

New York State Bar Association

Committee on Professional Discipline

The State of Discipline in New York State

Annual Report for the Year-1990

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Annual Report for the Year 1990

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New York State Bar Association Committee on Professional Discipline

1991-1992

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Table of Contents

Introduction	I
Explanation of Disciplinary Statistics for the Year 1990	3
Disciplinary Statistics 1990 - Table 1	7
Disciplinary Statistics 1990 - Table 2	9
Disciplinary Statistics 1990 - Table 31	.1
Statistical Reports of Disciplinary Committees1	3
Disciplinary Decisions Reported by Appellate Division in 19902	27
Advertising Decisions5	51
Rules Changes	55
Professional Disciplinary Staffs and Departmental and District Grievance Committees	59

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Introduction

The Committee on Professional Discipline is pleased to issue its report on the State of Discipline in New York State for 1990. Recently, a great deal of attention has been focused on the disciplinary process and recommendations for its improvement. In May 1991, the American Bar Association's Commission on Evaluation of Disciplinary Enforcement issued its report on discipline nationwide, listing 22 recommendations for improvement of the disciplinary process.

One recommendation which attracted a great deal of attention was the Commission's recommendation that all disciplinary proceedings be made matters of public record from the time a complaint against an attorney is filed. This recommendation is based upon the experiences of three states which have open disciplinary proceedings: Florida, West Virginia and Oregon. It was the Commission's position that secrecy harms lawyers' reputations as a whole, and that the experiences of the three states which have open proceedings demonstrate that open proceedings do no harm to the reputations of innocent lawyers. The Commission's report was considered by the American Bar Association's House of Delegates at its 1992 Midyear meeting; the House rejected the proposal to make all proceedings public and instead substituted a recommendation that records be made public when a determination has been made that probable cause exists to believe misconduct occurred.

In 1985, this Committee issued a report on the disciplinary process in New York State which, in part, recommended the amendment of Judiciary Law § 90 to permit limited public access to disciplinary proceedings prior to the imposition of final discipline by the Appellate Division. This portion of the report was disapproved by the NYSBA House of Delegates.

At the present time, our Committee is again studying the issue of opening disciplinary proceedings to the public at some stage in the proceeding. For the present time, the Committee is of the opinion that it is in the best interest of all concerned, both the public and the attorneys accused of professional misconduct, to continue the current law as expressed in Judiciary Law § 90. Given the ability of the grievance committees to suspend an attorney on an interim basis pending disciplinary proceedings where the attorney is found to be guilty of professional misconduct immediately threatening the public interest, the Committee believes that the present law strikes an appropriate balance between the need of the public to be protected and informed and the rights of those attorneys accused of misconduct but not yet found to have violated the Disciplinary Rules. Our Committee expects to issue a report in 1992 on the entire issue of making disciplinary proceedings public.

As many readers are aware, the disciplinary agencies in New York remain seriously underfunded and understaffed. Our Committee has proposed legislation which would create a board of trustees to oversee the Attorney Licensing Fund, the fund which was created in 1990 to finance the cost of administering attorney discipline and admission to the bar. At the present time, a significant amount of funds received for this fund which consists of attorney registration fees - is instead allocated to the state's general fund. Under our proposal, the board of trustees would manage and distribute the monies contained in the attorney licensing fund for the purpose of funding attorney discipline and admission to the bar, thereby providing adequate resources for these important functions. This legislation was approved by the NYSBA Executive Committee and is now part of the NYSBA legislative program.

In May 1991, our Committee held our annual seminar on ethics and discipline in New York City. Subjects covered at the seminar included Conflicts of Interest: Multiple Representation Under Canon 5 and Conflicts Caused by the Court or Opposing Counsel; Statewide Uniformity in Disciplinary Procedures; and Attorney Alcoholism and Drug Abuse - Lawyer Assistance Program: An Alternative for the Grievance Committee? The Committee will be holding its 1992 seminar on May 15, 1992 at the Yale Club in New York City; topics for presentation will include Prosecutorial Immunity and Abuse: Conflicts of the Criminal Defense Lawyer; Recent Developments in Judicial Interpretation of the Code of Professional Responsibility; Teaching Legal Ethics: In Search of a Core Curriculum; and Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection: New Problems and Opportunities. We encourage all interested persons to attend...

In an effort to protect the public from lawyers who convert escrow funds to their own use, a process is being considered which will provide for notification of overdrafts on an attorney's escrow account to be sent to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection when a check has been dishonored by the bank. It is expected that a final decision will be made before the end of 1992. The year 1992 will be an important year for new policies and procedures dedicated to the advancement of the protection of the public, and the enhancement of the good reputation and trust in our profession.

Martin Minkowitz Chair

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Explanation of Disciplinary Statistics for the Year 1990

In maintaining records of professional discipline in this state the practice has been to consider each complaint as an "inquiry." When it appears that the "inquiry" does not allege conduct which, even if true, would constitute professional misconduct, it is "Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint." Otherwise, it is a "matter" which is then investigated. Frequently several "matters" will involve the same attorney and all matters involving that attorney are considered one "case." The committees record each "matter" separately. However, when the committees receive several "matters" against the same attorney and, with the approval of the court, commence a disciplinary proceeding against that attorney based on the several "matters," it is then recorded as a single "case." Thus, a "case" may involve multiple "matters" or complaints.

In several prior years, some grievance committees included telephone inquiries in the number of Matters Received. Beginning in 1990, none of the grievance committees include these inquiries in the number of Matters Received.

A proper appreciation of the workload of the disciplinary committees can be had only if the total number of "matters pending" is added to the total number of "cases pending." The "cases," which are fully litigated proceedings, are a very large part of the work of the professional staff.

The multiplicity of disciplinary committees results in each committee receiving a substantial number of complaints which fall within the jurisdiction of other committees and which then must be referred to the proper committee. In the Second Department, complaints received by county bar association grievance committees are referred to the district grievance committee. The district grievance committee, in turn, refers some complaints to the county bar association grievance committees for investigation and processing. Such complaints would be reported by the district committee as both "new matters received" and "referred to other disciplinary committees."

The statistics of the Second Department are the totals of the reports of the court appointed district committees, which include the reports of the county bar association's grievance committees. The reports of the district committees and of the local bar association's grievance committees are separately reproduced. In the Tenth Judicial District the grievance committees of the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations only investigate the minor complaints and then report them to the district committee which makes the disposition, and the cases processed by them are incorporated in the report of the Tenth District Grievance Committee. In the Fourth Department a substantial number of minor complaints are processed by the local bar associations and in the Third Department a much lesser number are processed locally, but no separate reports are available for the local activity.

As a final note, this report is not simply that of the Committee on Professinal Discipline of the New York State Bar Association, but it is equally that of the disciplinary committees, their cheif counsels and staffs, and the grievance committees of county bar associations. They have compiled much of the information contained herein. If this report is of value and interest to those who read it, the credit must go to those dedicated people, not only for their assistance in its compilation, but also for their substantial contribution to the legal profession.

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Disciplinary Statistics 1990 Tables

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Table 1 Appellate Division (January 1, 1990 - December 31, 1990)

		1st Dept.	2d Dept.	3d Dept.	4th Dept.	Total
I.	MATTERS PROCESSED:1					
	Pending at start of period	1375	2175	502	1358	5410
	New matters received ²	2692	4873	1461	1722	10748
	Matters disposed of	2853	5057	1409	2179	11498
	Pending at end of period	1214	1991	554	901	4660
п.	COMMITTEE DISPOSITIONS:					
	Rejected for failing to state complaint	804	1523	876	1009	4212
	Referred to other agencies ³	445	1598	87	63	2193
	Dismissed or withdrawn	1371	1133	297	1000	3801
	Letters of caution	41	282	36	62	421
	Letters of admonition	134	131	28	6	299
	Admonition or reprimand	0	2	25	N/A	27
	Referred to court	58	388	60	39	545
	Other	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL DISPOSED OF:	2853	5057	1409	2179	11498
ш.	CASES PROCESSED IN COURTS:					
	Cases pending at start of period4	71	202	17	14	304
	Cases received	67	166	43	28	304
	CASES CLOSED:					
	Disbarred	13	35	5		55
	Resigned	3	7	2		16
	Suspended	20	26	13	_	70
	Censured	3	5	8	_	19
	Censured privately	1	1	0		2
	Remanded to Grievance Committee	0	2	5		8 15
	Reinstatements granted	5	7	2		13
	Reinstatements denied	3	8		_	8
	Discontinued	5	2			9
	Dismissed	7				84
	All other dispositions	16	51	11	. •	0.7
	TOTAL CLOSED:	76	144	51	29	300
	TOTAL PENDING:	62	224	, 9	13	308

 [&]quot;Matters" refers to the number of complaints, not of attorneys.
 This includes complaints received and reactivated.
 This includes matters referred to other disciplinary committees and other agencies.
 Number of attorneys, not number of complaints.

