

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS) Administrative Order
TO THE ATTORNEY REGULATION) No. 2025 - 40
ADVISORY COMMITTEE)
)
)
_____)

The Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee was created by Administrative Order No. (“AO”) 2011-44 on the 2010 Lawyer Discipline Task Force’s recommendation to create an advisory committee to monitor the implementation of the new process for lawyer discipline, periodically review the entire attorney admission and discipline system, and make recommendations for any further needed changes.

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2011-44 and Article 6, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution, the Chief Justice is responsible for appointing members to the Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee and may expand the size of the Committee as necessary.

Administrative Order No. 2011-44 established a 13-member Committee consisting of a Chair and Vice-Chair who were judges or retired judges, 8 attorney members, and 3 public members appointed to staggered, initial terms expiring on May 4 of 2012 (4 members), 2013 (3 members), and 2014 (6 members). After the expiration of these initial terms, the Committee members would serve 3-year, staggered terms. The initial membership included the following: the Chair of the Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the President of the Arizona State Bar Board of Governors, a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness, a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Examinations, a member of the Attorney Discipline Hearing Panel, the Chief Bar Counsel, the State Bar Ethics Counsel, and an attorney regularly representing clients seeking admission to the practice of law or who are or may be the subject of attorney discipline. However, AO No. 2011-44 did not specify that any members serve by virtue of holding another position and did not require that the Committee consist of a specified number of judicial, attorney, or public members.

Over time, subsequent appointments have resulted in the Committee’s current composition consisting of 14 members with 9 of those members serving terms ending on or before December 31, 2024, and 5 serving terms ending December 31, 2025.

To restore the benefit of staggered terms, it is necessary to realign and stagger the terms of Committee members so that no more than approximately one-third of Committee members are serving terms that expire in any given year; convert the ending date of all terms to December 31 of 2025, 2026, or 2027; and as necessary, designate that certain Committee members initially serve realigned terms shorter or longer than a regular 3-year term. To achieve a balance of

Committee membership among those involved in administering the disciplinary process, representatives of the regulated profession, and members of the public whose protection is at the heart of the attorney disciplinary process, it also appears necessary to expand the Committee to a total of 15 members in the following categories:

1. An Arizona Supreme Court Justice, appointed by the Chief Justice, who will serve as Chair;
2. Presiding Disciplinary Judge;
3. The Director of the Commission on Judicial Conduct or Designee;
4. Chief Bar Counsel or Designee;
5. Chair of the Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee or Designee;
6. Chair of the Ethics Advisory Committee or Designee;
7. Chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Examinations or Designee;
8. Chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness or Designee;
9. One attorney, appointed by the Chief Justice, who regularly represents clients in the attorney admission or disciplinary processes;
10. Three additional attorneys appointed by the Chief Justice;
11. Three public members, appointed by the Chief Justice, who have never been licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction; and
12. A Vice-Chair, appointed by the Chief Justice, from among the Committee membership.

Therefore, to begin the process of redesignating the terms of members of the Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee and expanding the Committee membership to achieve stability and balance,

IT IS ORDERED that, effective January 1, 2026, the Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee consist of 15 members as specified in the attached Appendix A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the individuals listed in the attached Appendix A as Presiding Disciplinary Judge; Chair of the Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee; Chief Bar Counsel; Chair of the Ethics Advisory Committee; Chair of the Committee on Examinations; Chair of the Committee on Character and Fitness; and the Director of the Commission on Judicial Conduct, serve on the Committee so long as they hold the specified position or office and will automatically be replaced by their duly chosen successors without the need for any further order of appointment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the remaining individuals listed in the attached Appendix A:

- A. Are appointed to the Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee to serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice for staggered terms beginning upon entry of this Order and ending on December 31 of the year specified;
- B. After completing the term specified in Appendix A, these individuals are eligible for reappointment to subsequent 3-year terms;

- C. An individual appointed to replace a Committee member who does not complete their term serves the remainder of that former member’s unexpired term; and
- D. A Committee member whose term expires continues to serve until their successor is appointed if they are willing and able to do so.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Whitney Cunningham is appointed to serve as the Committee’s Vice Chair for a term coexistent with his term as a member of the Committee.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if it appears that a sufficient number of members will not be present and eligible to vote at a meeting of the Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee at which Committee action is necessary, the Committee Chair, or Vice-Chair in the absence or disqualification of the Chair, may appoint, for that meeting only, a sufficient number of alternate members—from the same membership categories as the absent or disqualified members—to achieve a quorum of members present and able to act, except that no more than half of the Committee members may consist of such alternate members at any given time.

Dated this 26th day of February, 2025.

ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
Chief Justice

Attachment

Appendix A

Chair, Arizona Supreme Court Justice

(Current term expires 12/31/2025)

Vice Chief Justice John R. Lopez IV

Redesignated Term Expires: 12/31/2027

Members Designated by Position

Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Hon. Margaret Downie (to be replaced by Hon. Lisa Vandenberg, effective 02/24/2025)

Chief Bar Counsel

Maret Vessella

Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee Chair

Hon. Cynthia Bailey

Ethics Advisory Committee Chair

Hon. Christopher Staring

Supreme Court Committee on Examinations Chair

Michael Donovan

Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness Chair

Hon. James Morse

Director of the Commission on Judicial Conduct

April Elliott

Reappointments

Whitney Cunningham

(Holdover; term expired 06/30/2024)

Attorney Member and **Vice Chair**

Redesignated Term Expires: 12/31/2026

Ed Novak

(Holdover; term expired 12/31/2024)

Attorney Member

Redesignated Term Expires: 12/31/2025

New Appointments

Hon. Patrick Irvine (Ret.)

Attorney Member

Term Expires: 12/31/2025

James Cerasia

Attorney Member

Term Expires: 12/31/2026

April Snow

Public Member

Term Expires: 12/31/2027

Reappointments (cont'd)

Maria Hubbard
(Holdover; term expired 06/30/2024)
Attorney Member
Redesignated Term Expires: 12/31/2025

Elaine Sweet
(Holdover; term expired 06/30/2024)
Public Member
Redesignated Term Expires: 12/31/2025

Current Members – No Change in Term

Andy Kvesic
(Current term expires 12/31/2025)
Attorney Member

Lisa Panahi
(Current term expires 12/31/2025)
Attorney Member

Vacancies

Attorney Representing Clients in the Attorney
Admission or Disciplinary Processes
Term Expires: 12/31/2027

New Appointments (cont'd)

Cathie Sylvester
Public Member
Term Expires: 12/31/2026