

Disciplinary Commission Organization & Function

Disciplinary Commission comprised of:

- A. 3 members and nonvoting chairman
- B. Members of Bar Commission
- C. Appointed by Bar Commission
- D. Terms three years, limited to two consecutive terms

Functions of Commission

- A. Issuance of opinion available online
- B. Review of all complaints which pass screening level process which is around 400 per year
- C. Address all petitions for interim suspensions and if granted to serve as hearing panel on request for hearing

Two general categories

- (1) Failure to respond to bar complaint
- (2) Presenting an immediate danger to public

Entitled to hearing within 7 days upon demand.

- D. Hearing panel for suspension on disbarment proceedings based on conviction of serious crime.

Serious crime is largely definitional but if an issue as to whether “serious” determined by a disciplinary panel.

Operation

- A. Monthly meetings to address reports on investigation of complaints and recommendation.

- (1) In Birmingham, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Mobile, Madison, Houston, and Talladega Counties have local grievance committee

Reports go to general counsel and then to Bar

- (2) All others investigated by general counsel's office and reported to disciplinary commission

B. Levels of Action

- (1) Dismissal
- (2) Dismissal upon conditions or with cautionary letter
- (3) Private reprimand
- (4) Public reprimand without publication
- (5) Public reprimand with publication
- (6) Formal charges

C. The attorney subject to the investigation may reject any discipline imposed by the Disciplinary Commission and demand formal charges. At that point the case goes to a disciplinary panel for disposition.