



# Judicial Conduct Commission Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

## Commission Members

R. Michael Sullivan, Chair  
Owensboro

Judge Jeff S. Taylor  
Owensboro

Judge Eddy Coleman  
Pikeville

Judge David P. Bowles  
Louisville

Dr. Joe Ellis  
Benton

Janet A. Lively  
Louisville

## Alternate Members

Carroll M. "Trip" Redford, III  
Lexington

Judge Glenn E. Acree  
Lexington

Judge Mitch Perry  
Louisville

Judge Karen A. Thomas  
Newport

## 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  
Fax: 502-564-1233

## Judicial Conduct Complaints:

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Commission considered 248 complaints; 227 complaints were concluded, 6 of which resulted in imposed sanctions:

- **Two Private Admonitions**
- **One Private Reprimand:**
  - [Order of Private Reprimand](#) for violation of SCR 4.300, Rule 4.1(A)(10) and Rule 4.1(A)(7).
- **Two Public Reprimands:**
  - [Judge Beth Lewis Maze](#) - The Commission initiated formal proceedings against Judge Maze on May 21, 2018. On September 24, 2018, Judge Maze entered into an Agreed Order of Temporary Suspension, with pay, effective October 2, 2018, pending final adjudication. The hearing on the Notice of Formal Proceedings and Charges and subsequent amended notices was held October 28-30, 2019. Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Final Order was entered on November 7, 2019 for violations of SCR 4.020(1)(B)(i) and SCR 4.300, Canons 1, 2A, 2D, 3B(2), 3B(7), and 3E(1) and Rules 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.8, and 2.9. Judge Maze has filed an appeal with the Supreme Court; the appeal is under submission.
  - [Judge Robert F. Wright](#) - Agreed Order of Public Reprimand for violations of SCR 4.020(1)(B)(i) and SCR 4.300, Rules 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, and 2.9.
- **One Permanent Retirement:**
  - [Judge Allan Ray Bertram](#) - Agreed Order of Permanent Retirement for disability pursuant to Kentucky Constitution § 121, SCR 4.020 *et seq.* and KRS 21.345 *et seq.*

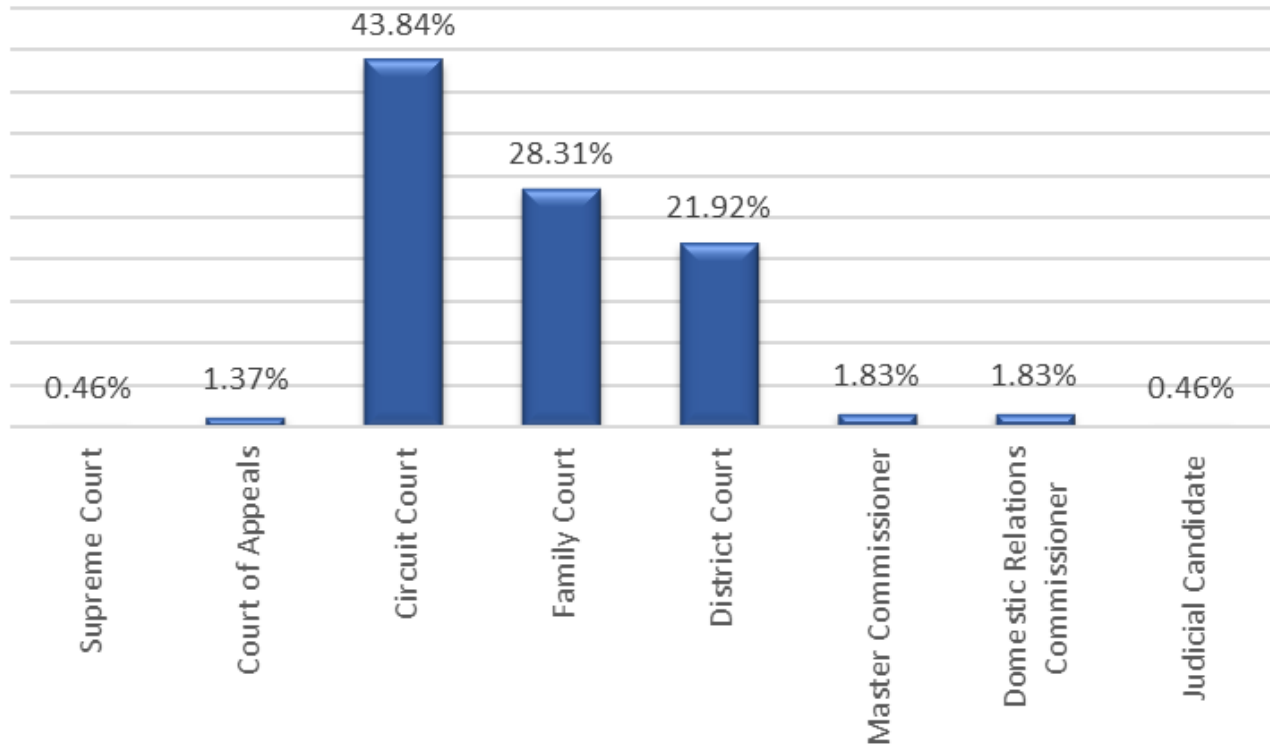
## Complaints for FY 2019-2020:

