.3d 1070 (2008)
In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Trejo, 163 Wn.2d 701, 185 P.3d 1160 (2008)
In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Stansfield, 164 Wn.2d 108, 187 P.3d 254 (2008)
In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Poole, 164 Wn.2d 710, 193 P.3d 1064 (2008)
In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Cramer, ___ Wn.2d ___, 198 P.3d 485 (2008)
In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Behrman, ___ Wn.2d ___, 197 P.3d 1177 (2008)

DISBARMENTS

Courtenay D. Babcock No. 22674
Stephen B. Blanchard No. 12294
Jack L. Burtch No. 4161
Paul Hernandez No. 21015
Robert N. Dompier No. 10871
Jeffrey L. Finney No. 15618
Tolan S. Furusho No. 25055
Allen C. Hamley No. 1028
Stanley I. Lippman No. 29661
John P. Mele No. 16381
Darrell Marshall No. 21600
Tyler Morris No. 26190
Theresa M. Sowinski No. 32549
Thomas P. Sughrua No. 14117
Gregory S. Zoro No. 8212

RESIGNATIONS IN LIEU OF DISBARMENT

Kevin G. Healy No. 16307
Anthony Z. Szabo No. 23210
Todd W. Wetzel No. 20720

SUSPENSIONS

Bradley G. Behrman No. 13420
Jeffrey R. Bivens No. 34100
Robert C. Brungardt No. 8214
Jeb E. Burgess No. 36891
Anthony R. Castelda No. 28937
Stephen D. Cramer No. 9085
John L. Erickson No. 4909
Charles S. Ferguson No. 18024
Susanne A. Griffin No. 16775
Todd S. Hammond No. 32401
Joseph A. Holeman No. 16320
Noel Lerner No. 29978
Charles E. Marunde No. 16036
Mary H. McIntosh No. 12744
Rodney R. Moody No. 17416
Clinton L. Morgan No. 22181
Jonathan Morrison No. 31153
Hyon C. Pak No. 24238
Gurjit S. Pandher No. 28242
Jeffrey G. Poole No. 15578

Suspensions (cont.)

Joseph Y. Prather No. 11525
Michael B. Roff No. 31356
Brian J. Sunderland No. 22665
George P. Trejo No. 19758
Joseph P. Williams No. 34236
Jason M. Wong No. 34160

REPRIMANDS

Joey Cano No. 31200
Kevin L. Cathcart No. 32458
Greg Cavagnaro No. 17644
John A. Cimino No. 11698
Clinton M. Coons No. 27246
Stephen D. Cramer No. 9085
Gregory D. Esau No. 22404
James A. Gauthier No. 15767
James W. Kovac No. 11498
Andrew T. Mathis No. 27090
Nicholas A. Nuamah No. 25010
Martin E. Nwizubo No. 27883
Adrian B. Pimentel No. 23564
Antonio Salazar No. 6273
Mark Stansfield No. 11356 (2)
Barbara E. Varon No. 17041
Dean E. White No. 27282
Catherine S. Willmore No. 33459
T. Reinhard G. 'Ron' Wolff No. 4146

ADMONITIONS

Novelle F. Ballard No. 18830
Kaaren L. Barr No. 22092
Sean P. Cecil No. 37575
Michael Danko No. 14312 (2)
Michael J. Davis No. 25846
Michael W. Gendler No. 8429
Armen L. George No. 32290
Hiram P. Groshell No. 5643
William M. Hanbey No. 7829
Thomas R. Kamb No. 16944
Wesley K. McLaughlin No. 35374
James R. O'Dair No. 13182
Harold M. Turner No. 33341
William R. Walton No. 14712 (2)

The *Washington State Bar News* notices of the above disciplinary actions may be viewed at wsba.org by going to the Lawyer Directory, entering the lawyer's name or bar number, and then clicking on the "Discipline/Admonition Notice" button at the bottom of the lawyer's listing.

Senior Disciplinary Counsel, Randy Beitel, Editor

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