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Table 2

	New Matters*	Matters Closed	Disciplinary Action by Committees	Disciplinary Action by Court
1st Department				
1980	2197	2436	145	16
1981	1994	2176	170	29
1982	2681	2788	127	43
1983	2547	2511	152	72
1984	3011	2693	123	39
1985	2869	2867	198	41
1986	2477	2838	194	38
1987	2328	2111	94	56
1988	4996	5087	86	45
1989	5278	5174	144	39
1990	2247	2408	175	40
1330	2247	2100		
2nd Department				
1980	1735	1853	157	19
1981	2237	2048	209	61
1982	2188	2210	169	41
1983	2204	1970	187	7 9
1984	2646	2702	269	61
1985	2990	2966	290	64
1986	3452	3064	264	36
1987	3325	3465	282	49
1988	3119	3049	247	80
1989	3535	3170	291	7 5
1990	3275	3459	415	74
1550	52.0	2 -2 -		
3rd Department				
1980	638	614	65	12
1981	679	701	7 1	14
1982	630	568	50	14
1983	760	750	64	14
1984	662	746	57	24
1985	950	794	71	12
1986	976	986	96	16
1987	979	983	96	16
1988	1079	925	95	20
1989	1235	1237	63	13
1990	1374	1322	89	28
4th Department			00	10
1980	1236	1226	22	13
1981	1341	1333	33	12
1982	1558	1510	32	8
1983	2171	2056	30	15
1984	2083	1904	26	5
1985	2166	1934	42	5
1986	1895	1645	60 	14
1987	2181	1992	51	19
1988	2631	2653	34	14
1989	2307	2368	26	14
1990	1659	2116	68	20
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^{*} These figures are reduced by the number of complaints referred to other committees for action.

Statewide				
1979	5623	6457	452	7 1
1980	5806	6129	389	60
1981	6251	6258	483	116
1982	<i>7</i> 05 <i>7</i>	7076	74 6	106
1983	7682	7 287	433	180
1984	8402	8045	47 5	129
1985	8975	8516	601	160
1986	8800	8310	614	104
1987	8813	8551	523	140
1988	11825	8929	462	159
1989	12355	11949	524	141
1990	8555	9305	747	162

Table 3

	New Matters*	Matters Closed	Disciplinary Action by Committees	Disciplinary Action by Court
Departmental Discipl	linary Committe	ee for the First De	partment	
1981	1994	2176	170	29
1982	2681	2788	127	43
1983	2547	2511	152	72
1984	3011	2693	123	, 39
1985	2869	2867	198	41
1986	2477	2838	194	38
1987	2328	2111	94	56
1988	4996	5087	86	45
1989	5278	5174	144	39
1990	2247	2408	175	40
G is seen as Committee	- for the Cosons	and Flowanth Tu	dicial Districts, Second	d Department
	526	492	41	25
1981	557	571	45	16
1982		506	37	65
1983	506	453	49	24
1984	519	433 672	66	17
1985	802	716	55	6
1986	867	916	56	18
1987	1019	1017	92	33
1988	992	941	102	12
1989	1142	1201	220	26
1990	1122	1201		Ž.
Grievance Committe	e for the Ninth	Judicial District, S	Second Department	,
1981	486	403	63	18
1982	497	483	47	12
1983	443	470	64	6
1984	604	534	38	20
1985	567	612	40	11
1986	826	598	24	18
1987	829	894	41	10
1988	825	732	63	22
1989	915	900	101	34
1990	733	938	92	28
Grievance Committe	e for the Tenth	Iudicial District.	Second Department	
1981	811	821	93	18
1982	865	848	76	13
1983	962	<i>7</i> 53	70	8
1984	1180	1411	164	17
1985	1070	1156	173	20
1986	826	1138	173	9
1987	829	1355	169	21
1988	1302	1300	92	25
1989	1478	1329	88	29
1990	1420	1320	103	20
1990	1.170		•	

^{*}These figures are reduced by the number of complaints referred to other committee for action.

Committee on Profes	sional Standards,	Third Departmen	t	
1981	679	7 01	7 1	14
1982	630	568	50	14
1983	760	75 0	64	14
1984	662	74 6	57	24
1985	950	794	7 1	12
1986	976	986	96	16
1987	979	983	96	16
1988	1079	925	95	20
1989	1235	1237	63	13
1990	1374	1322	89	28
Grievance Committee	e for the Fifth Iudi	cial District. Four	th Department	
1981	249	256	5	3
1982	340	338	9	0
1983	373	389	5	5
1984	420	430	6	0
1985	568	566	0	2
1986	448	442	11	3
1987	385	382	1	5
1988	435	419	7	3
1989	406	404	2	8
1990	423	439	9	6
1750	,1 20	407	• •	U
Grievance Committee	e for the Seventh J	udicial District, F	ourth Department	
1981	350	327	⁻ 9	6
1982	317	304	10	5
1983	418	400	14	5
1984	528	451	20	2
1985	424	44 1	24	2
1986	355	413	10	5
1987	602	467	14	5
1988	57 1	535	12	7
1989	535	566	17	6
1990	516	469	19	5
Grievance Committee				
1981	742	750	19	3
1982	901	868	13	3
1983	1380	1267	8	5
1984	1136	1024	0	3
1985	1174	927	18	1
1986	1092	79 0	39	6
1987	1194	1143	36	9
1988	1625	1699	15	4
1989	1366	1398	. 7	0
1990	720	1208	40	9

Statistical Reports of Disciplinary Committees

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Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the First Department

I. Matters Processed:*

	 A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 B. New Matters Received During Period C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 	1375 2692 0	4067 2853 1214
	- C	CASES:	MATTERS:
П.	Matters Disposed of By Committee		
	 A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees/Agencies C. Dismissed E. Letter of Caution F. Letter of Admonition G. Reprimand After Hearing H. Referred to Appellate Division I. Total Disposed of During Period 	804 445 1371 40 126 0 29 2815	804 445 1371 41 134 0 58 2853
III.	Cases Processed in All Courts:		
	A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 19901. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	41 30	71
	B. Cases Received During Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	51 16	67
	C. Total To Be Processed During Period		138
	 Cases Closed Disbarred Resigned** Suspended*** Censured Privately Censured Remanded to Grievance Committee Discontinued Dismissed Reinstatements Granted Reinstatements Denied All Other Dispositions Total Closed 		13 3 20 3 1 0 5 7 5 3 16 76
	E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	40 22	62

^{*} For purposes of this Report, "Matters" represents the number of complaints, telephone calls which initiate an investigation, inquiries and sua sponte investigation, while "Cases" refers to the number of respondent-attorneys against whom proceedings have been instituted. As some attorneys are the subject of multiple complaints, the number of matters exceed the number of cases.

^{**} Contains one unpublished resignation.

Eight of the suspensions are interim suspensions.

$Grievance\ Committee\ for\ the\ Second\ and\ Eleventh\ Judicial\ Districts\ of\ the\ Second\ Department$

I. Matters Processed:

	 A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 B. New Matters Received During Period C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 	882 1649 19	2550 1747 803
		CASES:	MATTERS:
п.	Matters Disposed of by Committee:		
	 A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees C. Referred to Other Agencies D. Dismissed or Withdrawn E. Letter of Caution (or Education) F. Letter of Admonition G. Admonition (or Reprimand) H. Referred to Appellate Division I. Total Disposed of During Period 	470 524 22 423 147 44 1 49 1680	470 524 22 423 154 65 1 88 1747
ш.	Cases Processed in All Courts:		
	A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 19901. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	91 62 29	253 224 29
	B. Cases Received During Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	69 27 42	130 88 42
	C. Total To Be Processed During Period	160	383
	 D. Cases Closed Disbarred Resigned Suspended Censured Privately Censured Remanded to Grievance Committee Discontinued Dismissed Reinstatements Granted Reinstatements Denied All Other Dispositions Total Closed 	13 3 6 4 0 1 0 0 1 5 22 55	46 29 9 4 0 1 0 0 1 5 22 117
	E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	105 62 43	266 223 43

Richmond County Bar Association Grievance Committee

Appellate Division, Second Department, Second and Eleventh Judicial Districts

I.	Matt	Matters Processed:				
	A.	Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990	11			
	В.	New Matters Received During Period	40			
	C.	Closed Matters Reactivated During Period	C			
	D.	Total Matters to be Processed During Period	51			
	E.	Total Matters Disposed of During Period	33			
	F.	Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990	18			
II.	Mat	ters Disposed of by Committee:				
	A.	Rejected as Failing to State Complaint	C			
	В.	Retained by District Disciplinary Committee	10			
	C.	Referred to Fee Conciliation Committee	3			
	D.	Judicially Settled	(
	E.	In Litigation	(
	F.	Closed by Appellate Division	(
	G.	Referred to Commn. on Judicial Conduct	(
	H.	Dismissed	10			
	Ī.	Letter of Caution	1			
	J.	Withdrawn	7			
	K.	Admonition (by district committee)	•			
	L.	Suspension (by district committee)				
	 M	Total Disposed of During Period	33			

