

Lawyer Discipline

REPORT CARD



NEW JERSEY

Overall Grade: **C-**

Adequacy of Discipline Imposed	D
Publicity and Responsiveness	B-
Openness of the Process	B+
Fairness of Disciplinary Procedures	D
Public Participation	C
Promptness	C
Overall Grade	C-

About New Jersey's Lawyer Discipline System:

Ranked 27th in the nation overall.

↓ New Jersey is one of only nine states in the nation to impose a "gag rule" upon legal consumers. New Jersey Supreme Court Rule 1:20-9(a) prevents an individual from disclosing to anyone the fact that he or she has filed a grievance against an attorney.

↑ Once formal charges are filed against an attorney, the proceedings become open to the public.

↓ The New Jersey Office of Attorney Ethics investigates only half of all grievances received.*

↑ Grievants as well as the general public may attend lawyer discipline hearings in New Jersey.

* According to the most recent statistics from the American Bar Association, which derive from the 2000 ABA Survey on Lawyer Discipline Systems.



To file a grievance against an attorney licensed in New Jersey, call the Office of Attorney Ethics toll-free at (800) 406-8594, enter the zip code of the attorney's office, and then you will be transferred to the appropriate ethics secretary to request grievance forms.