

Notice to the CT Hispanic Bar Association

As part of the Judicial Branch mission to improve public access to the court system and the Judicial Branch, we are proud to announce the availability of a system to check attorney licenses.

We would invite you to share this information with your members:

Currently, decisions of the Statewide Grievance Committee imposing discipline, published after 1996, are available here: <http://www.jud.ct.gov/sgc/decisions/default.htm>. There was no centralized system available to check an attorney's court and licensing history other than to call or e-mail the Statewide Grievance Committee. In 2008, the Judicial Branch made it possible to check the current status of an attorney's license through the attorney/firm inquiry feature on the Judicial Branch website. We have now made it possible to check an attorney's entire licensing and disciplinary history through this website. We have built the following safeguards and policy considerations into the system:

1. Grievance complaints will not be shown unless they resulted in a final decision with discipline (discipline includes bypasses and presentments). If the grievance complaint was dismissed at any stage in the process, it will not be published, although it may be a matter of public information.
2. Administrative suspensions will be shown.
3. We have provided common grievance terms and explained that certain deactivations of a license are not considered discipline. The disclaimer will make clear that retirements, administrative suspensions and disabilities are not discipline.
4. Discipline that was appealed will not be shown unless the attorney had exhausted their appellate rights and the court had denied the appeal and upheld the discipline.
5. If the Court dismissed a presentment, the presentment will no longer be shown. Pending presentments will be available to the public.
6. We created a function to allow us to stay the posting of a discipline if there is a dispute over its publication.
7. We are allowing attorneys to view their own disciplinary history through their E-Services account prior to publishing this information on the website.

If you or your members have any questions about the system, please contact the Statewide Grievance Committee at statewide.grievance@jud.ct.gov or (860) 568-5157; Fax: (860) 568-4953. If you would like a member of the Office Statewide Bar Counsel to attend a meeting to explain the new system, we would be happy to do that.

Attorneys will receive an e-mail through E-Services explaining how to check their disciplinary profile. They will have one month to report any disputed discipline to the Statewide Grievance Committee.