Grievance Committee for the Ninth Judicial District of the Second Department

I. **Matters Processed:** A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 574 B. New Matters Received During Period 1251 C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period 24 D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period 1849 E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period 1480 F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 369 CASES: MATTERS: Matters Disposed of by Committee: П. A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint 365 B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees 524 C. Referred to Other Agencies 18 D. Dismissed or Withdrawn 331 E. Letter of Caution (or Education) 60 F. Letter of Admonition 32 G. Admonition (or Reprimand) 0 H. Referrd to Appellate Division 44 150 I. Total Disposed of During Period 1480 Cases Processed in All Courts: A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 1989 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 45 77 2. Other 0 0 B. Cases Received During Period 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 150 44 2. Other 0 0 C. Total To Be Processed During Period 89 227 D. Cases Closed 1. Disbarred 13 24 2. Resigned 2 16 3. Suspended 13 48 4. Censured 0 0 5. Privately Censured 0 0 6. Remanded to Grievance Committee 0 0 7. Discontinued 1 1 8. Dismissed 0 0 9. Reinstatements Granted 4 5 10. Reinstatements Denied 1 1 11. All Other Dispositions 8 10 12. Total Closed 42 105 E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 47 122 2. Other 0 0

Dutchess County Bar Association Grievance Committee

Appellate Division, Second Department, Ninth Judicial District

I.	Matt	ers Processed:	
	A. B. C. D. E.	Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 New Matters Received During Period Closed Matters Reactivated During Period Total Matters to be Processed During Period Total Matters Disposed of During Period	7 28 3 35 31
II.	F.	Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 ters Disposed of by Committee:	·
11.	MIGH	lets Disposed of by Communect	
	A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H.	Rejected as Failing to State Complaint Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees Referred to Other Agencies Dismissed Dismissed with Cautionary Language Letter of Caution Letter of Admonition Reprimand Total Disposed of During Period	23 () () () () ()
		County Bar Association Grievance Committee Division, Second Department, Ninth Judicial District	
I.	Mat	ters Processed:	
	A. B. C. D. E. F.	Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 New Matters Received During Period Closed Matters Reactivated During Period Total Matters to be Processed During Period Total Matters Disposed of During Period Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990	49 50 10 55 5
II.	Mat	tters Disposed of by Committee:	
	A. B. C. D. E. F.	Rejected as Failing to State Complaint Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees Referred to Other Agencies (White Plains handling) Dismissed Dismissed with Cautionary Language Letter of Caution Letter of Admonition	2
	H.	Reprimand Total Disposed of During Period	5

Putnam County Bar Association Grievance Committee

Appellate Division, Second Department, Ninth Judicial District

I.	Mat	iters Processed:	
	A. B.	Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 New Matters Received During Period Class Matters Received During Period	- 3
	C. D.	Closed Matters Reactivated During Period Total Matters to be Processed During Period	11
	E.	Total Matters Disposed of During Period	11
	F.	Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990	
II.	Mat	tters Disposed of by Committee:	
	A.	Rejected as Failing to State Complaint	3
	В.	Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees	(
	C.	Referred to Other Agencies	
	D.	Dismissed	4
	E. F.	Dismissed with Cautionary Language Letter of Caution	
	G.	Letter of Admonition	
	H.	Reprimand	,
	I.	Total Disposed of During Period	è
<i>F</i> 1		e Division, Second Department, Ninth Judicial District	
	A.	Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990	14
	B.	New Matters Received During Period	4
	C.	Closed Matters Reactivated During Period	(
	D.	Total Matters to be Processed During Period	58
	E.	Total Matters Disposed of During Period	4
	F.	Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990	14
II.	Mat	ters Disposed of by Committee:	
	A.	Rejected as Failing to State Complaint	•
	В.	Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees	
	C.	Referred to Other Agencies	
	D.	Dismissed	3.5
	E.	Dismissed with Cautionary Language	4
	F.	Letter of Caution	(
	G. H.	Letter of Admonition	
	H. I.	Reprimand Total Disposed of During Period	4
	1.	Total Disposed of During Period	4

Westchester County Bar Association Grievance Committee

Appellate Division, Second Department, Ninth Judicial District

I. Matte	rs Processed:
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	Α.	Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990	46
	B.	New Matters Received During Period	173
	C.	Closed Matters Reactivated During Period	0
	D.	Total Matters to be Processed During Period	219
	E.	Total Matters Disposed of During Period	128
	F.	Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990	91
II.	Mat	ters Disposed of by Committee:	
	Α.	Rejected as Failing to State Complaint	6
	B.	Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees	3
	C.	Referred to Other Agencies	9
	D.	Dismissed	97
	E.	Dismissed with Cautionary Language	1
	F.	Letter of Caution	1
	G.	Letter of Admonition	1
	H.	Reprimand	0
	I.	Withdrawn	10
	Ī.	Total Disposed of During Period	128

Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District of the Second Department

I. Matters Processed:

	 A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 B. New Matters Received During Period C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 	5719 1818 112	2649 1830 819
		CASES:	MATTERS:
п.	Matters Disposed of by Committee:		
	 A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees C. Referred to Other Agencies D. Dismissed or Withdrawn E. Letter of Caution (or Education) F. Letter of Admonition G. Admonition (or Reprimand) H. Referred to Appellate Division I. Total Disposed of During Period 	688 479 31 379 68 33 1 29	688 479 31 379 68 33 1 150 1830
III.	Cases Processed in All Courts:		
	 A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 2. Other 	66 48 18	314 296 18
	B. Cases Received During Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	53 33 20	143 123 20
	C. Total To Be Processed During Period	119	457
	 Cases Closed Disbarred Resigned Suspended Censured Privately Censured Remanded to Grievance Committee Discontinued Dismissed Reinstatements Granted Reinstatements Denied All Other Dispositions Total Closed E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period Disciplinary Proceedings 	9 2 7 1 1 1 0 2 2 2 21 47	151 5 11 1 1 1 0 2 2 21 202
	 Disciplinary Proceedings Other 	63 9	. 246

Committee on Professional Standards, Third Department (Third, Fourth and Sixth Judicial Districts)

I. Matters Processed:

	 A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 B. New Matters Received During Period C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 	502 1407 54 CASES:	1963 1409 554 MATTERS:
		CASES:	WIRTTERO.
п.	Matters Disposed of by Committee:		
	 A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees C. Referred to Other Agencies D. Dismissed or Withdrawn E. Letter of Caution (or Education) F. Letter of Admonition G. Admonition (or Reprimand) H. Referred to Appellate Division I. Total Disposed of During Period 	846 80 7 291 34 28 19 42	876 80 7 297 36 28 25 60 1409
ш.	Cases Processed in All Courts:		
	A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 19901. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	12 5	22 5
	B. Cases Received During Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	23 20	56 37
	C. Total To Be Processed During Period	60	120
	 D. Cases Closed Disbarred Resigned Suspended Censured Privately Censured Remanded to Grievance Committee Discontinued Dismissed Reinstatements Granted Reinstatements Denied All Other Dispositions Total Closed 	5 2 13 8 0 5 1 2 2 2 2 11 51	6 8 20 15 0 10 1 2 2 2 2 17 83
	E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	· 5	27 10

Grievance Committee for the Fifth Judicial District of the Fourth Department

I. **Matters Processed:** A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 116 B. New Matters Received During Period 445 C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period 3 D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period 564 E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period 464 F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 100 CASES: **MATTERS:** П. Matters Disposed of by Committee: A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint 227 238 B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees 24 25 C. Referred to Other Agencies 0 0 D. Dismissed or Withdrawn 174 184 E. Letter of Caution (or Education) 5 7 F. Letter of Admonition 2 2 G. Admonition (or Reprimand) N/A N/A H. Referred to Appellate Division 6 8 I. Total Disposed of During Period 438 464 III. Cases Processed in All Courts: A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 4 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 3 2. Other 1 B. Cases Received During Period 6 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 4 2. Other C. Total To Be Processed During Period 10 D. Cases Closed 1. Disbarred 1 2. Resigned 1 3. Suspended 2 4. Censured 2 5. Privately Censured 0 6. Remanded to Grievance Committee 1 7. Discontinued 0 8. Dismissed 0 9. Reinstatements Granted 0 10. Reinstatements Denied 0 11. All Other Dispositions 2 12. Total Closed 9 E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period 1 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 0 2. Other

Grievance Committee for the Seventh Judicial District of the Fourth Department

I.	Matters Processed:		
	 A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 B. New Matters Received During Period C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 	234 496 31	761 480 281
		CASES:	MATTERS:
п.	Matters Disposed of by Committee:		
	 A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees C. Referred to Other Agencies D. Dismissed or Withdrawn E. Letter of Caution (or Education) F. Letter of Admonition G. Admonition (or Reprimand) H. Referred to Appellate Division I. Total Disposed of During Period 	248 6 5 156 12 0 N/A 9 436	257 6 5 182 19 0 N/A 11 480
III.	Cases Processed in All Courts:		
	A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 19901. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	6 0	6
	B. Cases Received During Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	7 2	9
	C. Total To Be Processed During Period		15
	 Cases Closed Disbarred Resigned Suspended Censured Privately Censured Remanded to Grievance Committee Discontinued Dismissed Reinstatements Granted Reinstatements Denied All Other Dispositions Total Closed 		1 1 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 8
	E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period1. Disciplinary Proceedings2. Other	6 1	. 7

