

Agency Purpose

Pursuant to M.S. 490A.01 & 490A.02, the purpose of the Board on Judicial Standards is:

- to ensure appropriate judicial conduct, and increase public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Minnesota judiciary;
- to ensure that all judicial officers employed by the judicial branch adhere to established standards of ethical conduct; and
- to provide a procedure to review and investigate allegations of judicial disability or misconduct, and to provide a forum to discuss questions concerning appropriate judicial behavior.

At a Glance

Jurisdiction: 542

Judges and Referees

Retired Judges

Child Support Magistrates

Calendar Year 2009

1,534 Total Agency Contacts

123 Full Board Determinations

Discipline issued:

1 Public Reprimand

5 Admonitions

6 Warnings

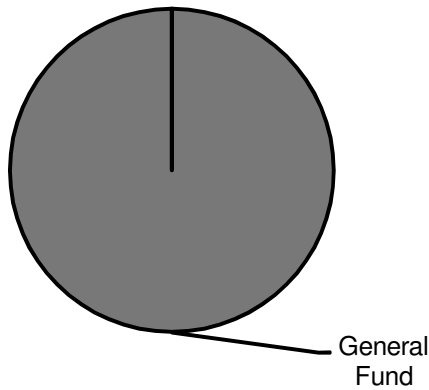
16 Imposed Conditions and Adjustments

306 Responses to Judge Inquiries

1,228 Responses to Public Inquires

19,372 Visits to Agency's Website

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement.

Strategies

The board has two basic responsibilities: 1) to educate and advise the public and judicial officers as to appropriate judicial conduct; and 2) to review and investigate the complaints received on judicial disability or alleged misconduct including behavior that interferes with the performance of judicial duties or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice. In support of these functions, the board engages in the following activities:

- receives, reviews, and investigates complaints filed against judges and judicial officers for violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct and statutes;
- issues discipline to judges and judicial officers when appropriate, including private warnings and public reprimands;
- initiates, when necessary, public proceedings against judges and judicial officers and recommends a disciplinary disposition to the

Minnesota Supreme Court, including retirement, censure, or removal from office;

- reviews judges' compliance with M.S. 546.27 and takes appropriate disciplinary action, if necessary;
- responds to all inquiries concerning judicial ethics from the public, judges, attorneys, legislature, and board members; and
- educates the public, judges, and judicial officers on judicial ethics.

Operations

The agency serves a large public statewide customer base. In the last ten calendar years, agency contacts have steadily increased. The board's primary activity is to serve the interests of the general public by determining and/or answering questions of proper judicial ethical behavior. Any person or entity may file a complaint against a judge or judicial officer.

Additionally, the staff educates and assists judges and judicial officers with questions concerning appropriate judicial conduct. The staff frequently conducts or otherwise participates in a variety of public and judicial seminars and workshops. Newly appointed judges and judicial candidates are provided information about the standards of appropriate judicial behavior.

Key Activity Goals & Measures

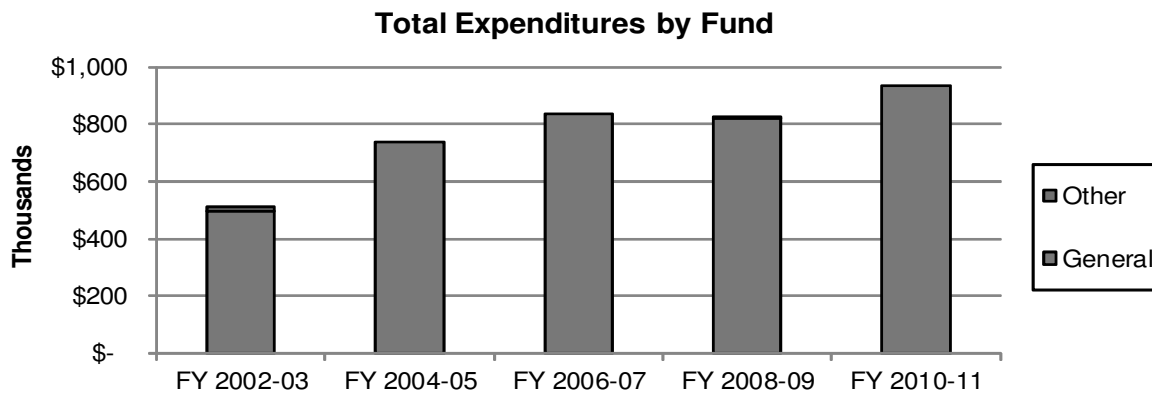
All the activities and responsibilities of the board strive to these ultimate goals:

- Efficiently and promptly review, investigate and act upon complaints of judicial misconduct;
 - In calendar year 2009, 1,534 inquiries by the public and judges were responded to by the staff within the same or next day, and then an agency pamphlet was sent to each individual.
 - The board meets every six weeks, and resolves matters within a 60-day average (where no additional inquiry or action is necessary).
 - In calendar 2009, the board issued 28 disciplinary actions, public and private.

- Ensure public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Minnesota judiciary;
 - The agency's website publicizes recent public discipline issued to judicial officers and advises of public disciplinary proceedings;
 - Agency estimates that 130 complaints will be received and processed in the next fiscal year and will respond to over 1,600 inquiries from the public, judges, attorneys and legislators.

- Educate and assist judges concerning judicial ethics for a knowledgeable judiciary.
 - The board issues informal or formal opinions to any judge.
 - The staff presents at the judicial orientation and various other forums to educate on judicial ethics.

Budget Trends Section



FY 2010 is estimated, not actual. Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 09/30/10.

The agency received an appropriation \$888,000 from the General Fund for FY 2010-11 budget, in addition to \$46,000 carrying forward from the previous biennium. \$250,000 is a specific line item dedicated for investigative services, attorney fees and hearing costs for disciplinary proceedings. This portion of the budget continues through the biennium since proceedings rarely begin and end within each biennium. The balance of the budget consists primarily of salaries and basic operating expenses such as rent, supplies, and telecommunication costs. Despite significant increases in the number of judicial officers, public contacts and advisory and educational activities, the full-time employees have remained constant at two since 1974. The board currently is progressing with five public hearings at this time. These hearings do involve extensive costs in the specific line item category. These additional services are retained only when necessary.

Contact

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