

Discipline System Oversight Committee

State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

May 19, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: State Bar of
Arizona

Public Session Minutes

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

P = present in person; T = present telephonically; A = absent; Z = present Zoom

Justice Montgomery (Chair)	P
Mr. Dave Byers	Z
Mr. Joel F. England	P
Mr. Ted Schmidt	A
Mr. Cortez Smith	Z
Ms. Robyn Austin	Z
Mr. Benjamin Taylor	P

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Guests:

State Bar Staff: Maret Vessella, Amy Rehm, Lori Palmer

Minutes taken by: Lori Palmer

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome: 1:01 p.m.
2. Call to the Public at 1:02: No Public. At 1:07 p.m. Ms. Sherre Wright joined the meeting. At 1:28 p.m. Ms. Wright was given 3 minutes to talk to the committee.
3. Minutes from February 24, 2025, approved.
4. The committee discussed their ongoing efforts to educate the legal community about the perception survey and lawyer regulation process. On May 1st there was a seminar for Graham and Greenlee counties where 25 lawyers attended. In April there was a meeting

with the Arizona Black Bar leadership with discussions about the collection of racial data and explaining the background of the perception survey. The meetings went well. There were also meetings scheduled for the Jewish lawyers for June 18, 2025, and AZPDA for June 25th, through June 27th, 2025.

A discussion was held of the new breakdown of the criminal law data collected in 2024, separated by charges against defense attorneys contrasted with prosecutors. Defense lawyers faced 474 charges compared to 129 for prosecutors. It was noted that most of the defense attorney's complaints are likely to come from former clients or their families. Approximately 96-97% of charges against both groups were dismissed.

The new case management system is scheduled to launch July 28, 2025, and will hopefully help capture more detailed information about case outcomes and resource needs.

5. A discussion was held about disciplined attorney charges being forwarded to the Phoenix Police department when the charges involved theft of client funds. In the case involving Mr. Delucio, who was disbarred for misappropriating approximately \$1 million in client funds. The Phoenix Police department and the Attorney General's Office are both actively investigating this crime.
6. Ms. Wright expressed her displeasure about the discipline system and her frustration with LRO employees. Ms. Wright expressed concerns about the State Bar's communication with media regarding her cases and requested neutrality from the organization. The committee discussed reviewing old cases and addressed concerns raised by Ms. Wright. There will be an executive session to get a briefing on the factual background of her cases.
7. Agenda for the next meeting:
 - a. Progress on the reinstatement rules to make them clearer.
 - b. Update on new case management system and data collection.
 - c. Report on Perception Survey Action Items.
 - d. Executive session for Ms. Wrights cases.

End: 1:40 p.m.