Grievance Committee for the Eighth Judicial District of the Fourth Department

Matters Processed: I. A. Matters Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 1008 B. New Matters Received During Period 665 C. Closed Matters Reactivated During Period 82 D. Total Matters To Be Processed During Period 1755 E. Total Matters Disposed of During Period 1235 F. Matters Pending on Dec. 31, 1990 520 CASES: **MATTERS:** Matters Disposed of by Committee: П. A. Rejected as Failing to State a Complaint 458 514 B. Referred to Other Disciplinary Committees 23 24 C. Referred to Other Agencies 3 3 D. Dismissed or Withdrawn 496 634 E. Letter of Caution (or Education) 27 36 F. Letter of Admonition 3 4 G. Admonition (or Reprimand) N/A N/A H. Referred to Appellate Division 13 20 I. Total Disposed of During Period 1023 1235 III. Cases Processed in All Courts: A. Cases Pending on Jan. 1, 1990 4 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 3 2. Other 1 B. Cases Received During Period 13 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 9 2. Other 4 C. Total To Be Processed During Period 17 D. Cases Closed 1. Disbarred 0 2. Resigned 2 3. Suspended 6 4. Censured 1 5. Privately Censured 0 6. Remanded to Grievance Committee 0 7. Discontinued 0 8. Dismissed 0 9. Reinstatement Granted 1 10. Reinstatement Denied 1 11. All Other Dispositions 1 12. Total Closed 12 E. Total Cases Pending at End of Period 5 1. Disciplinary Proceedings 5 2. Other 0

Disciplinary Decisions Reported by Appellate Division in 1990

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FIRST DEPARTMENT

Judiciary Law §90(d)(4) Interim Suspension Ronald J. Kuba (Felony conviction; 26 USC 153 AD2d 140 §7201, filing false tax return). Judiciary Law §90(d)(4) **Interim Suspension** Seymour Breiterman (Felony convictions - 18 USC 153 AD2d 173 §201(c)(1)(A), bribing public official; 26 USC §7201, filing false tax return). Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) Suspended 6 months, Charles Kadish (Felony conviction; 26 USC retroactive from 8/4/88 -158 AD2d 370 §7203, failure to file tax 3/10/89; reinstated as of date return.) of order. Judiciary Law §90(4)(Felony Kuang Hsung Joseph Chuang Stricken convictions - 18 USC §1001, 154 AD2d 97 making false statements; 18 USC §371, conspiracy; 18 USC §636, misapplication of bank funds; 18 USC §1343, wire fraud). 22 NYCRR 603.3 (discipline Stephen H. Feuerstein Suspended 6 months in a foreign jurisdiction [New 154 AD2d 184 Jersey suspension]). Judiciary Law §486 (Prac-Wilmer Hill Grier Disbarred ticing law while suspended). 156 AD2d 46 Judiciary Law §90(4)(a) Lewis Novod Stricken (Felony conviction - 18 USC 156 AD2d 82 §1623, perjury before grand Judiciary Law §90(2), 22 John W.E. Bowen, IV Interim Suspension NYCRR 603.4(e)(willful 155 AD2d 223 failure to cooperate with committee's investigation). DR 6-101(A)(3) (Neglect of Censured Robert L. Slater, Jr. legal matters). 156 AD2d 89

Interim Suspension

Richard Thomas Petty

156 AD2d 1

Judiciary Law §90(2), 22

NYCRR 603.4(e)(1)(i) (will-

ful failure to cooperate with committee's investigation).

Israel I. Sylvan Interim Suspension Judiciary Law §90(2), 22 156 AD2d 56 NYCRR 603.4(e)(ii), (iii) (suspension pending disposition of formal charges of professional misconduct). Victor Braunstein Stricken Judiciary law §90(4)(a), (e) (Felony conviction - Penal 156 AD2d 109 Law §200.10, bribe receiving; Penal Law §195.00, official misconduct). Disbarred Donald E. Kelly DR 1-102(A)(4), (6) (conver-157 AD2d 62 sion of client's funds); DR 9-102(B)(3), (4)(failure to account); DR 1-102(A)(5) (conduct prejudicial to administration of justice); 22 NYCRR 603.4(e)(1)(i) (willful failure to cooperate with committee's investigation). Jerome J. Erlin Disbarred Judiciary Law §486 (Practi-157 AD2d 131 cing law while suspended). Daniel E. Ettinger Censured Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) 159 AD2d 187 (Serious crime conviction - 31 USC §§5313, 5322[a], causing domestic financial institution to fail to file currency transaction report; 18 USC §§2, 3623, misdemeanor). William Theodore Martin Interim Suspension Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) 160 AD2d 132 (Felony convictions - 18 USC §371, conspiracy to evade income tax; 26 USC §7206[1], filing false income tax return; 26 USC §7201, income tax evasion). Richard I. Rosenthal Disbarred DR 1-102(A)(4),(6); DR 9-160 AD2d 61 102(A); 22 NYCRR 603.15 (conversion); DR 2-110(A)(3), DR 9-102(B)(4) (failure to return client funds). Nicholas Paul Altomerianos Suspended 2 years 22 NYCRR 603.15(a), DR 1-102(A)(5)(conduct prejudicial 160 AD2d 96 to administration of justice failure to maintain attorney's

special bank account); DR 9-102(A)(commingling).

Allen J. Bodner 160 Ad2d 75	Indefinite Suspension	22 NYCRR 603.16(b)(1) (physical and mental inability to continue practice of law).
Sheldon Ostro (Admitted as Sheldon Ostrowsky) 160 AD2d 165	Stricken	Judiciary Law §90(4)(a) (Felony convictions - Penal Law §190.65, scheming to defraud 1st degree; Penal Law §170.25, criminal possession of forged instrument 2d degree).
Ronald J. Kuba 162 AD2d 30	Suspended 6 months effective 1/4/90. Reinstated upon expiration of suspension	Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Felony conviction - 26 USC §7201, filing false tax return).
Manojkumar Dahyabhai Patel 162 AD2d 61	Interim Suspension	Judiciary Law §90(2), 22 NYCRR 603.4(e) (admissions of professional miconduct while under oath and other uncontroverted evidence).
Harold W. Grubart 164 AD2d 144	Disbarred	DR 1-102(A)(4),(6) (conversion); DR 9-102(A), 22 NYCRR 603.15 (related violation); DR 1-102(A)(5) (conduct prejudicial to administration of justice); DR 7-102(A)(5) (false representation); DR 9-102 (B)(1), (3) (failure to account and maintain proper financial records); DR 6-101(A)(3)(neglect).
Jack Gerald Goldberg 164 AD2d 87	Interim Suspension	Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Felony conviction – 18 USC §1341, mail fraud).
Marcua Sheila Kasdan 164 AD2d 90	Suspended 6 months	22 NYCRR 603.3 (discipline in foreign jurisdiction - New Jersey suspension).
Mitchel B. Nerenberg 164 AD2d 99	Stricken on Consent	22 NYCRR 603.11 (resignation of attorney under investigation)
Richard M. Messina 164 AD2d 160	Interim Suspension	22 NYCRR 603.4(e)(1)(ii) (admission of professional misconduct under oath; suspension pending determination of complaints); DR 1-102(A)(4), (6), DR 9-102).

Steven Allan Herman 562 NYS2d 82 Stricken

Judiciary Law §90(4)(a) (Felony conviction - New Jersey Stat. Ann. §2C:14-2b, sexual assault 2d degree [Penal Law §130.65(3)]).

Stanley A. Schwartz 164 AD2d 184 Interim Suspension

Judiciary Law §90(4)(f) (Serious crime convictions; certificate of conviction. Penal Law §190.60, scheming to defraud 2d degree [class A misdemeanor]; Penal Law §170.20, criminal possession of forged instrument 3d degree [class A misdemeanor]).

William Meyers 562 NYS 2d 502 Stricken on Consent

Voluntary resignation; admission of misdemeanor conviction (Gen. Bus. Law §352-c[1][a]).

Michael J. Nedick 562 NYS 2d706 **Interim Suspension**

Judiciary Law §90(4)(d), (f) (Felony conviction [serious crime] - 26 USC §7201, filing false tax return).

SECOND DEPARTMENT

(Second and Eleventh Judicial Districts)

Oswald B. Silvera 153 AD2d 155 Resigned

Conversion of clients' funds; commingling of clients' funds; failed to maintain bookkeeping records; false testimony given to grievance committee; neglect of client matters; excessive fees; failed to notify clients of suspension.

Eric E. Heron, Jr. 154 AD2d 164 Disbarred

Felony conviction (Penal Law §155.35); issuing bad check (Penal Law §190.05) conversion of clients' funds; commingling escrow funds; failing to maintain records; false testimony given to grievance committee; continued employment after suspension; failed to file affidavit indicating compliance with suspension order.

