

## STATE COURTS

TABLE 5.8

### Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Investigating body</i>	<i>Adjudicating body</i>	<i>Appeals from adjudication are filed with:</i>	<i>Final disciplining body</i>	<i>Point at which reprimands are made public</i>
<b>Alabama</b>	Judicial Inquiry Committee	Court of the Judiciary	Court of Last Resort	Court of the Judiciary	Filing of the complaint with the Court of the Judiciary
<b>Alaska</b>	Committee on Judicial Conduct	Supreme Court	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Filing of recommendation with Supreme Court
<b>Arizona</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Within 15 days of formal charges being brought, unless a motion for reconsideration is filed
<b>Arkansas</b>	Judicial Discipline and Disability Committees	Commission	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	At disposition of case
<b>California</b>	Commission on Judicial Performance	Commission on Judicial Performance	Court of Last Resort	Commission on Judicial Performance	Upon commission determination (a)
<b>Colorado</b>	Commission on Judicial Discipline	Commission on Judicial Discipline	No appeal	Supreme Court	Adjudication
<b>Connecticut</b>	Judicial Review Council	Judicial Review Council; Supreme Court (b)	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Public censure is issued at between 10 and 30 days after notice to the judge, provided that if the judge appeals there is an automatic stay of disclosure
<b>Delaware</b>	Preliminary Committee of the Court on the Judiciary	Court on the Judiciary	No appeal	Court on the Judiciary	Upon issuance of opinion and imposition of sanction
<b>Florida</b>	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Judicial Qualifications Commission (b)	No appeal	Supreme Court	Filing of formal charges by Committee with Supreme Court Clerk
<b>Georgia</b>	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Formal Hearing
<b>Hawaii</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Commission on Judicial Conduct	No appeal	Supreme Court	Imposition of public discipline by Supreme Court
<b>Idaho</b>	Judicial Council	Supreme Court	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Filing with the Supreme Court
<b>Illinois</b>	Judicial Inquiry Board	Courts Commission	No appeal	Courts Commission	Filing of decision by Courts Commission
<b>Indiana</b>	Commission on Judicial Qualifications	Supreme Court	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	After disciplinary charges are filed and case is tried or agreed resolution is accepted by Supreme Court
<b>Iowa</b>	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Referral by the commission to the Supreme Court recommending formal sanction
<b>Kansas</b>	Commission on Judicial Qualifications	Supreme Court	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Reprimand is published if approved by Supreme Court
<b>Kentucky</b>	Judicial Conduct Commission	Judicial Conduct Commission	Court of Last Resort	Judicial Conduct Commission	Once the judge has responded to the formal charges
<b>Louisiana</b>	Judiciary Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	The lodging of the record of proceedings and a recommendation by the Judiciary Commission to the Supreme Court
<b>Maine</b>	Committee on Judicial Responsibility and Disability	Supreme Judicial Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Filing of report to Supreme Judicial Court
<b>Maryland</b>	Commission on Judicial Disabilities	Commission on Judicial Disabilities	Court of Last Resort	Court of Appeals	Unless confidential, upon filing of a response (or expiration of the time for filing a response) with the Commission
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Supreme Judicial Court	No appeal	Supreme Judicial Court	Supreme Judicial Court
<b>Michigan</b>	Judicial Tenure Commission	Supreme Court	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Filing of formal complaint by commission with Supreme Court or upon filing in the Supreme Court a consent resolution to a matter

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 5.8  
**Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies** (continued)