- 16 - Number of complaints pending final consideration at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- 11 - Number of complaints pending initial consideration at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- 221 - Number of new complaints received during the fiscal year.
- 8 - Number of complaints pending final consideration at the end of the fiscal year.
- 13 - Number of complaints pending initial consideration at the end of the fiscal year.
- 227 - Number of complaints disposed of during the fiscal year.

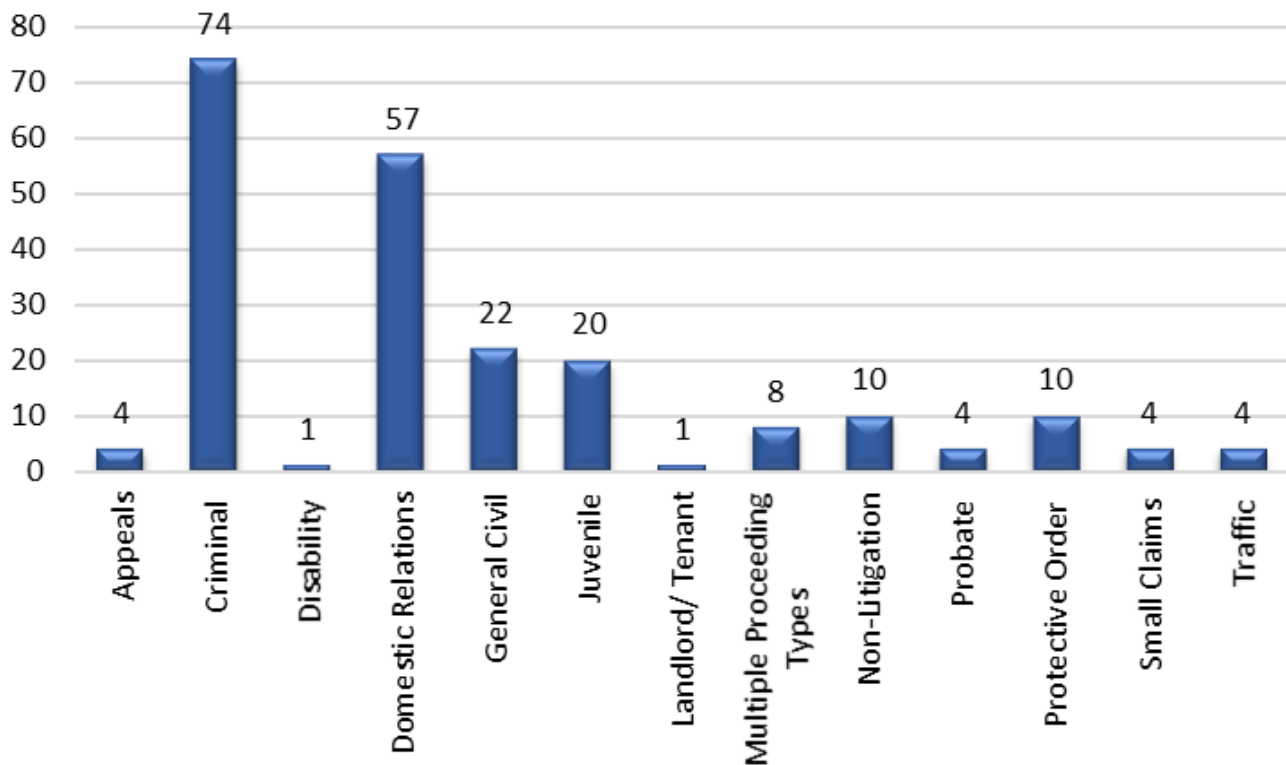
## Jurisdiction:

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.

