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.