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Investigating body</i>	<i>Adjudicating body</i>	<i>Appeals from adjudication are filed with:</i>	<i>Final disciplining body</i>	<i>Point at which reprimands are made public</i>
<b>Minnesota</b>	Board on Judicial Standards	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Filing of formal charges by committee with Supreme Court
<b>Mississippi</b>	Commission on Judicial Performance	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Recommendation of Commission to Supreme Court
<b>Missouri</b>	Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline	Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Filing of recommendation by Committee to Supreme Court
<b>Montana</b>	Judicial Standards Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Filing of record by Committee with Supreme Court
<b>Nebraska</b>	Commission on Judicial Qualification	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Commission may issue a public reprimand
<b>Nevada</b>	Commission on Judicial Discipline	Commission on Judicial Discipline	Court of Last Resort	Commission on Judicial Discipline	Discretion of the Commission, upon filing of report by Committee and service upon judge
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Conduct	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	On issuance of reprimand
<b>New Jersey</b>	Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	When reprimand is filed by Supreme Court
<b>New Mexico</b>	Judicial Standards Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Upon recommendation of Commission to Supreme Court
<b>New York</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Court of Last Resort	Commission on Judicial Conduct and Court of Appeals	After a hearing at which a judge is admonished, censured, removed or retired, and after the judge is served
<b>North Carolina</b>	Judicial Standards Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Public imposition of disciplinary action by the Supreme Court
<b>North Dakota</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	At formal hearing
<b>Ohio</b>	Office of Disciplinary Counsel	Board of Commissioners on Grievance and Discipline	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Adjudication
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Court on the Judiciary Trial Division Council	Court on the Judiciary Trial Division; Council on Judicial Complaints	Court on the Judiciary Division; no appeal from Council on Judicial Complaints	Court on the judiciary appellate division	Filing with clerk of the appellate court
<b>Oregon</b>	Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Allegations become public when the commission issues a notice of public hearing.
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Judicial Conduct Board	Court of Judicial Discipline	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Once a final decision has been made
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Unless private, after the commission files its recommendation with the Chief Justice
<b>South Carolina</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Adjudication
<b>South Dakota</b>	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Filing with the Supreme Court
<b>Tennessee</b>	Board of Judicial Conduct	Board of Judicial Conduct	Court of Last Resort	General Assembly	Filing formal charges with Board of Judicial Conduct
<b>Texas</b>	State Commission on Judicial Conduct	State Commission on Judicial Conduct (c)	Court of Last Resort	Special Court of Review	When issued by the Commission
<b>Utah</b>	Judicial Conduct Commission	Judicial Conduct Commission (d)	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	10 days after filing appeal
<b>Vermont</b>	Judicial Conduct Board	Supreme Court	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Supreme Court
<b>Virginia</b>	Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission	Supreme Court	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court	Filing of formal complaint by Commission with Supreme Court
<b>Washington</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Commission on Judicial Conduct	Supreme Court	Supreme Court	At termination of proceeding in CJC

See footnotes at end of table

## STATE COURTS

TABLE 5.8

### Judicial Discipline: Investigating and Adjudicating Bodies (continued)

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Investigating body</i>	<i>Adjudicating body</i>	<i>Appeals from adjudication are filed with:</i>	<i>Final disciplining body</i>	<i>Point at which reprimands are made public</i>
<b>West Virginia</b>	Judicial Investigation Commission	Judicial Hearing Board	Court of Last Resort	Supreme Court of Appeals	Upon decision by Supreme Court of Appeals
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Judicial Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Filing of formal complaint with Supreme Court
<b>Wyoming</b>	Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court or Special Supreme Court	Upon the recommendation of the Conduct and Ethics Commission and Order of the Supreme Court
<b>Dist. of Columbia</b>	Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure	Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure	Chief Justice of U.S. Supreme Court	Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure	Public reprimands are issued with the judge's consent; orders of involuntary removal become public upon filing with the D.C. Court of Appeals
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	Judicial Discipline Commission	Supreme Court	No appeal	Supreme Court	Filing of formal complaint to the Judicial Discipline Commission

Sources: S. Strickland, R. Schauffler, R. LaFountain & K. Holt, eds. State Court Organization. Last updated 30 June 2017. National Center for State Courts. [www.ncsc.org/sco](http://www.ncsc.org/sco).

Key:

N.A.—Not applicable

(a) Public admonishments or public censures are sent to the judge describing the improper conduct and stating the findings made by the commission; these notices are made available to the press and the general public.

(b) For suspensions in excess of one year or removal from office, the Judicial Review Council makes a recommendation and the Supreme Court makes the decision.

(c) Decision by the conduct commission cannot be implemented until reviewed and approved by the Supreme Court.

(d) Commission has the authority to issue sanctions, but recommendations of removal must be brought before the Supreme Court.