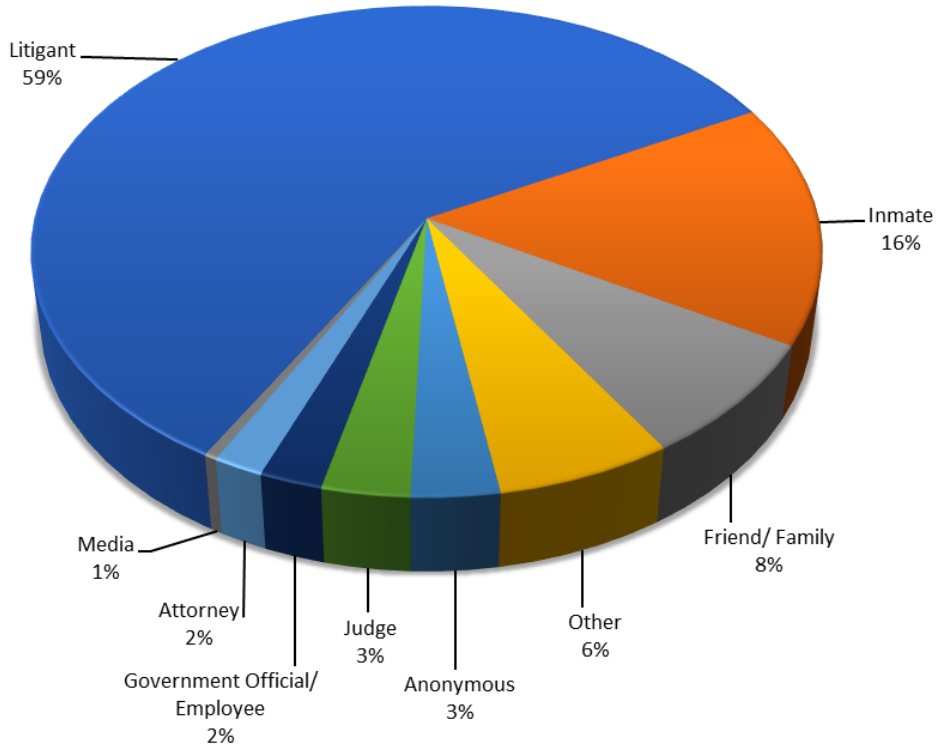
### Number of Complaints by Judicial Position:



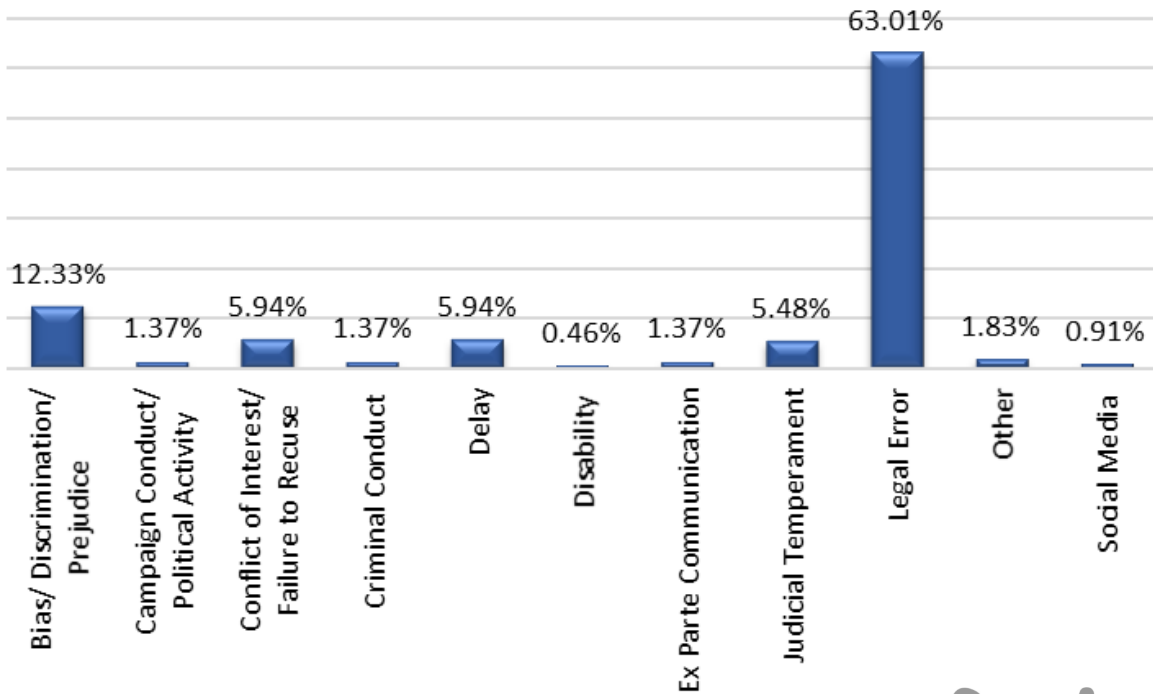
### What Proceedings Resulted in Complaints?



