



CO L O R A D O

**Commission on
Judicial Discipline**

**January 13, 2025
SMART Act Hearing**

Jim Carpenter, CCJD Vice Chair

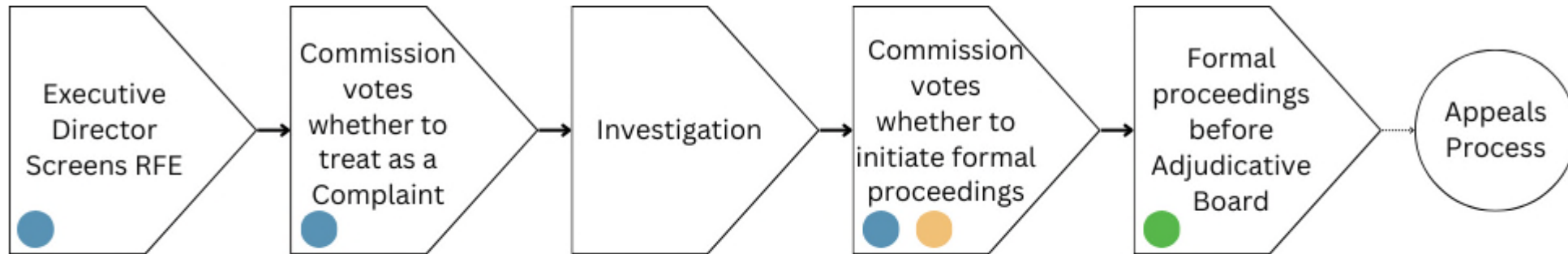
Anne Mangiardi, CCJD Executive Director

Constitutional Mandates

- Protect the public from improper conduct of judges
- Preserve the integrity of the judicial process
- Increase the public's confidence in the judiciary
- Educate judges and the public regarding proper judicial behavior
- Provide for the fair and expeditious disposition of allegations of judicial misconduct



Stages of a Judicial Discipline Proceeding



- Can be dismissed at this stage
- Private discipline can be imposed
- Matter becomes public



Major 2024 Events

- Office of Judicial Discipline Leadership
 - CCJD welcomed Anne Mangiardi as Executive Director in July
 - Jeff Walsh stayed on as Special Counsel
 - Office is fully staffed: Executive Director, Special Counsel, Office Manager, Investigator, Paralegal
- ASIA has begun providing support for independent agencies
 - We look forward to working with them more as they hire additional staff
 - We appreciate Judicial's ongoing support during the transition to ASIA



Major 2024 Events

- Amendment H
 - Voters approved new changes this fall – formal proceedings will be heard by the new Adjudicative Board and will become public at an earlier stage
 - Adjudicative Board and Rulemaking Committee are being convened
- Resolution of Personal Financial Disclosure Cases
 - Commission opened more than 50 PFD cases in late 2023, following an article from the Denver Gazette
 - Those cases were all resolved in 2024

