



Judicial Conduct Commission Bi-Annual Report

Bi-Annual FY 2020-2022

Commission Members

R. Michael Sullivan, Chair
Owensboro

Judge Jeff S. Taylor
Owensboro

Judge Eddy Coleman
Pikeville

Judge Karen A. Thomas
Newport

Dr. Joe Ellis
Benton

Janet A. McCauley
Louisville

Alternate Members

Carroll M. "Trip" Redford, III
Lexington

Judge Glenn E. Acree
Lexington

Judge Mitch Perry
Louisville

Judge Elizabeth Chandler
Carrollton

Commission Staff

Ms. Jimmy Shaffer
Executive Secretary

J. Rachel Noyes
Executive Assistant

Judicial Conduct Commission
P.O. Box 4266
Frankfort, KY 40604-4266
Phone: 502-564-1231

Judicial Conduct Complaints:

In the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years, the Commission considered 486 complaints; 486 complaints were concluded, 12 of which resulted in imposed sanctions:

◇ Two Private Admonitions

◇ Four Private Reprimands:

- ◇ [November 5, 2020](#)
- ◇ [January 8, 2021](#)
- ◇ [June 14, 2021](#)
- ◇ [January 18, 2022](#)

◇ Two Public Reprimands:

- ◇ [Circuit Judge Robert Conley, 20th Judicial Circuit, Div. 1](#)
- ◇ [John A. Schmidt, Bullitt County Master Commissioner \(former\)](#)

◇ Two Suspensions:

- ◇ [District Judge Donna G. Dutton, 53rd Judicial District, Div. 2](#)
- ◇ [District Judge Ann Ruttle, 16th Judicial District, Division 1](#)

◇ Two Removals from Office:

- ◇ [Family Court Judge Dawn M. Gentry, 16th Judicial Circuit, Family Div. 5](#)
- ◇ [Family Court Judge Julia H. Gordon, 6th Judicial Circuit, Division 3](#)

Relevant Kentucky Supreme Court opinions issued during FY 2020-2021 :

- ◇ [2019-SC-0691](#), Published December 17, 2020
- ◇ [2020-SC-0434](#), Published December 17, 2020

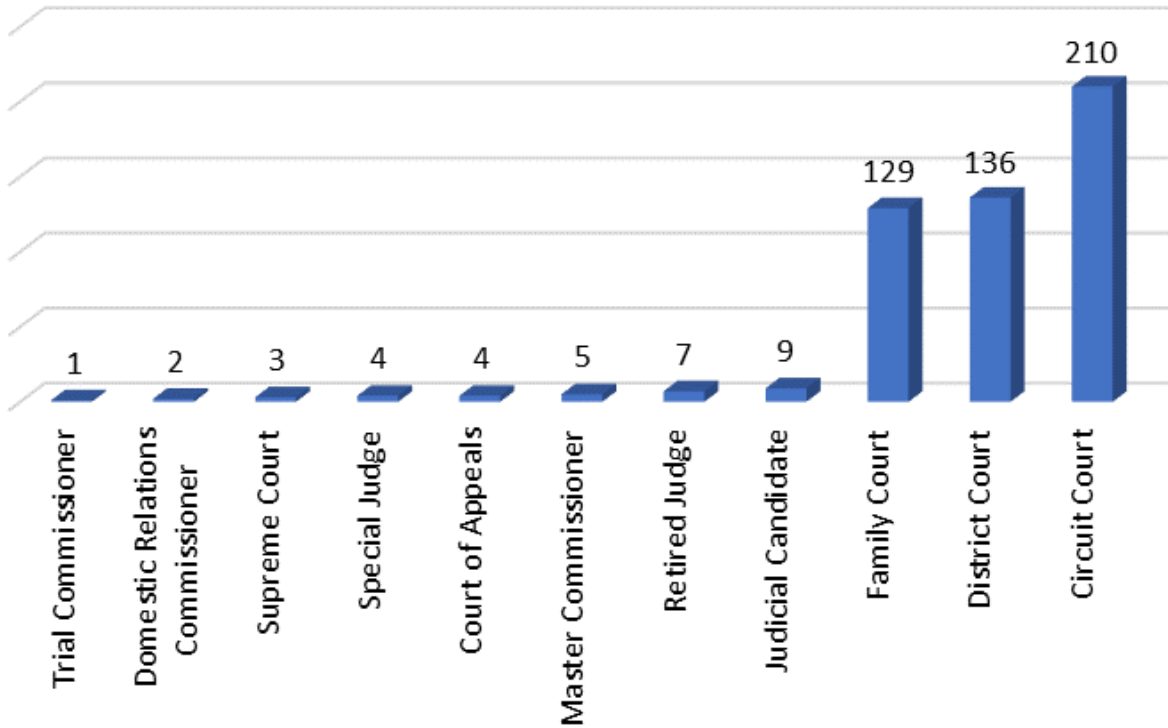
Complaints for FY 2020-2022:

