AVAILABLE SANCTIONS IN JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE PROCEEDINGS

Up-dated June 2015

NCSC

NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

Center for Judicial Ethics

TABLE I
PRIVATE DISPOSITIONS OR SANCTIONS

Alabama	Advice; further counseling or other assistance
Alaska	Informal private admonishment; letter of caution; memorandum of understanding; recommendation for counseling
Arizona	Dismissal with comments; consultation; other
Arkansas	Informal adjustment (direct professional treatment or conditions to be followed)
California	Advisory letter; private admonishment
Colorado	Private admonishment, reprimand, or censure; other action such as docket management reports, training, counseling, or medical treatment
Connecticut	Request appropriate treatment; private admonishment
Delaware	Discipline by consent; stipulated disposition of proceedings involving alleged disability
District of Columbia	Advice; professional counseling/treatment and monitoring; private reprimand (with judge's agreement)
Florida	Advice; counseling or other assistance; appearance or response
Georgia	Private admonition or reprimand
Hawaii	Private reprimand; inform or admonish judge that conduct is or may be cause for discipline; direct professional counseling or assistance; impose conditions on conduct; cautionary letter; informal meeting with commission to discuss problems or issues
Idaho	Private reprimand; remedial action to resolve issue; informal admonition
Illinois	Require appearance; private letter of admonishment or caution
Indiana	Advisory or cautionary letter; confidential admonition, caution, or agreement; commission admonition in lieu of charges pursuant to agreement with public statement or findings
Iowa	NA
Kansas	Letter of caution or informal advice; private cease and desist order; referral to judges assistance committee

Kentucky	Private reprimand or admonition
Louisiana	Letter of caution
Maine	Letter of warning; recommendation of informal correction to chief justice or other appropriate judicial department official
Maryland	Dismissal with warning; private reprimand; deferred discipline agreement
Massachusetts	Informing or admonishing judge conduct may be cause for discipline; professional counseling and assistance; conditions; private reprimand with judge's consent
Michigan	By commission: explanatory letter; cautionary letter; private admonishment; requirement that judge, for example, take sensitivity training, return attorney's fee, disqualify in cases involving certain lawyers. By supreme court: private censure
Minnesota	Deferred disposition agreement; letter of caution; private admonition
Mississippi	Letter of agreement or memorandum; meeting; private admonishment
Missouri	Informal recommendations made in conference with commission members (if judge agrees, matter disposed of on basis of agreement); appearance before commission; cease and desist order (if judge agrees, matter disposed of on basis of agreement)
Montana	Private admonition or reprimand
Nebraska	NA
Nevada	Deferred discipline agreement to require rehabilitation, treatment, education, or minor corrective action; letter of caution; private reprimand
New Hampshire	Informal resolution with judge's consent such as written advice or admonishment, remedial action, and/or conditions
New Jersey	Informal conference; private guidance, caution, admonition, reprimand, or censure
New Mexico	Letter of caution; mentorship; counseling
New York	Pre-charge letter of dismissal and caution; post-charge letter of caution
North Carolina	Letter of caution
North Dakota	Admonition with consent; deferred discipline agreement
Ohio	NA
Oklahoma	NA

Oregon	NA
Pennsylvania	Letter of counsel (may include conditions)
Rhode Island	Private reprimand
South Carolina	Confidential admonition with consent; deferred discipline agreement; letter of caution
South Dakota	Private reprimand
Tennessee	Private reprimand or censure; deferred discipline agreement
Texas	Dismissal with letter of caution; dismissal noting corrective action taken; order of referral to amicus curiae or lawyers assistance program; private admonition, warning, or reprimand; private order of additional education (with or without sanction)
Utah	Dismal with warning or conditions
Vermont	Deferred discipline agreement (may include conditions, education, counseling, substance abuse programs, monitoring)
Virginia	Counseling; informal conference; private reprimand; supervision (with judge's consent)
Washington	NA
West Virginia	Public admonishment
Wisconsin	Dismissal with expression of concern or warning
Wyoming	Settlement; corrective notice