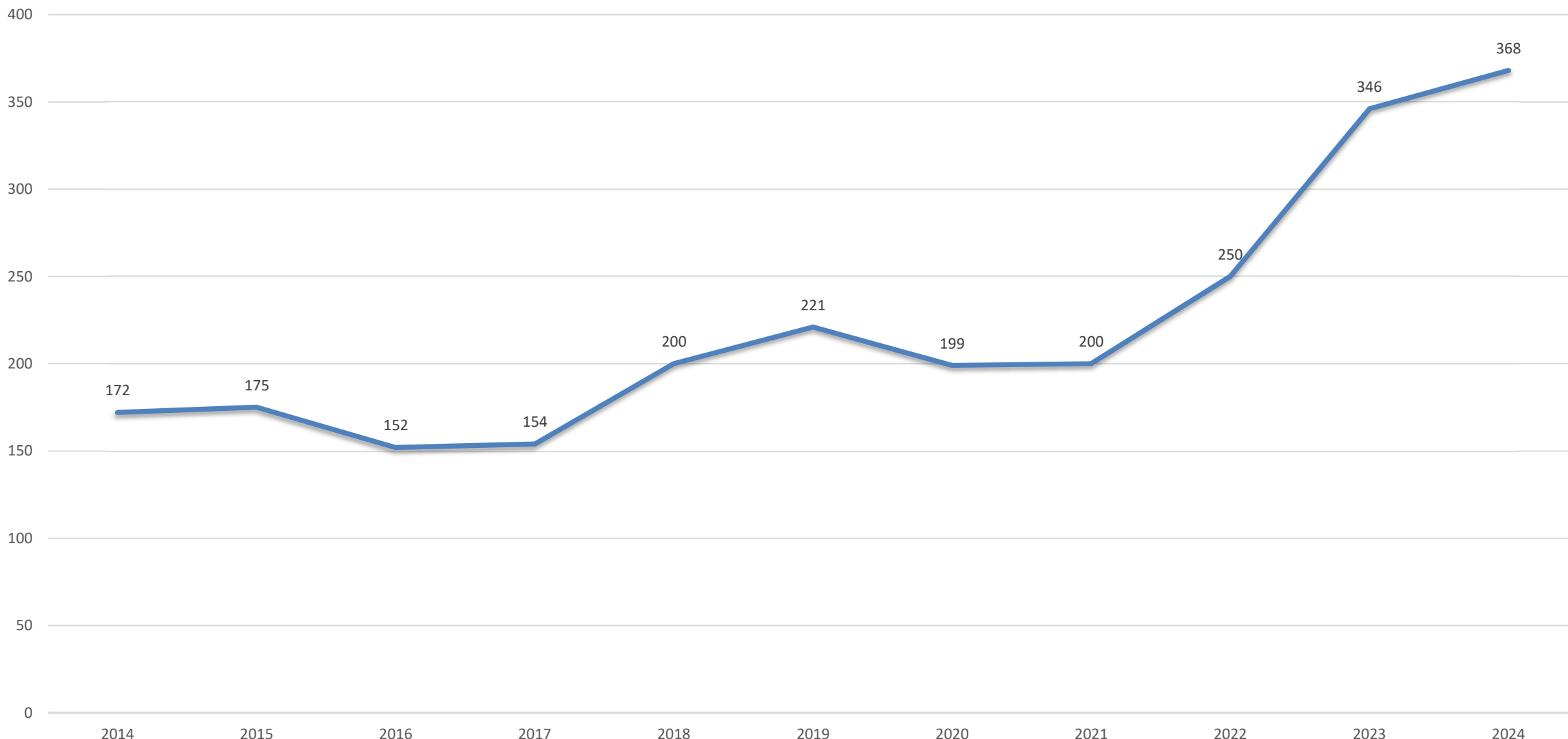


What's Coming in 2025

- Key goal for 2025 is implementation of Amendment H and other reforms passed by the legislature
 - Including more education for judges about ethics, the discipline process, changes in statute, and impacts of Amendment H
- We have secured a contract through a SIPA vendor to make the Request for Evaluation an online form
- Continued website improvements, including addressing accessibility
- New Rulemaking Committee to update rules around formal proceedings



Number of RFEs Filed



Another record year for RFEs: 368 Received in 2024

- About half of those were disputed rulings, which is typical
- Not included in this total: 92 Jurisdictional Denials, also typical

