

News Advisory

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



Disciplinary Counsel office moving to Warwick

May 12, 2017: The state office that investigates complaints of misconduct against Rhode Island lawyers is temporarily closed today for a move from Providence to Warwick.

The Supreme Court Office of Disciplinary Counsel will move from its current location in the John E. Fogarty Judicial Annex, the former U.S. Custom House, at 24 Weybosset Street to its new quarters on the first floor of the Noel Judicial Complex, 222 Quaker Lane, Warwick.

The office will open on Monday, May 15, at its new location. The telephone number at the Warwick office, starting Monday, will be (401) 823-5710.

The move will make the office more accessible to the public, including the availability of free parking in the garage adjacent to the courthouse. The move also places the office in the same building where hearings of the Supreme Court Disciplinary Board are held. The Board oversees the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, the investigative arm that reviews all allegations of attorney misconduct.

The Board's two primary functions are to protect the public and maintain the integrity of the legal profession. The Supreme Court appoints 12 members to the Board, 8 of whom are attorneys and 4 of whom are members of the public.

When appropriate, the Board authorizes the filing of formal charges against an attorney and then schedules hearings and makes recommendations to the Supreme Court for the imposition of discipline. While the investigations are confidential, formal charges are heard in proceedings open to the public.

Any person who has a complaint about a Rhode Island lawyer may call the office and speak to a staff attorney prior to filing a formal complaint. Each year, thousands of Rhode Islanders contact the office and receive information. Staff attorneys can refer callers to other appropriate agencies, bring serious matters to the immediate attention of the Disciplinary Board, and screen out those matters that do not allege misconduct. Staff attorneys do not provide legal advice.

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