

OREGON STATE BAR

Board of Governors Agenda

Meeting Date: September 26, 2025
Memo Date: September 5, 2025
From: Courtney C. Dippel, Disciplinary Counsel
Re: Disciplinary Counsel's Status Report

1. Decisions Received.

a. Supreme Court

Since the Board of Governors last met, the Supreme Court took the following action in disciplinary matters:

- Issued an order dismissing Respondent's request for review and accepting the May 30, 2025, Trial Panel Opinion for Lake Oswego lawyer *Jennifer N. Towne*, effective September 17, 2025.

b. Disciplinary Board

- Issued an Opinion in *In re Jennifer N. Towne* of Lake Oswego (60-day suspension).
- Issued an Opinion in *In re Charles D. Young* of Portland (Disbarment).
- Issued an Opinion in *In re Christopher R. Best* of Salem (9-month suspension).
- Issued an Opinion in *In re James E. Shadduck* of Portland (60-day suspension).
- Issued an Opinion in *In re Maryanne Pitcher* of Medford (120-day suspension)
- Issued an Opinion in *In re Micah Johnstone* of Ridgefield, WA (120-day suspension with formal reinstatement).
- On June 25, 2025, the SPRB decided not to appeal the trial panel opinion in *In re Charles D. Young* of Portland (Disbarment). Mr. Young did not file an appeal and the opinion became final on July 11, 2025.
- In July, the SPRB decided not to appeal the trial panel opinion in *In re James E. Shadduck* of Portland (60-day suspension). Mr. Shadduck did not file an appeal and the opinion became final on August 7, 2025.

Since the Board of Governors last met, the Adjudicator took the following action in disciplinary matters:

- Approved stipulations for discipline in *In re Jasmine M. Troncoso* of Portland (Reprimand), *In re Lawrence O. Gildea* of Eugene (60-day suspension), *In re Roscoe C. Nelson* of Portland (30-day suspension), *In re Wade P. Bettis* of La Grande (Reprimand), *In re Robert T. Scherzer* of Portland (Reprimand), and *In re Susan M. Carter* of Clatskanie (60-day suspension).
- Approved BR 7.1 suspensions in *In re John Cochran* of Donald and *In re James E. Shaddock* of Portland.
- Issued BR 3.5 Reciprocal Discipline Order in *In re P. Heath Hattaway* of Bend (60-day suspension, all stayed, 1-year probation).

2. Decisions Pending.

The following matters are pending before the Supreme Court:

- *In re Josephine C. Townsend* – Form B filed August 25, 2025
- *In re Maryanne Pitcher* – request for review filed July 28, 2025
- *In re Christopher R. Best* – request for review filed July 15, 2025
- *In re Anne-Marie W. Clark* – oral argument scheduled for September 19, 2025
- *In re Isaac Ersoff* – oral argument scheduled for September 25, 2025
- *In re Derek Ashton* – oral argument scheduled for September 19, 2025
- *In re Gregory Mark Abel* - oral argument held February 27, 2025

The following matters are under advisement before a trial panel of the Disciplinary Board:

- *In re Mareesa M. Barrett* – trial held April 14-18, 2025

3. Trials.

The following matters are on our trial docket in the coming months:

- *In re Brooks F. Cooper* – September 8-15, 2025
- *In re Sean L. Kyle* – October 14-15, 2025
- *In re Frederick N. Schroeder* – October 16-17, 2025
- *In re Erica Strader* – December 1-4, 2025
- *In re James Dodge* – December 8-11, 2025
- *In re Caroline Hoffman Janzen & In re Paul Armstrong Janzen* – December 17-19, 2025

4. Diversions.

The following diversion agreements have been entered into since the BOG last met:

- *In re Richard P. Brown* – effective 7/1/2025 (12-months)
- *In re Jose Cienfuegos* – effective 7/1/2025 (12-months)

5. Admonitions.

The SPRB issued three (3) admonitions since the BOG last met. The outcome is as follows:

- 3 lawyers have accepted their admonition;
- 0 lawyers have rejected their admonition;
- 0 lawyers have asked for reconsideration;
- 0 lawyers have time in which to accept or reject their admonition.

6. New Matters.

Below is a table showing complaint numbers in 2025, compared to prior years:

MONTH	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	22	11	24	27	24
February	21	18	15	32	12
March	37	15	26	39	15
April	27	30	27	28	29
May	27	29	28	24	16
June	25	29	18	15	15
July	19	25	14	23	20
August	30	23	25	23	25
September	19	20	12	29	
October	16	19	67	45	
November	30	18	26	14	
December	19	17	19	18	
TOTALS	292	254	301	317	156

As of September 1, 2025, there were 188 new matters awaiting disposition by Disciplinary Counsel staff or the SPRB. Of these matters, 26% are less than three months old, 22% are three to six months old, and 52% are more than six months old.