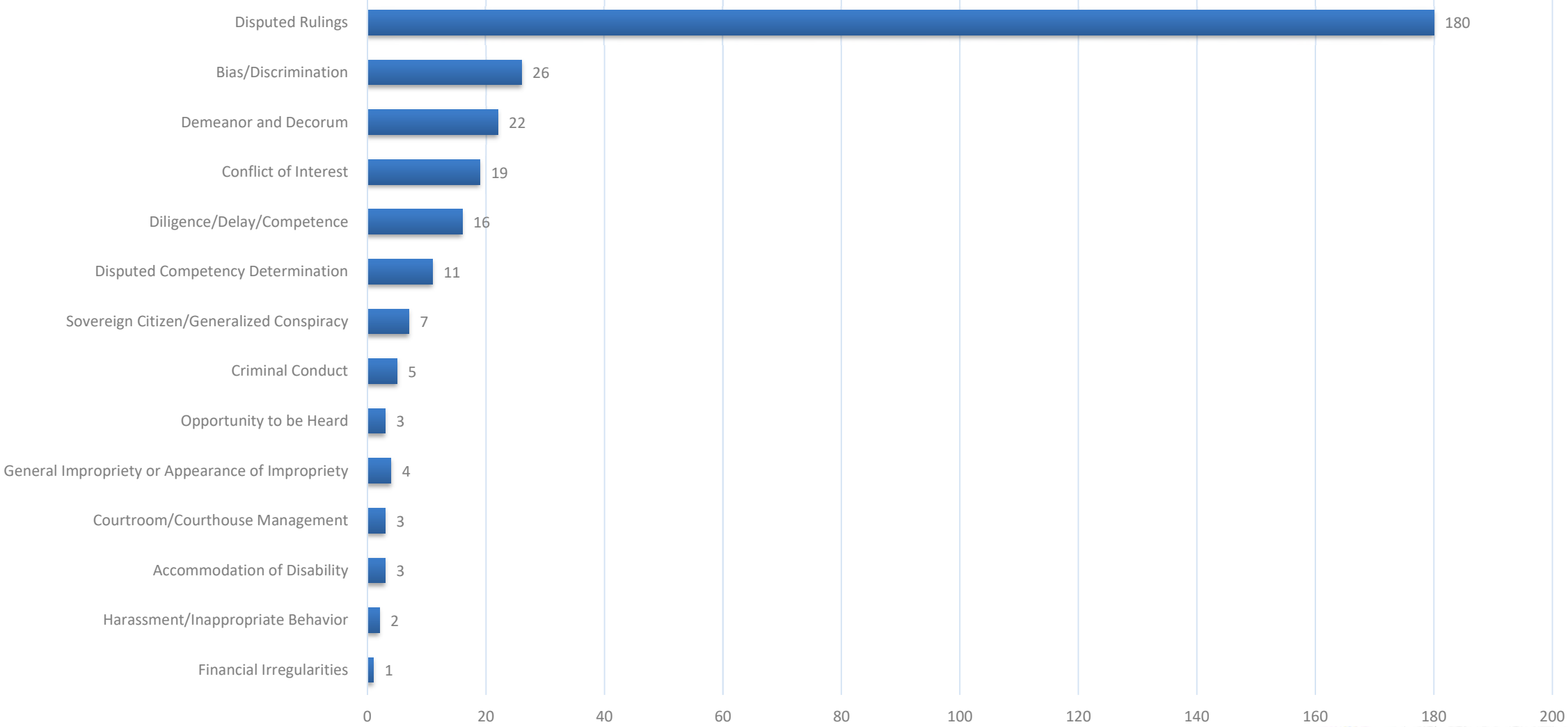


Statistics for 2024: RFEs

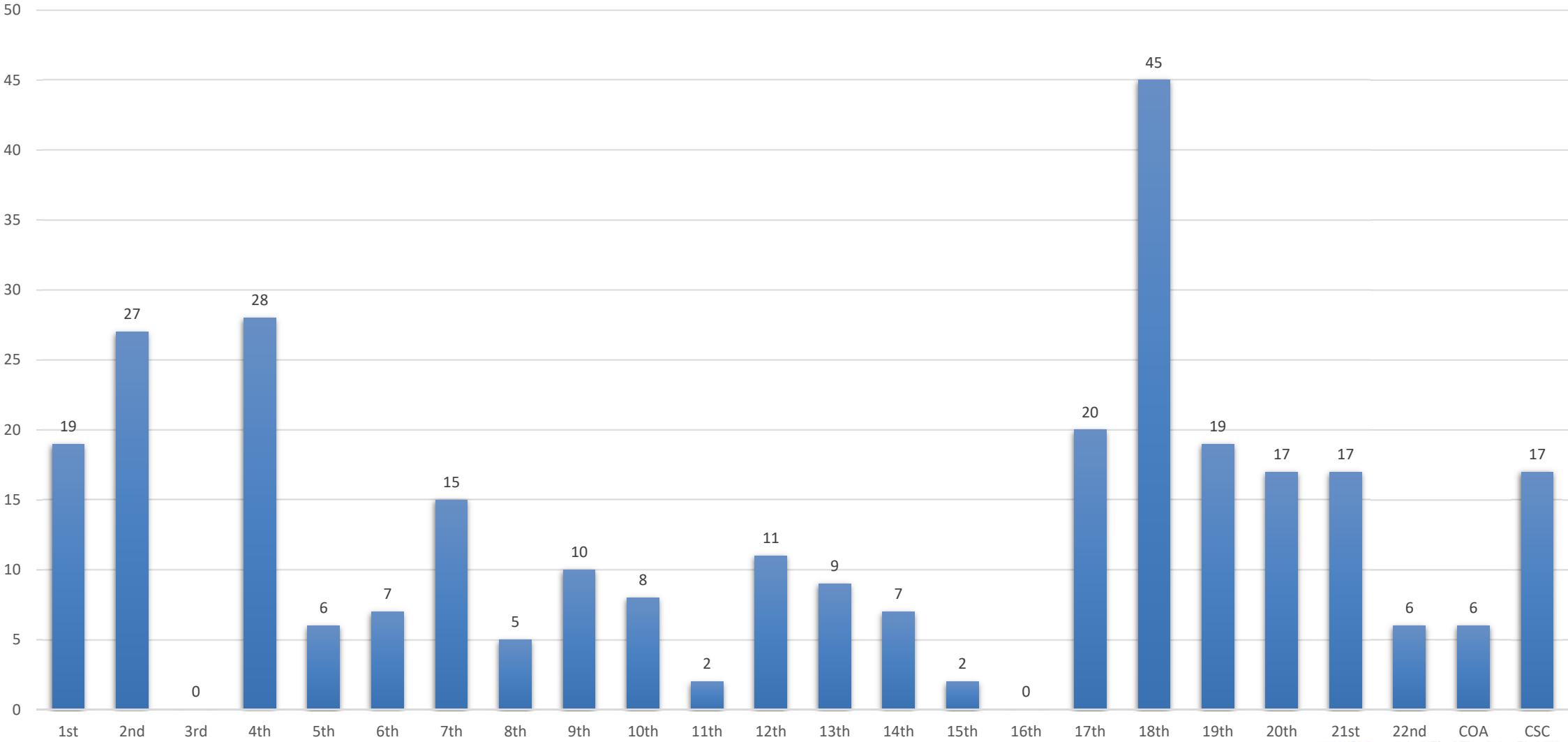
- Why are we seeing the increase?
 - Amendment H brought more attention to the Commission
 - We went viral for the first time – received a large batch of RFEs about one case in the news
 - Impact of legislative changes and Chief Justice Directive 22-01 that clarified mandatory reporting obligations



