

Lawyer Discipline

REPORT CARD

PENNSYLVANIA

Overall Grade: **F**



About Pennsylvania's Lawyer Discipline System:

Ranked 51st in the nation overall. No other disciplinary agency received a lower grade.

↳ Lawyer discipline hearings in Pennsylvania are closed to the general public. Even grievants are excluded from hearings unless Bar Counsel specifically requests that they attend.

↳ Inquiries about the lawyer discipline process in Pennsylvania will not be answered by Disciplinary Board staff members over the telephone. Instead, they must be submitted to the Board in writing.

↳ Received an *Incomplete* for Adequacy of Discipline because the Disciplinary Board does not keep a record of how many complaints are investigated.*

↳ Also received an *Incomplete* for Promptness because the Board does not keep records of its timeliness in filing formal charges and imposing sanctions after grievances are received.*

↳ The Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board is one of only four disciplinary agencies in the country that does not host a website.

↳ Earned an F for Public Participation because non-lawyers are not allowed to sit on lawyer discipline hearing panels. Instead, three attorneys serve as judges at every hearing.

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

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

Compiled by
HALT
 An Organization of
 Americans for Legal Reform

To file a grievance against an attorney licensed in Pennsylvania, call the Disciplinary Board at (215) 560-6296 (Philadelphia), (610) 270-1896 (Blue Bell), (717) 731-7083 (Lemoyne) or (412) 565-3173 (Pittsburgh) to find out where to send your letter of complaint.