- **8** - Number of complaints pending final consideration as of July 1, 2020.
- **13** - Number of complaints pending initial consideration as of July 1, 2020.
- **497** - Number of new complaints received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022.
- **13** - Number of complaints pending final consideration as of June 30, 2022.
- **19** - Number of complaints pending initial consideration as of June 30, 2022.
- **486** - Number of complaints disposed of as of June 30, 2022.

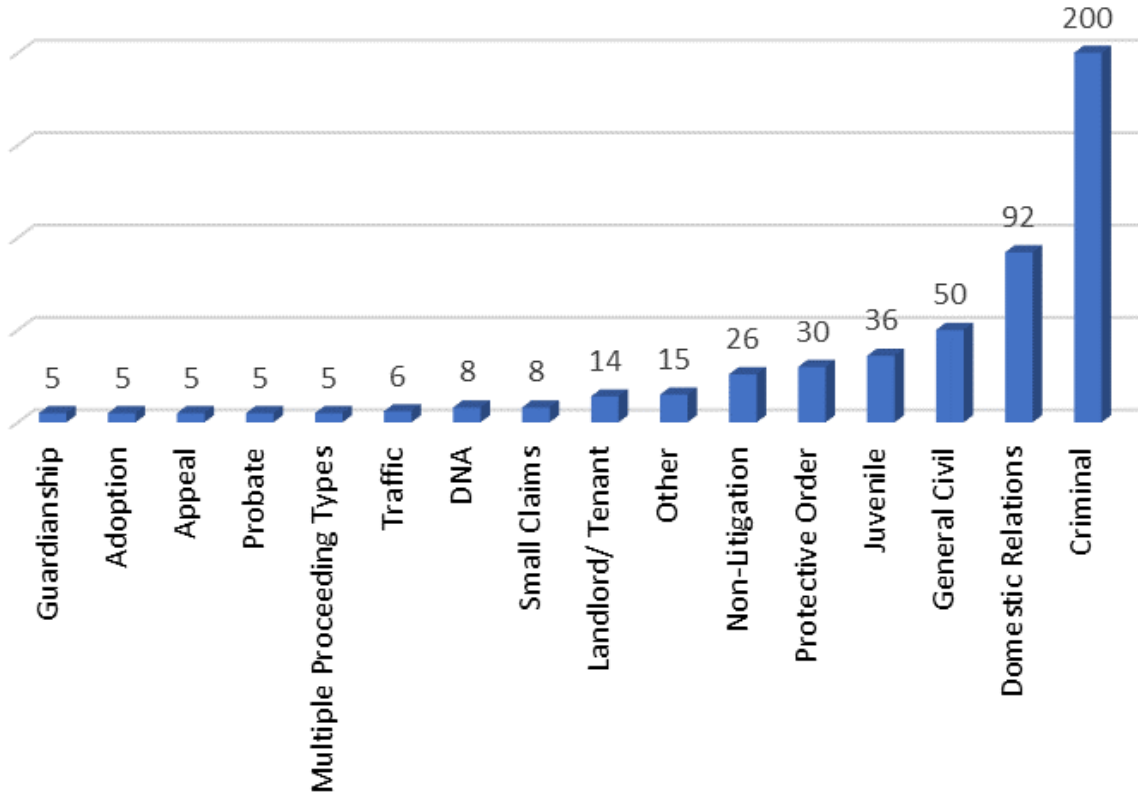
Jurisdiction:

Judicial positions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky within the jurisdiction of the Commission: 7-Supreme Court, 14-Court of Appeals, 95-Circuit Court, 55-Family Court, 115-District Court, 60-Trial Commissioner, 120-Master Commissioner, and 18-Domestic Relations Commissioner. Additionally, the Commission has jurisdiction over attorneys who have filed as candidates for judicial office, special judges and participants in the retired judge program under circumstances outlined in the Code of Judicial Conduct.