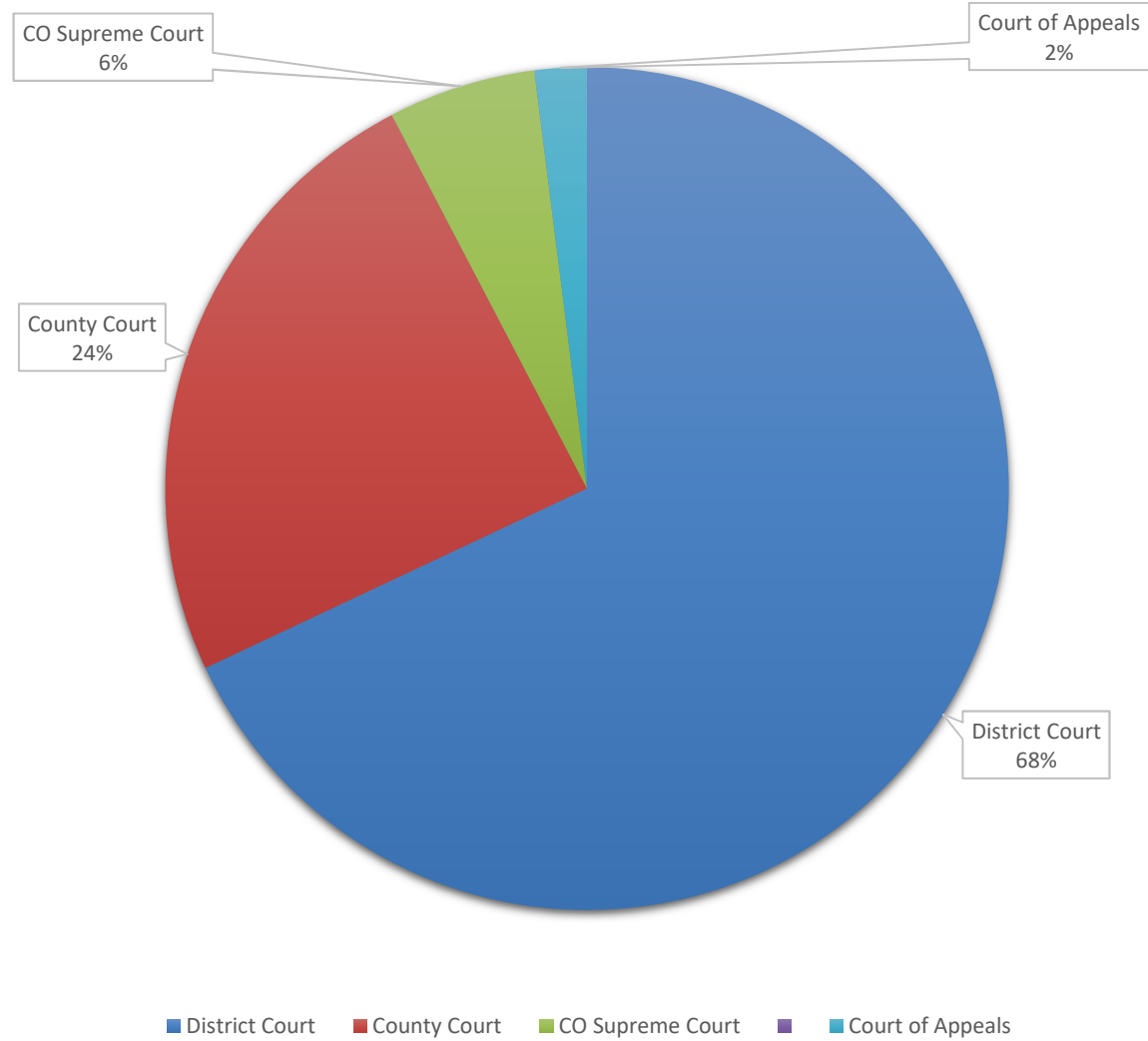
Nature of Allegations



Number of RFEs by Judicial District



Number of RFEs by Type of Judge



Statistics for 2024: Discipline

- 65 matters were brought before the Commission during 2024
- The Commission dismissed 29 of those, including 21 PFD matters
- Three formal proceedings completed in 2024, all resulted in public discipline
- Temporarily suspended one judge with pay pending investigation in December (that matter is ongoing)
- Issued private discipline in 12 cases (all PFD matters)
- Entered into 2 diversion agreements
- 18 dismissals with concern (15 from PFD matters)



Statistics for 2024: Personal Financial Disclosures

Initiated disciplinary proceedings
against 48 active Judges

- 21 dismissed
- 15 dismissed “with concern”
- 11 private reprimands
- 1 private censure
- No public discipline

Factors Considered

- No Judge failed to report material information
- Irregularities in Secretary of State’s records
- Discipline should be proportionate to number of missed filings
- Extenuating circumstances



Statistics for 2024: Personal Financial Disclosures

Commission did not initiate disciplinary proceedings in two categories:

- Senior Judges
- Judges who received an order of appointment in late 2022 with an effective date of 2023



Recommendations: Personal Financial Disclosures

- Better training for Judges about the PFD requirements
 - Judges told us that they sometimes missed the annual reminder provided by the Judicial Department due to the volume of email they receive
 - The Judicial Department has transitioned from annual reminders to quarterly
- Clear guidance to Senior Judges and New Judges
 - We understand the Judicial Department has instructed Senior Judges to file annually and informs new judges of their filing requirement
 - The statute, § 24-6-202, is still unclear on how it applies to Senior Judges, and could be clarified
- Several Judges had proof of emailing or faxing PFD statements to the Secretary of State, but the Secretary of State's office had no record of those filings
 - Suggest any improvements needed to track those submissions by SOS



Demographic Data: Judges

Demographic	No.
Male	20 Judges
Female	20 Judges
White	30 Judges
Black or African American	3 Judges
Hispanic	5 Judges
Under 50 years old	6 Judges
50-60 years old	16 Judges
Over 60 years old	8 Judges

- Matters which were brought before the Commission, including cases that ultimately resulted in discipline and cases that were ultimately dismissed.
- Source of this data is information self-reported by Judges to the Judicial Department. Includes gender, race, age.
- Our policy is to omit any data that might identify an individual judge



Demographic Data: Impacted Persons

Demographic	No.
Male	4
Female	4
Non-Binary	0
White	4
Black or African American	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0
Asian	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Disability Status	0
Hispanic	0
LGBTQ+	0
Under 18 years old	0
18-24 years old	0
25-34 years old	0
35-44 years old	2
45-54 years old	1
55-60 years old	0
Over 65 years old	0

- Demographic data for people who initiated an RFE that was investigated by the Commission.
- Source of this data is a voluntary demographic survey included with our RFE form.
- Many people chose not to complete this survey. It also does not include the many PFD cases, which were initiated by the Commission.





Questions?