TABLE II
PUBLIC SANCTIONS

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
Alabama[1]	Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement or suspension with or without pay for disability	
Alaska		Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement
Arizona	Public reprimand[2]	Public censure Suspension without pay Removal Retirement for disability
Arkansas	Public admonishment[3] Public reprimand Public censure	Suspension Removal Leave or retirement for disability Lawyer discipline
California	Public admonishment[4] Public censure Removal Retirement for disability Bar former judge from service with censure	

1. **Alabama.** Complaint is filed by Judicial Inquiry Commission; sanction decision is made by Court of the Judiciary; judge may appeal to supreme court.
2. **Arizona.** Prior to formal charges; not subject to review.
3. **Arkansas.** Prior to formal charges; not subject to review.
4. **California.** Prior to formal charges.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
Colorado		Private discipline Public reprimand Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement for disability "Any other sanction or combination of sanctions that the commission or Supreme Court believes will curtail or eliminate the judge's misconduct"
Connecticut	Public censure Suspension for less than a year Retirement for disability	Suspension for longer than a year Removal
Delaware[5]	Discipline by consent Stipulated disposition of proceedings involving alleged disability	Public censure Removal Retirement
District of Columbia	Removal Retirement Public reprimand (with judge's agreement) Public censure (with judge's agreement)	
Florida		Public reprimand Fine Suspension with or without pay Removal Retirement for disability Lawyer discipline
Georgia		Public reprimand Public censure Suspension with or without pay Removal Retirement for disability

5. **Delaware.** Sanctions are reviewed or imposed by the Court on the Judiciary, which is comprised of the justices of the Supreme Court, the chancellor of the Court of Chancery, and the president judge of the superior court.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
Hawaii		Public reprimand Public censure Suspension Limitations or conditions Removal Retirement
Idaho		Discipline Removal Retirement
Illinois[6]	Public reprimand Public censure Suspension without pay Removal Suspension with or without pay or retirement for disability	
Indiana		Public reprimand Public censure Fine Suspension Limitations or conditions Removal Retirement Discipline as attorney
Iowa		Discipline Removal Retirement
Kansas	Public cease & desist order	Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement
Kentucky	Public reprimand Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement	

6. **Illinois.** Sanction decision is made by the Courts Commission, based on a complaint brought by the Judicial Inquiry Board; there is no review by the Illinois Supreme Court.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
Louisiana		Public censure Suspension with or without pay Removal Retirement for misconduct Retirement for disability
Maine		Public reprimand Public censure Civil penalty Suspension Conditions such as training or participation in assistance program
Maryland	Public reprimand	Public censure Other appropriate discipline Removal Retirement
Massachusetts		Public reprimand Private censure Limitations or conditions on performance of judicial duties Fine Removal[7] Retirement Lawyer discipline
Michigan		Public censure Suspension Retirement Removal Other disciplinary action (conditional suspension, supervision, monitoring, imposition of costs, restitution)

7. **Massachusetes.** Although statute provides that the supreme judicial court may remove a judge following a hearing before the Commission on Judicial Conduct, the state constitution provides that only the legislature has the power to remove a judge.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
Minnesota	Public reprimand[8]	Public censure Civil penalty Suspension with or without pay Limitations or conditions Removal Retirement Lawyer discipline
Mississippi		Private reprimand Public reprimand Public censure Fine Suspension Removal Retirement for disability
Missouri		Public reprimand Suspension Removal Retirement for disability
Montana		Public reprimand Censure Suspension Removal Retirement for disability
Nebraska	Public reprimand[9]	Public reprimand Discipline Public censure Suspension without pay for less than 6 months Removal Retirement for disability

8. **Minnesota.** After the Board on Judicial Standards serves a judge with a proposed public reprimand, the judge may criticize the proposal or demand a formal hearing. If no timely demand for a hearing is made, the Board may consider any comments by the judge or release the reprimand as proposed, which is not subject to review.