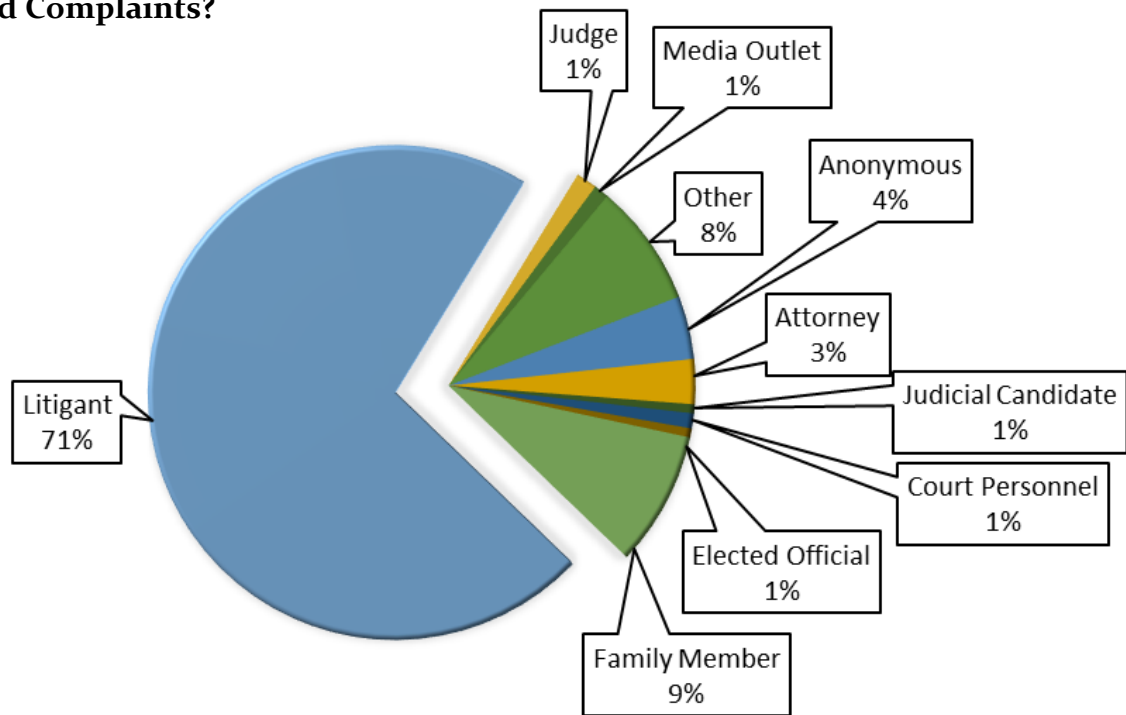
Number of Complaints by Judicial Position:



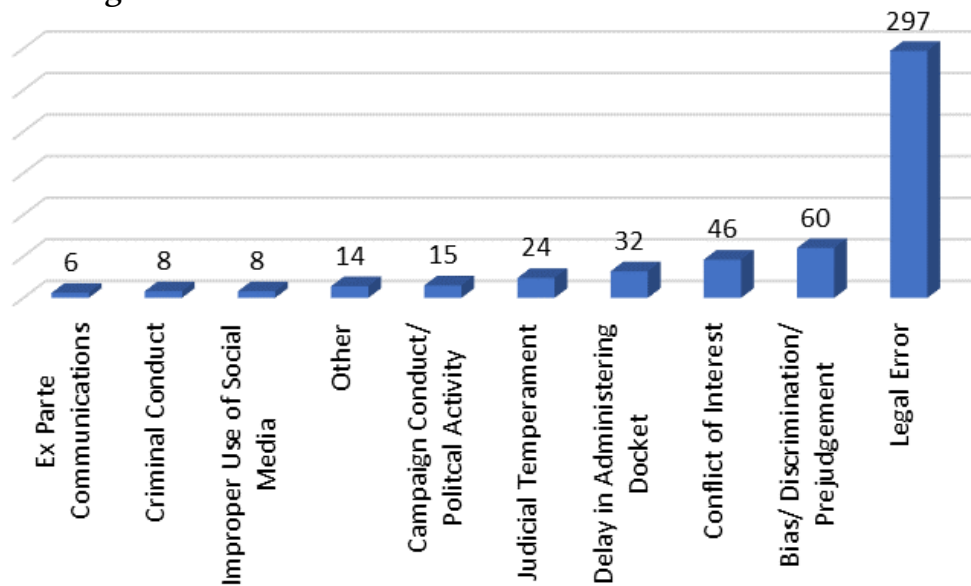
What Proceedings Resulted in Complaints?



