



Discipline and Reinstatement Matters before the Illinois Supreme Court: A 35-Year Statistical Review

Excerpt from the 2007 Annual Report of the
Attorney Registration and Disciplinary
Commission (ARDC)

Over the course of the past thirty-five years, the Illinois Supreme Court imposed disciplinary sanctions in 3,074 different lawyer disciplinary matters. Out of that total, 1,062 lawyers were disbarred or disbarred on consent. Chart 26 below tracks the disciplinary orders entered by the Court over that time period.

Disciplinary Orders Entered by the Supreme Court: 1973-2007

Period	Disbarments	Suspensions	Censures or Reprimands	Probations**	Total
July 1, 1973- June 30, 1974	10	0	0	0	10
July 1, 1974- June 30, 1975	23	3	3	0	29
July 1, 1975- Dec. 31, 1975	12	2	0	0	14
1976	13	5	3	0	21
1977	12	7	4	0	23
1978	9	14	3	0	26
1979	13	7	1	0	21
1980	14	11	2	0	27
1981	8	6	3	0	17
1982	16	18	13	0	47
1983	26	17	5	0	48
1984	23	15	11	1	50
1985	36	43*	9	0	88
1986	42	38*	6	0	86
1987	54	39*	10	0	103
1988	32	55*	25	0	112
1989	60	48*	18	6	132
1990	34	46*	18	2	100
1991	20	38*	17	3	78
1992	32	42*	13	2	89
1993	45	47	14	8	114
1994	34	48	14	13	109
1995	54	57	22	15	148
1996	44	51	11	9	115
1997	56	41	10	10	117
1998	52	56	10	20	138
1999	32	50	20	14	116
2000	39	55	14	12	120
2001	26	68	13	16	123
2002	31	61	16	18	126
2003	37	63	17	20	137
2004	35	74	17	23	149
2005	32	85	29	21	167
2006	32	63	25	24	144
2007	24	60	20	16	120
35-year totals	1,062	1,333	416	253	3,074

* Includes interim suspension orders.

** Probation orders can be either where the suspension is stayed in part or in its entirety by probation.

Over the course of the Commission's history, the Supreme Court has also had occasion to review petitions for reinstatement to the bar where an attorney has been disbarred, disbarred on consent, or suspended for a given period and until further order of the Court. The chart below tracks the reinstatement

orders entered by the Court from 1974 through 2007. The Court entered no orders in reinstatement matters during the Commission’s first year of existence. The chart reveals that, during the last seventeen years, reinstatements have been granted by the Court on only 20 occasions, a rate 72% less than that for the first 17 years of the Commission’s history. Of the 72 lawyers reinstated from 1974 through 2007, 54 had initially been disbarred or disbarred on consent and 18 had been suspended until further order of the Court.

Reinstatement Orders Entered by the Supreme Court: 1974-2007

Decision Year	Allowed	Dismissed or Denied	Withdrawn
1974	2	1	0
1975	3	1	0
1976	3	1	2
1977	5	2	4
1978	4	0	1
1979	5	0	2
1980	3	1	1
1981	5	2	2
1982	2	3	0
1983	2	1	0
1984	3	2	2
1985	1	3	2
1986	2	1	3
1987	3	3	0
1988	3	0	0
1989	2	2	2
1990	4	3	0
1991	3	1	1
1992	1	2	4
1993	0	1	3
1994	0	8	7
1995	3	2	5
1996	3	3	2
1997	0	1	4
1998	3	0	1
1999	3	1	1
2000	0	1	1
2001	1	0	1
2002	0	0	2
2003	1	2	3
2004	0	1	2
2005	1	2	3
2006	1	2	2
2007	0	2	4
TOTALS	Allowed	Dismissed or Denied	Withdrawn
1974-1990	52	26	21
1991-2007	20	29	46
1974-2007	72	55	67