Failure to comply with order Interim Suspension Floriento Amante of Appellate Division and 164 AD2d 528 grievance committee. Reciprocal discipline based Disbarred Frank Allen Kelly upon Tennessee disbarment. 156 AD2d 4 Misdemeanor conviction; en-Suspended 2 years Walter Lewis gaging in conduct adversely 155 AD2d 205 reflecting on fitness to practice law (fired 2 bullets through apartment door of another with unlicensed gun, slashed tires of apartment occupant with knife). Commingled escrow funds; Resigned Lewis S. Green failed to maintain separate 157 AD2d 31 account for clients' and bookkeeping records; retained interest earned on clients' funds; balance in account fell below amount for down payment pending a real property closing. Uncontroverted evidence of Interim Suspension John Piastra professional misconduct. Failure to comply with law-**Interim Suspension** Frank X. Stella ful demands of grievance committee. Failure to comply with law-**Interim Suspension** Alton H. Maddox ful demands of grievance 157 AD2d 244 committee. Reciprocal discipline - dis-Disbarred John M. Skevin barred in New Jersey for 157 AD2d 107 withdrawing funds from attorney trust account to reimburse himself for fees and costs. Felony conviction - Con-Disbarred Herman Segal spiracy 2d degree (2 counts) 158 AD2d 10 (Penal Law §105.15).

Censured Barbara J. Emmanuel Serious crime conviction -157 AD2d 134 employment of person to aid in solicitation of business or procurement through solicitation of a retainer to perform legal services (Judiciary law §482); permitted nonlawyer to appear as associate counsel. Robert T. Chandler Disbarred Reciprocal discipline based 157 AD2d 389 upon Oregon resignation. Disbarred Neglect of uncontested ma-Larry R. Dries 159 AD2d 198 trimonial matter; attempt to defraud and deceive client by preparing false and fraudulent documents; knowingly executed false affidavits of service and submitted them to court; material alteration of affidavits executed by client. Michael G. Dowd Suspended 5 years Made kickback payments (DR Albert F. Pennisi Suspended 5 years 1-102[A][6]); failure to report 160 AD2d 78 unethical conduct of an attorney (DR 1-103[A]). Robert Perla Interim Suspension Uncontroverted evidence of professional misconduct. John Gutman Suspended 5 years Conviction of serious crimes 160 AD2d 1 (Judiciary Law §90[4][d]) (intentionally and knowingly furnishing false and fraud-

ulent information and omitting material information from applications, reports, and records required to be kept by U.S. narcotics laws [21 USC §843(a)(4)(A), 18 USC §2]; counseled person to fabricate records to furnish to Drug Enforcement Administration with false and misleading information).

Frank J. Caramico 161 AD2d 18 Disbarred

Converted client funds; withdrew interest on escrow funds and failed to promptly pay clients funds they were entitled to receive; commingled client funds; failed to maintain ledger book or record for escrow account; provided false and misleading responses to legitimate inquiries of grievance committee; gave false and misleading testimony in response to legitimate inquiries of grievance committee.

William H. Tschirhart 162 AD2d 1

Disbarred

Reciprocal discipline based upon Maryland disbarment.

Edward C. Fernbach 162 AD2d 65 Disbarred

Filed false and misleading retainer statements and closing statements with Office of Court Administration; counseled witnesses to give false, misleading or evasive testimony ro Grand Jury; made payments to lay persons to procure retainers; failed to report to proper authorities his knowledge that attorneys were paying. lay persons to solicit contingent fee, personal injury cases; convicted of serious crime (offering false instrument for filing [Penal Law §175.30]); knowingly participated in preparation and presentation of false and fraudulent personal injury claims.

Edward J. Tighe

Interim Suspension

Failure to comply with lawful demands of grievance

committee.

John W. Blaha

Interim Suspension

Failure to submit written answers to complaints alleg-

ing acts of professional

misconduct.

Andrew J. Jenkins

Interim Suspension

Conviction of serious crimes (Judiciary Law §90[4][d]).

Martin J. Mayblum

Interim Suspension

Failure to comply with lawful demands of grievance committee - failed to submit written answer within 19 days of receipt of demand for such answer; made substantial admission under oath of guilt of professional misconduct; failed to controvert evidence of conversion of

client funds.

Luis E Reyes 162 AD2d 94 Resigned

Conversion of funds; commingling client funds; failed to promptly pay and deliver to a client funds which client was entitled to receive; failed to maintina complete records of funds or comply with required procedures to protect and preserve identity of client funds.

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Gerald P. Harris

Interim Suspension

Failure to comply with lawful demands of grievance committee - failed to submit written answers to complaints of professional misconduct.

Deborah A. Greenspan

Disbarred

Felony conviction - offering false instrument for filing (Penal Law §175.35).

(Ninth Judicial District)

Renard A. Barone 155 AD2d 104 Disbarred

Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (convicted of perjury before Federal Grand Jury [18 USC §1623] and Federal income tax evasion [26 USC §7201]).

Harvey Bayer

Reinstated

Raymond H. Bradford 153 AD2d 241 Disbarred

DR 9-102(A),(B)(Commingling, failure to account); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to

account).

Kenneth E. Bruce 162 AD2d 79	Suspended 3 years	DR 9-102(B)(Conversion, failure to account); 22 NYCRR 691.12(a),(b),(e),(f) (Failure to maintain escrow account, failure to maintain and produce records); DR 1-102 (A) (4),(5),(6) (Conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, conduct prejudicial to administration of justice, conduct adversely reflecting on fitness to practice law); 22 NYCRR 691.4 (1)(Failure to cooperate).
Kenneth E. Bruce		Motion for reargument, leave to appeal and 90-day stay of effective date of susension granted to extent that effective date of suspension extended to 2/15/91.
Richard J. Calle	Suspended until further order.	22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate).
Richard J. Calle	Reinstated	
Edmund M. Connery 157 AD2d 12	Disbarred	Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Convicted of presenting false claim of proof against estate of bankrupt [18 USC §§2, 152]).
Robert J. Dembeck 153 AD2d 12	Disbarred (Resigned)	DR 9-102(B)(Conversion); 22 NYCRR 691.12(b),(e)(Failure to maintain records); 22 NYCRR 691.4(a)(Failure to cooperate).
John C. DiPirro	Suspended until further order	22 NYCRR 691.4(1) (Substantial admissions under oath, uncontroverted evidence).
Harvey Felton	Suspended until further order	22 NYCRR 691.4(1) (Substantial admissions under oath, uncontroverted evidence).

Stuart M. Glass 162 AD2d 76	Suspended 1 year	DR 5-104(A)(Limiting business relations with client); DR 1-102(A)(4),(5),(6) (Conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, conduct prejudicial to administration of justice, conduct adversely reflecting on fitness to practice law); Canon 9 (Appearance of impropriety).
Sheldon Goldklang	Suspended 1 year	DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate).
Alan I. Greene	Motion for reinstatement denied.	
Gregory Ireland 155 AD2d 146	Disbarred	Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Convicted of driving while intoxicated [VTL §1192(3)]).
Martin Kent	Disbarred	Judiciary Law §468-a (Failure to register); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate).
Kenneth S. Knigin 162 AD2d 82	Disbarred	DR 9-102(B)(Conversion, failure to account); 22 NYCRR 691.12(b),(e),(f) (Failure to maintain records); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate).
William A. Metz 155 AD2d 164	Disbarred	Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Convicted of interstate transportation of property [18 USC §§2, 2314]).
Gerard E. Melony 153 AD2d 326	Disbarred	DR 6-101(A)(3),(6) (Neglect, conduct adversely relecting on fitness to practice law); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1) (Failure to cooperate); Judiciary Law §468-a (Failure to register).
William M. Mulderig	Suspended until further order.	22 NYCRR 691.7 (Conviction of a serious crime); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1) (Substantial admissions under oath).

Thomas P. O'Callaghan 154 AD2d 147	Disbarred	DR 9-102(B) (Failure to account); DR 6-101(A)(3) (Neglect, abandoning client); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1) (Failure to cooperate); Judiciary Law \$468-a, 22 NYCRR 118.1(f) (Failure to register, failure to notify of change of address).
William J. O'Hare	Motion for reinstantement denied.	
William J. O'Hare	Reinstated	
Thomas K. Pedersen	Suspended until further order.	22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate, substantial admissions under oath, uncontroverted evidence); attorney appointed to inventory files.
Arthur Selkin	Suspended until further order.	22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate); attorney appointed to inventory files.
Jonathan H. Sherwood	Suspended 2 years	DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect); DR 9-102(B)(Failure to account); DR 1-102(A)(6)(Failure to communicate); 22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate).
Matthew A. Siegel	Suspended until further order.	22 NYCRR 691.4(1) (Substantial admissions under oath, uncontroverted evidence).
Matthew A. Siegel	Motion for leave to appeal to Court of Appeals denied.	
Barry H. Singer 154 AD2d 122	Disbarred (Resigned)	DR 9-102(B)(Conversion).
Peter W. Sluys	Suspended until further order.	22 NYCRR 691.4(1) (Uncontroverted evidence).
Melvin Smith	Motion to reargue denied.	
Peter P. Tavolacci	Suspended until further order.	22 NYCRR 691.4(1)(Failure to cooperate, uncontroverted evidence).
Michael Thomas	Motion for reargument denied.	•

Lillian Villanova 156 AD2d 118

Disbarred

Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Convicted of grand larceny 3rd Degree [Penal Law §155.35]).