### Who Filed Complaints?



### What were the Allegations?



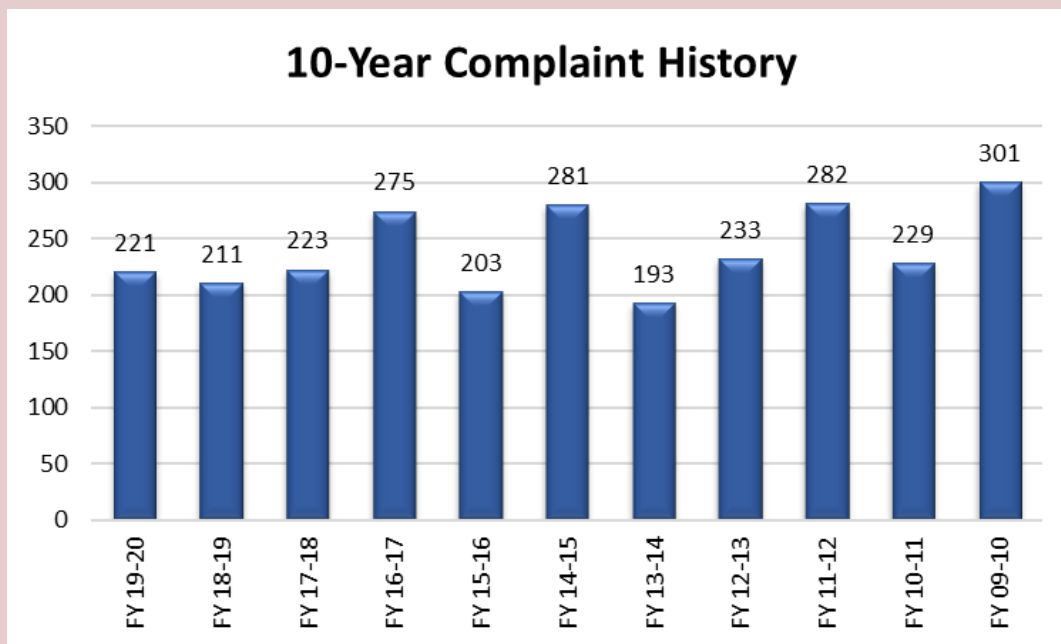
### Complainant Representation in Court:

- ◇ 61.19% were represented by counsel
- ◇ 20.09% appeared *pro se*
- ◇ 10.05% not applicable (non-litigation)
- ◇ 4.56% unknown (unspecified in the complaint)
- ◇ 4.11% were represented by counsel, then appeared *pro se*



## 2019-2020 Presentations:

- **KY Law Update** - Judge Taylor presented the Judicial Conduct Commission Annual Report statistics in Owensboro on August 29, 2019.
- **KY Law Update** - Judge Taylor presented the Judicial Conduct Commission Annual Report statistics in Bowling Green on September 26, 2019.
- **Appellate Conference On-demand/Video Seminar** - Judicial ethics presentation by Judge Taylor and Judge Acree, with emphasis on Canon 1 and the applicable rules for judges, as well as the conduct of the judges staff. Accessible online 2020.



### 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.

<http://courts.ky.gov/commissionscommittees/JCC/Pages/default.aspx>