



# Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability

P.O. Box 90398, Portland, OR 97290-0398  
Phone: (503) 626-6776 Fax: (503) 626-6787  
Email: [judicial.fitness@cjfd.oregon.gov](mailto:judicial.fitness@cjfd.oregon.gov)

February 11, 2025

Senator Anthony Broadman, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Evans, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

Dear Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans,

Thank you for hearing the Commission's presentation yesterday morning and for your thoughtful questions. I wanted to provide some additional information for you as a follow up to those questions.

As I stated during the hearing, a large majority of our complaints come from unrepresented parties in primarily domestic relations cases. It is very common for participants in those cases to write to us because they disagreed with the legal decision of a judge, rather than an issue that implicates the Judicial Code of Conduct. Most complaints (84%) are dismissed at the initial review due to lack of jurisdiction or lack of evidence of violation of the Code of Conduct.

For cases opened in 2024, there were 57 cases that required additional investigative work. Here is the breakdown of complainant type and case type:

- 40% were from unrepresented parties
- 21% were from legal professionals
- 14% represented criminal defendants
- 12% represented civil litigants
- 8% were from community members
- 3% were from judges

- 56% were domestic relations
- 26% were criminal cases
- 18% were other case categories

Additionally, Representative Evans mentioned hearing from constituents about judicial misconduct and that other legislators may have heard the same. I want to be clear that any person can initiate a complaint, and constituents and legislators should feel they can do so via our online form at any time, so that the Commission can consider the conduct. We take our mission seriously and want all Oregonians to know that their judicial conduct concerns are being timely and professionally addressed. Thank you again for the opportunity to explain our needs for the resources to be able to fulfill that mission.

I hope this further information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any other questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Rachel Mortimer  
Executive Director