Bruce Wiacek

Motion for leave to appeal to Court of Appeals denied.

(Tenth Judicial District)

Matter of Bracken 153 AD2d 314

Disbarred

Judiciary Law §90(4)(Felony

conviction).

Matter of Cohen 155 AD2d 220

Censured

22 NYCRR 691.7(b)(Guilty of

serious crime).

Matter of Cotter

Suspended pending outcome of

DP.

Matter of Domsky 160 AD2d 158

Disbarred

22 NYCRR 691.10 (Practiced law after effective date of

suspension).

Matter of Fondulis

Suspended pending outcome of

DP.

Matter of Gelb

Suspended pending outcome of

DP.

Matter of Goerlich

Suspended pending outcome of

Matter of Goldman 151 AD2d 37

Resigned

22 NYCRR 691.9 (Neglect);

DR 6-101(A)(3)(Failure to

cooperate).

Matter of Horowitz

Suspended

Matter of Humphrey

Resigned

156 AD2d 37

(Conversion).

Matter of Isaacs 75 NY2d 706

Motion for leave to appeal

denied.

Matter of Kavanaugh

161 AD2d 89

Disbarred

DR 9-102(A)(Conversion); DR

22 NYCRR 691.9, DR 9-102(A)

6-101(A)(3)(Neglect).

Matter of Lamar

155 AD2d 123

Disbarred

Judiciary Law §90(4)(Felony

conviction).

Matter of Lampone

162 AD2d 18

Resigned

DR 9-102(A)(Conversion).

Matter of Manning 153 AD2d 254 Suspended 2 years

DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect); Failure to cooperate.

Matter of Miller

Suspended pending outcome of

DP.

Matter of Nesci

Resigned

Matter of Sanna 154 AD2d 140 Disbarred

Judiciary Law §90(4)(Felony

conviction).

Matter of Silverman

Motion appointing conservator of files.

Matter of Solerwitz 153 AD2d 335 Disbarred

DR 9-102(A)(Conversion); DR

6-101(A)(3)(Neglect).

Matter of Tobin 153 AD2d 340

Disbarred

Judiciary Law §90(4)(Felony

conviction).

Matter of Ullman

Censured

Matter of Zuckerman

Suspended pending outcome of

DP.

THIRD DEPARTMENT

Edward P. Abbott

Suspended 3 years

DR 7-110(B)(Ex parte communication with court); DR 1-102(A)(4),(5), DR 7-102(A) (1), (5),(7)(Sending corespondence containing false information intended to harass or mailciously injure); DR 3-101(A)(aiding a non-lawyer in unauthorized practice of law); DR 1-102(A)(4),(5),(6), DR 7-102(A)(1),(2),(5), DR 8-102(B)(Making false and unsupported allegations in court proceedings); DR 1-102

(A)(4),(5)(Attempting to mislead and deceive committee); DR 1-102(A)(4),(5),(6), DR 8-102(B)(Making false and unsupported allegations during course of committee's inves-

tigation).

Edward P. Abbott

Motion for extension of commencement of suspension

granted.

Anonymous

Interim suspension denied.

22 NYCRR 806.4(f).

Phillip S. Arensberg Stephen J. Arlington Joseph B. Carr 159 AD2d 797

Censured Censured Comment

DR 5-103(B)(Advancing financial assistance to clients).

William A. Brenner 159 AD2d 931

Censured

DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect of an estate); DR 1-102(A)(5),(6) (Failing to cooperate with committee in its investigation); DR 1-102(A)(5),(6) (Failing to respond to inquiries from client); DR 6-101(A)(1)(Handling a legal matter for which respondent knew or should have known he was not competent to

handle).

Jonathan E. Cole

Suspended 90 days.

22 NYCRR 806.19 (Reciprocal discipline based upon Florida

suspension).

Kevin A. Conine

Suspended 1 year

DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect of a matrimonial action, neglect of an appeal); DR 1-102(A)(5), (6) (Failing to respond to opposing counsel); DR 1-102(A) (4),(5), DR 7-102(A) (Attempting to mislead court); DR 1-102(A)(5),(6) (Failing to re-spond to inquiries from and on behalf of client); DR 1-102 (A)(5),(6)(Failing to cooperate with committee in

its investigation).

Kevin A. Conine

1 year suspension vacated; 6 month suspension imposed.

Stephen E. Cooper

Disbarred

Application to resign accepted pursuant to 22 NYCRR 806.8. Attorney under investigation did not contest allegation he converted clients' funds amounting to

\$1,030,298.26).

DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect of John B. Folmer Suspended 2 years divorce action); DR 1-102(A) (4),(5),(6)(Misleading and deceiving client). Motion by respondent for Motion denied Alan L. Gebell permission to resume unrestricted practice of law. Practice limited to duties as Asst. District Attorney by agreement with court in 1986). Alan L. Gebell Censured DR 1-102(A)(5),(6)(Failing to coply with agreement with court); DR 6-101(A)(3) (Neglect of Article 78 proceeding); DR 1-102(A)(5),(6)(Failing to respond to inquiries from and on behalf of client); DR 1-102(A)(5),(6)(Failing to cooperate with committee in its investigation).

C. William Gray Interim suspension denied.

C. William Gray Suspended 3 months. Judiciary Law §90(4) (Convic-

ted under Tax Law §1801[a]).

C. William Gray

Motion for extension of com-

mencement of suspension

granted.

William H. Internann Suspended 2 years DR 1-102(A)(4)(Continuing to represent clients while on the

bench, lack of candor before Commission on Judicial Conduct, failing to disqualify himself as a judge in matters to avoid at least the appearance of bias, utilizing an expired notary public license, improperly signing another attorney's name to a postal return reeipt, violating SCPA 2110 and 2112 by paying attor-nev's fees to himself withour making application to the Court); DR 1-102(A)(5), DR 2-106(A)(Improperly advising a client of his intention to charge interest in the event she failed to pay a

demanded fee).

Ronald V. Kenderian

Disbarred

22 NYCRR 806.19 (Reciprocal

discipline based upon New

Jersey disbarment).

Gerald G. Kramer

Reinstated

Murray F. Lewis 159 AD2d 854 Disbarred

DR 1-102(A)(5), DR 9-102(B) (Failing to maintain records of clients and failing to render account to client); DR 1-102(A)(4),(5),(6), DR 9-102 (A), (B)(Conversion of clients' funds, advancing client's funds to self without client consulting another attorney or disinterested witness); 22 NYCRR 806.18 (Commingling and failing to maintain account); DR 1-102(A)(5), Dr 9-102(B)(Failing to keep records of interest earned on clients' funds); DR 1-102(A) (4),(5)(Misleading and deceiving attorneys); DR 1-102 (A)(4),(5)(Attempting to mislead committee); DR 1-102(A) (5),(6)(Failing to cooperate with committee in its investigation and failing to comply with judicial subpoena and court rules).

Murray F. Lewis 76 NY2d 783

Motion for leave to appeal

and stay denied.

Murray F. Lewis

Motion for reconsideration

denied.

John J. Mahoney

Censured

22 NYCRR 806.19 (reciprocal discipline based on public reprimand in New Jersey).

Paul V. Oliver 157 AD2d 904 Disbarred

DR 1-102(A)(4),(6), DR 5-101 (A)(Borrowing and making investments with clients' funds without taking appropriate steps to protect client's interest and engaging in conduct which adversely reflected on his fitness to practice law); DR 9-102(B)(3)(Failing to maintain complete records of all funds of clients and failing to render appropriate accounts to client); DR 1-102 (A)(5),(6)(failing to cooperate with committee in its investigation).

Thomas O. Pandick

Censured

DR 1-102(A)(4),(5),(6), DR 7-102(A)(3)(Failing to disclose to a successor hearing officer the existence of a recommended decision by the original hearing officer and attempting to mislead the successor hearing officer and others.

Edward R. Purser

Suspended 2 years

DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect of estate); DR 9-102(A),(B) (Conversion of funds belonging to estate); 22 NYCRR 806.18 (Failing to maintain required records for escrow account); DR 1-102(A)(5),(6)(Failing to cooperate with committee in its investigation).

Franklin P. Resseguie 157 AD2d 969 Suspended 14 months

DR 1-102(A)(4),(5),(6), DR 9-102(A),(B)(1),(3),(4)(Failing to notify clients of receipt of funds; failing to deposit said funds into an identifiable account; faiing to maintain adequate records; failing to pay over said funds to clients); 22 NYCRR 806.18 (Failing to maintain escrow account); DR 2-106(A)(Charging a clearly excessive fee); DR 5-105(B)(Representing multiple interests without consent); DR 3-102(A), DR5-106 (Sharing legal fee with non-lawyer and settling similar claims without all clients' consent).