Who Filed Complaints?



What were the Allegations?

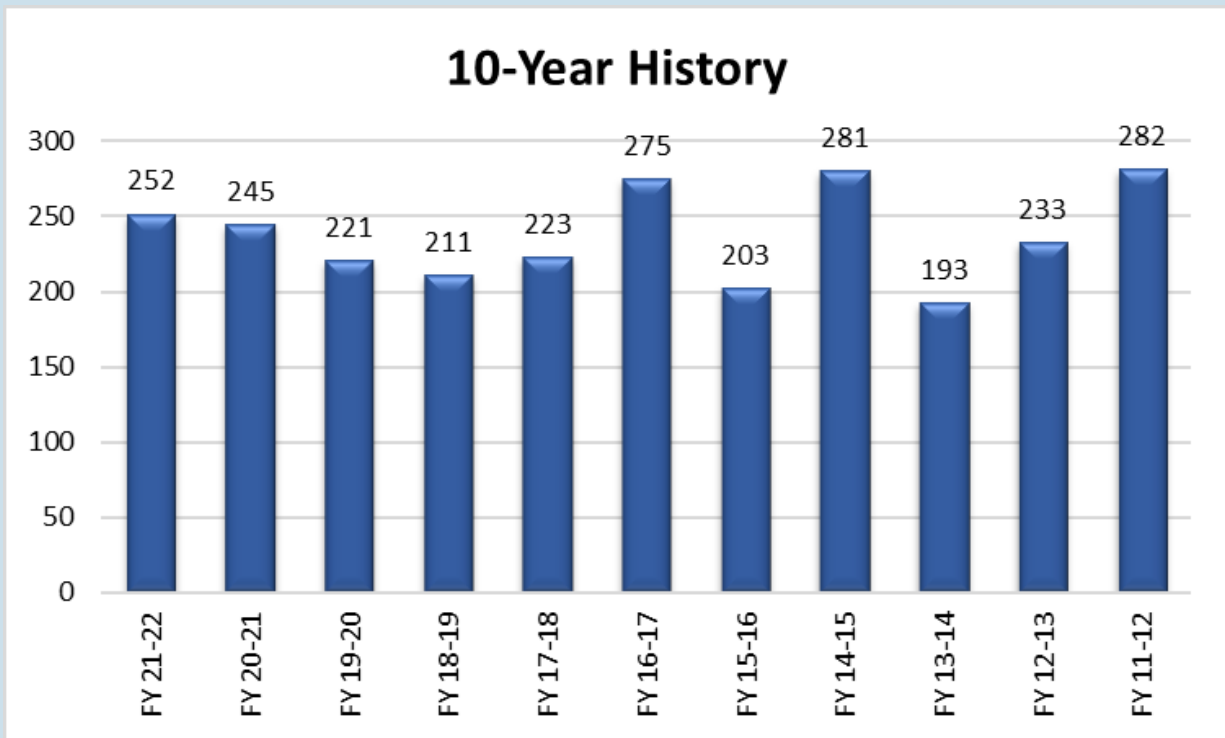


*These figures are based on the primary allegation. Many complaints make multiple allegations.

Complainant Representation in Court:

- ◇ 55.88% were represented by counsel
- ◇ 20.39% appeared *pro se*
- ◇ 14.31% not applicable (non-litigation)
- ◇ 4.90% unknown (unspecified in the complaint)
- ◇ 4.12% were represented by counsel, then appeared *pro se*
- ◇ 0.39% appeared *pro se*, then were represented by counsel





About the Judicial Conduct Commission

The mission of the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission is to protect the public, to encourage judges, commissioners and candidates for judicial office to maintain high standards of conduct, and to promote public confidence in the integrity, independence, competence, and impartiality of the judiciary.

The Commission accomplishes this mission through its investigation of complaints of judicial misconduct, wrongdoing or disability. In cases where judges, commissioners and candidates for judicial office are found to have engaged in misconduct or to be incapacitated, the Kentucky Constitution authorizes the Commission to take appropriate disciplinary action, including issuing admonitions, reprimands, censures, suspensions, or removal from office.

<https://kycourts.gov/Courts/Pages/Judicial-Conduct-Commission.aspx>