

Discipline System Oversight Committee

State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

February 24, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: State Bar of
Arizona

Public Session Minutes

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

P = present in person; T = present telephonically; A = absent; Z = present Zoom

Justice Montgomery (Chair)	P
Mr. Dave Byers	P
Mr. Joel F. England	P
Mr. Ted Schmidt	P
Mr. Cortez Smith	Z
Ms. Robyn Austin	A
Mr. Benjamin Taylor	P

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Guests:

State Bar Staff: Maret Vessella, Amy Rehm, Lori Palmer

Minutes taken by: Lori Palmer

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome: 1:00 p.m.
2. Call to the Public: No Public
3. Minutes from November 12, 2024, approved.
4. The meeting focused on the progress of education and outreach efforts, including the creation of an informational video on responding to a bar charge and the inclusion of a video link in the screening letter. Maret Vessella, Amy Rehm, Joel England, Justice Montgomery and Ted Schmidt have all given presentations about the perception survey

and the findings. On January 16, 2025 they had a meeting with APAC counsel. January 27, 2025 Justice Montgomery, Joel, Ted Maret, and Amy met with the Arizona collaborative Bar to see if their respective groups had interest in a listening session. The Arizona Jewish Lawyers Association was the only group to reach out and request a discipline presentation. only. February 14, 2025, Maret and Amy met with a group of solo and small firms attorneys. February 28, 2025, Joel, Ted, Maret and Amy will be in Yuma to talk to the Yuma County Bar. May 1, 2025, there will be a presentation in Graham County. There is time scheduled during the June convention for a presentation about the perception survey and discipline process.

Maret advised the committee about the inclusion of a video link in the screening letter that is sent out, which features Steve Little and Scott Rhodes. The video, about 30 minutes long, provides information about how to respond to a bar charge and the process. Maret also mentioned that the video is available online for those who have extra time to watch it.

5. The group also discussed the challenges of data collection and categorization, particularly in relation to race, and explored the integration of data between the case management system and the Hub. There was some discussion of an incentive when attorney's fill out their race, ethnicity, firm size, on the Bar website. The Bar would have the opportunity to collect this data when the attorneys pay their annual fees and completing their MCLE Affidavits.
6. Lastly, they discussed their efforts to reach out to various bar associations, and the implementation of a survey to collect demographic data and feedback on the public's perception of the disciplinary process.
7. Agenda for the next meeting:
 - a. Update on reporting lawyer theft/discipline to law enforcement.
 - b. Address the reinstatement rules to make them clearer.
 - c. Update on new case management system and data collection.
 - d. Report on Perception Survey Action Items.

End: 2:06 p.m.