

## **Disciplinary Grievances against Practitioners at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (2010-2015)**

### *Introduction*

This Compendium illustrates the types of circumstances that have led to grievances and disciplinary proceedings at the Court. Practitioners should refer to the Court's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("P&P Rules"), E-filing Rules, Rules of Admission and Practice ("A&P Rules"), and the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct ("Model Rules") for the rules and professional standards to which they must adhere. *See* Rule 4(a) of the A&P Rules.

Between January of 2010 and June of 2015, thirty-nine grievances were filed. These grievances involved thirty-two members of the Court's bar, including the private bar and VA attorneys. Of those grievances, nine led to discipline or the practitioner's resignation from the Court's bar. Where the Court administered discipline, the consequences included private admonitions, public reprimands, suspensions of various lengths, and disbarment. Some of these grievances resulting in discipline were reciprocal discipline cases. Although thirty of those proceedings did not result in discipline or are still under investigation, in each case referenced herein the practitioner involved was required, at a minimum, to respond to orders of the Court as to the nature of the grievance. Approximately 7.6% percent of the practitioners conducting regular or active practice before the Court (i.e., appearing in ten or more cases at the Court since 2010) were the subject of an attorney grievance between 2010 and 2015. The previous version of this Compendium ended in August 2013.

### **GRIEVANCES BY CATEGORY SINCE 2010**

<b>GRIEVANCE TYPE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>DISCIPLINE</b>
Candor to the Court	4	0
Communication	6	2
Competence	15	3
Fees	4	1
Privileged Communications	1	0
Professionalism	9	3
Supervisor Responsibility	0	0