Rolf O. Ronning Disbarred Judiciary Law §90(4)(Con-158 AD2d 807 victed of criminal possession of controlled substance, 2d degree [class A2 felony] and conspiracy 2d degree [class B felony] and convicted in US Dist. Ct., Northern Dist., of violating 21 USC §841[a][1]). Ronald J. Slocum Censured DR 1-102(A)(5),(6)(Failing to cooperate with committee in its investigation); DR 1-102 (A)(4),(5), Judiciary Law § 468-a (Failing to register as attor-ney). Thomas R. Snow Reinstated 160 AD2d 1173 Thomas R. Snow No further discipline DR 1-102(A)(4),(5) (Attempt-160 AD2d 1173 imposed. ing to mislead and deceive committee). Victor H. Sparrow Disbarred Judiciary Law §90(4) (Convicted of making a false statement under 18 USC §1001, cognizable as a felony under New York law). James C. Steenburgh Suspended 2 years DR 1-102(A)(4),(5),(6), DR 9-102(A),(B)(Conversion of client's funds). David H. Swyer Application for reinstatment denied. David H. Swyer Suspended 1 year DR 1-102(A)(3),(4),(5),(6), DR 7-102(A)(8)(Inducing witness not to appear at proceeding pursuant to subpoena); DR 1-102 (A)(4), (5),(6)(Interfering with committee's investigation). J. Paul Troue Motion for interim suspension denied. J. Paul Troue Suspended 3 months Judiciary Law §90(4) (Convicted under Tax Law §1801[a]).

Harvey L. Weiss

Suspended 6 months

22 NYCRR 806.19 (Reciprocal

discipline based upon New Jersey conviction).

Walter S. Wojick

Censured

DR 6-101(A)(3)(Neglect); DR 1-102(A)(5)(Failing to respond to inquiries from clients and failing to cooperate with committee in its investigation). Prior to resumption of practice respondent must file a plan with the court which provides for his participation in an alcoholism support group and supervision of his practice.

Louis B. Youmans

Suspended 2 years

22 NYCRR 806.19 (Reciprocal

discipline based upon New Jersey suspension).

FOURTH DEPARTMENT

(Fifth Judicial District)

Thomas P. Hughes 153 AD2d 278

Suspended 3 years

DR 1-102(A)(3),(4),(5) (Engaging in illegal conduct involving moral turpitude; conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit and misrepresentation; conduct prejudicial to administration of justice.

Robert B. Shaad 153 AD2d 308 Censured

DR 6-101(A)(2),(3) (Neglecting a legal matter entrusted to

him).

David A. Baker 158 AD2d 82 Disbarred

DR 1-102(A)(3),(4) (Engaging in illegal conduct involving moral turpitude; conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation); DR 9-102(A),(B)(1),(3) (failing to properly identify and preserve funds and property

of a client).

Dominic R. Urciuoli 158 AD2d 85 Suspended 2 years

Judiciary Law §90(4)(d),(f) (Convicted of a serious crime - [18 USC §371] conspiracy to commit mail fraud; [18 USC §§1341, 1342] aiding and abetting mail fraud).

Donald J. Acquilio 162 AD2d 58

Censured

DR 9-102(A),(B) (Failing to preserve funds of a client).

(Seventh Judicial District)

Michael B. Rudin 153 AD2d 338 Suspended

DR 9-102 (Failing to preserve

funds of a client).

Peter B. Novick 155 AD2d 22 Application for leave to appeal to Court of Appeals

denied.

Jonathan Erickson 161 AD2d 1210 Disbarred

Judiciary Law §90(4) (Violation of Penal Law §§155.30[1],

155.35 and 170.10[3]).

Timothy K. Burgess 159 AD2d 4 Suspended 2 years

DR 9-102 (Failing to preserve

funds of a client).

Anthony P. LaFay 158 AD2d 85

Suspended 2 years

DR 1-102(A)(3),(4) (Engaged in illegal conduct involving moral turpitude; conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit ir misrepresentation).

Benjamin P. Whitaker ____ AD2d ____

Resigned

DR 9-102(B)(Failing to properly identufy funds of a client; commingling client funds).

George W. Conaty, Jr.
____ AD2d ____

Temporary Suspension

Judiciary Law §90(4)(f) (Failing to file state income

tax returns).

(Eighth Judicial District)

Jack O. Gaylord 155 AD2d 1 Suspended

22 NYCRR 1022.23(b) (Incapacitated from practice of

law).

Curtis L. Lyman 154 AD2d 223 Censured

DR 9-101(A),(B) (Failing to avoid appearance of impro-

priety).

David P. Feldman 158 AD2d 89 Suspended 2 years

Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Federal conviction of conspiracy

[18 USC §371]).

Gerald L. Kohn 158 AD2d 85 Suspended 6 moths

Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Failure to file state income

tax returns).

David E. Hampton 158 AD2d 99 Suspended 1 year

DR 9-102 (Failing to identify

and preserve funds of a

client).

John Papsidero 160 AD2d 82 Application for reinstatement

denied.

David Ferster 162 AD2d 40 Suspended 3 years

DR 9-102 (Failing to identify

and preserve funds of a

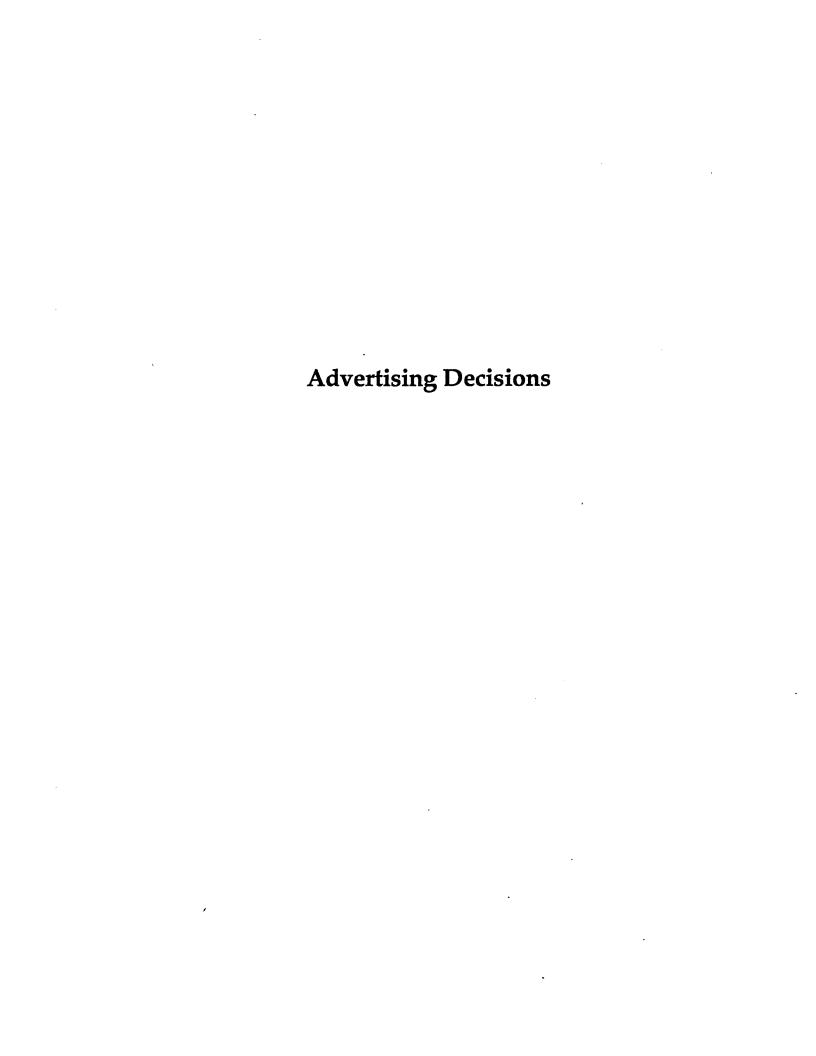
client).

Victor Orzechowski 164 AD2d 273 Suspended 2 years

Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) (Federal conviction of serious

crime [26 USC §7206(d)]).

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Advertising Decisions for 1990

The Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District reports that complaints regarding improper advertising for which they issued letters of caution included the utilization of terminology which is not absolutely true and which by its use creates an impression leading the reader to draw an untrue conclusion. Examples of such advertising included statements such as "bankruptcy wipes out all debts" or a statement that a price would be "100 dollars to start." In addition, the Committee issued letters of caution for the use of the term "specialist in contradition of DR 2-105 and to members of a firm whose ad claimed "Members of Connecticut and Florida Bars," when in fact only two lawyers associated with the firm were admitted in states other than New York and none was admitted in all three states. The Tenth District also reports that it issued dismissals with advisements for technical failures to comply with court rules, such as failing to include an address or failing to file a direct mail advertisement.

The Committee on Professional Standards (Third Department) reports that the Committee conducted a number of investigations based upon print, radio and television ads. Many related to the failure to include the attorney's address or improper reference to specialization or expertise. In addition, the Committee investigated a number of out-of-state legal service plans advertising within the Third Department.

The Committee on Professional Standards also reports that in December 1990, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York granted partial judgment to Andrew F. Capoccia, who commenced an action against the Committee after receiving a letter of caution which the Committee found to violate DR 2-101(A),(B). The Court found that the ad was not false, deceptive or inherently misleading, and that it did not cast reflection on the legal profession as a whole or contain puffery or claims that could not be measured or verified. In addition, the Committee reports that an action reported in this section last year which involved an attorney certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy advertising as a specialist was settled by stipulation, based upon the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Peel v. Illinois*.

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Rules Changes

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Rules Changes for 1990

As was noted in the Annual Report for 1989, the Appellate Division promulgated as a joint rule the amended Disciplinary Rules of the Code of Professional responsibility. These rules are now published as 22 NYCRR part 1200, and became effective September 1, 1990. One amendment to DR 9-102 because effective January 4, 1991.

The Appellate Division, First Department reported a number of changes to 22 NYCRR part 603, covering conduct of attorneys. Changed were section 603.4 (a)(2), dealing with the membership of the Departmental Disciplinary Committee; section 6-3.9 (b), dealing with the issuance of letters of caution; and section 603.14 (a) and (e), dealing with reinstatement of attorneys who had been suspended or disbarred. Also amended was 22 NYCRR part 605, covering the Rules and Procedures of the Departmental Disciplinary Committee. Sections amended were section 605.6 (f)(2), dealing with the designation of a committee member to review a recommendation from the Office of Chief Counsel; section 605.7 (a), dealing with the transmission of a file to a committee member for review; section 605.8 (b)(2), which provides for a notice of a respondent's right to submit a response to a letter of caution; section 605.10 (a)(1), dealing with the recommendation made by the Chief Counsel to the Court upon receiving an affidavit from an attorney who intends to resign; section 605.10 (b), dealing with applications for reinstatement; section 605.10(c) dealing with the determination that a crime of which an attorney has been convicted is a "serious crime" as defined in the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges to be prepared in the institution of formal charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges to be prepared in the institution of formal charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges to be prepared in the institution of formal charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges to be prepared in the institution of formal charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges to be prepared in the institution of formal charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the rules; section 605.12 (b), covering the Notice of Charges against a constant of the Notice of Charges against a can attorney; section 605.12 (f), covering the assignment of a matter for a hearing; section 605.14 (a)(2) and (3), covering procedures to be taken when no charge against an attorney is sustained or when any charge against an attorney has been sustained; section 605.15 (a), covering dismissal of all charges by the Committee; section 605.15 (e)(2), dealing with the procedure for referring a matter to court; and section 605.22 (c), relating to the quorum and manner of acting for hearing panels.

The Appellate Division, Third Department amended 22 NYCRR 806.6, dealing with county bar association grievance committees, so as to amend the process by which complaints are handled by such committees. Under this Rule, county bar association grievance committees are required to forward all grievances they receive to the Chief Attorney of the Committee on Professional Standards. The Chief Attorney may refer a complaint back to the county bar association for resolution; if the committee is unable to do so, the complaint is returned to the Chief Attorney.

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Professional Disciplinary Staffs and Departmental and District Grievance Committees

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Professional Disciplinary Staffs

FIRST DEPARTMENT

Departmental Disciplinary Committee First Judicial Department 41 Madison Avenue, 39th Floor New York, NY 10010 Tel. (212) 685-1000

Hal R. Lieberman, Chief Counsel Barbara S. Gillers, 1st Deputy Chief Counsel Richard M. Maltz, Deputy Cheif Counsel Sarah Jo Hamilton, Special Trial Counsel Jorge Dopico, Staff Attorney Andral N. Bratton, Staff Attorney Mady Edelstein, Staff Attorney Judith N. Stein, Staff Attorney Christopher Kerr, Staff Attorney Rosemary F. Palladino, Staff Attorney Andrew J. Maloney, Staff Attorney Jeremy S. Garber, Staff Attorney Deborah A. Scalise, Staff Attorney Naomi F. Simon, Staff Attorney Martin Silverstein, Office Manager Vincent C. Raniere, Grievance Examiner Christopher Kern, Grievance Examiner

Adriano J. Rodriguez, Grievance Examiner Patrick A. Smith, Grievance Examiner Kenneth Vanlew, Grievance Examiner Marion S. Namm, Legal Assistant William Broderick, Legal Assistant Carol Scheuer, Legal Assistant Joan Bila, Administrative Secretary Nancy DeLeon, Law Steno-Computer Operator Niena Cooper-Winfield, Law Steno Maria DiPasquale, Law Steno Grace Jacobs, Law Steno Denise Lariscy, Law Steno Margot Levy, Law Steno Phyllis Rudolph, Law Steno Marilyn G. Smith, Law Steno Ann Marie Joseph, Receptionist Brian Plaine, Office Assistant

SECOND DEPARTMENT

9th Judicial District Grievance Committee 399 Knollwood Road White Plains, NY 10603 Tel. (914) 949-4540

2nd & 11th Judicial Districts Grievance Committee 210 Joralemon Street Municipal Building, 12th Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201 Tel. (718) 624-7851

10th Judicial District Grievance Committee 900 Ellison Avenue Westbury, NY 11590 Tel. (516) 832-8585 Gary L. Casella, Chief Counsel
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Sondra S. Holt, Associate Counsel
Maryann Yannarella, Senior Counsel
Andrew L. Siegel, Grievance Examiner
Denise Lierni, Secretary
Virginia E. Mordiglia, Secretary
Maria J. Mangione, Secretary
Maryellen Horan, Secretary

Robert H. Straus, Chief Counsel Vincent J. Carroll, Jr., Deputy Counsel Diana Maxfield Kearse, Assistant Counsel Mark F. DeWan, Assistant Counsel Diana J. Szochet, Assistant Counsel Robert J. Saltzman, Assistant Counsel Alison Aplin, Grievance Examiner Daniel McKenna, Grievance Examiner

Frank A. Finnerty, Jr., Chief Counsel Grace D. Moran, Deputy Counsel Robert P. Guido, Assistant Counsel Muriel L. Gennosa, Assistant Counsel Nancy A. Bolger, Assistant Counsel Chris G. McDonough, Assistant Counsel Dianne M. Saccone, Legal Assistant

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Mark S. Ochs, Chief Attorney Michael Philip, Jr., Staff Attorney Rita K. Pickett, Staff Attorney Kenneth H.P. Bryk, Staff Attorney Joseph L. Legnard, Grievance Examiner

FOURTH DEPARTMENT

8th Judicial Distriact Grievance Committee Ellicott Square Building Buffalo, New York 14203 (716) 855-1191

5th Judicial District Grievance Committee 472 South Salina Street, Room 310 Syracuse, NY 13202 Tel. (315) 471-1835

7th Judicial District 19 West Main Street, Room 1002 Rochester, NY 14614 Tel. (716) 456-8340 Gerard M. LaRusso, Chief Counsel Vincent L. Scarsella, Principal Counsel Joseph J. Hausbeck, Associate Counsel Joanne Walsh, Grievance Examiner William P. Zenosky, Grievance Examiner Mary E. Davis, Grievance Examiner Kathleen Caprio, Principal Office Stenographer Joyce H. Wittkopp, Law Stenographer Virginia Pawlik, Principal Office Typist

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Gerard M. LaRusso, Chief Counsel Daniel A. Drake, Principal Counsel Ann M. Peters, Grievance Examiner Germaine Murawski, Law Examiner

Departmental and District Grievance Committees

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Paul E. Proske*
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Perry Sklarin
Rabbi Sidney Solomon*
Melvin Wolinsky

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S. J. Schulman*
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Mark D. Stern
James G. Sweeney
Margaret H. Tyre
Judge Sam D. Walker
Belle M. Zack

10th District Grievance Committee

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Carl C. Banno
Charles J. Barnett
Harvey B. Besunder
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Arthur Goldstein
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John E. Long, Jr.
Vincent A. Malito

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THIRD DEPARTMENT

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Michael Davidoff
Susan M. Dumbleton*

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6th District Joseph C. Buck Frank W. Getman Marcley J. Hilderbrand B. Robert Joel*
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Mary Anne Tommaney

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Peter W. Mitchell N. Theodore Sommer Robert I. Williamson

FOURTH DEPARTMENT

Fifth District Grievance Committee

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Thomas A. Reynolds
Robert Genant
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Edward Rose
Norman I. Siegel
Leighton R. Burns
Herbery Cully
Paul A. Worlock
Earl B. Dunkel
Roberta Millet*

Seventh District Grievance Committee

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Eighth District Grievance Committee

Richard T. Sullivan, Chair Thomas F. Brinkworth Robert B. Conklin J. Glenn Davis Edmund S. Brown Alan H. Levine James P. Renda H. Buswell Roberts Morton W. Stovroff* Robert A. Zugger* Arthur E. Jackson Harris Rusitzsky*
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Charles Marangola
Mary Lou Medley
Bertram C. Serling
A. B. Waasdorp*
Weston H. Palmer
Mark H. Fandrich
John Leyden
Vincent Joseph Welch

Paul J. Murphy
Daniel W. Bishara
Allan B. VanDeMark*
Paul V. Webb
Sanford A. Church
Peter D. Clark
J. Michael Shane
Daniel A. Rybak
Michael J. Kelly
Patricia Fogarty

Denotes non-lawyer members.

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