9. **Nebraska.** Not subject to supreme court review.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
Nevada	Public admonishment Public reprimand Public censure Fine Suspension Removal Probation pursuant to conditions Attend training or education Follow remedial course of action Issue public apology Conditions or limitations Seek medical, psychiatric, or psychological care Bar from serving in the future	
New Hampshire	Informal resolution or adjustment[10]	Such disciplinary action as it finds just and proper
New Jersey		Public admonishment Public reprimand Public censure Suspension Removal
New Mexico		Public reprimand Public censure Fine Suspension Removal Retirement Limitations or conditions on judicial duties
New York	Public admonishment Public censure Removal Retirement for disability	

10. **New Hampshire.** After public hearing, Committee on Judicial Conduct may impose informal resolution or adjustment, which may take the form of admonishing the judge, issuing a reprimand, requiring corrective action, directing professional counseling or assistance, imposing conditions on the judge's conduct, or other similar remedial action, or any combination.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
North Carolina		Public reprimand Public censure Removal Suaspension Removal for disability
North Dakota		Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement Other disciplinary action
Ohio		Public reprimand Stayed suspension with conditions[11] Suspension indefinitely without pay Suspension for a term without pay Removal Retirement Permanent disbarment
Oklahoma[12]	Suspension Removal	
Oregon		Public censure Suspension Removal
Pennsylvania[13]		Public reprimand Public censure Suspension Removal Other discipline authorized
Rhode Island		Public censure Pubic reprimand Suspension Removal Retirement

11. **Ohio.** Conditions such as no further misconduct, monitored probation, psychiatric or substance abuse treatment, or compliance with a lawyers' assistance program contract.

12. **Oklahoma.** Sanction decision is made by the Trial Division of the Court of the Judiciary; the decision may be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Court of the Judiciary; there is no appeal to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

13. **Pennsylvania.** Sanction decision is made by Court of Judicial Discipline; judge or Judicial Conduct Board may appeal to Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
South Carolina[14]		Public reprimand Suspension Limitations Removal
South Dakota		Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement
Tennessee	Public reprimand Public censure Suspension with pay Limitations and conditions Cease and desist order Deferred discipline Recommendation of removal to legislature[15]	
Texas	Public admonition[16] Public warning[16] Public reprimand[16] Public censure Public order of additional education (with or without sanction)	Removal[17] Retirement
Utah		Public reprimand Public censure Suspension Removal Retirement
Vermont		Public reprimand Suspension (temporary or until end of term) Retirement

14. **South Carolina.** Any disposition can be public after formal charges.

15. **Tennessee.** If the Board of Judicial Conduct recommends removal and the Supreme Court affirms that action, the question of removal is transmitted to the general assembly for final determination.

16. **Texas**. Prior to formal charges; not subject to review.

17. **Texas.** State Commission on Judicial Conduct removal recommendations are heard by a seven-member review tribunal appointed by the Texas Supreme Court.

	By commission subject to supreme court review	By supreme court after commission recommendation
Virginia		Public censure Removal Retirement
Washington	Public admonishment Public reprimand Public censure	Suspension Removal
West Virginia		Public admonishment Public reprimand Public censure Fine up to $5,000 Suspension without pay for up to 1 year Retirement for disability
Wisconsin		Public reprimand Public censure Suspension Removal for cause or disability
Wyoming		Public censure Retirement Removal

TABLE III
PRIVATE, INFORMAL, AND FORMAL DISPOSITIONS[1]

	Private or informal disposition[2]	Public sanction	Fine	Suspension without pay[3]	Removal	Other[4]
Alabama	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	NA	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Admonishment Censure	NA	NA	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Discipline Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
D.C.	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Reprimand	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	Yes	Discipline	NA	NA	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Reprimand Censure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	NA	Discipline	NA	NA	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes

1. "NA" means disposition is not available in the jurisdiction.
2. *See* Table I.
3. Suspension without pay as a final sanction.
4. *See* Table II.

	Private or informal disposition[2]	Public sanction	Fine	Suspension without pay[3]	Removal	Other[4]
Kentucky	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maine	Yes	Reprimand	Yes	Yes	NA	NA
Maryland	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Reprimand Censure	Yes	NA	NA	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Reprimand Censure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Reprimand Censure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Reprimand	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	NA	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	NA	Reprimand Discipline Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Yes	Censure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	NA	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
New Mexico	Yes	Reprimand Censure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	Admonishment Censure	NA	NA	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Censure	NA	NA	Yes	Yes

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	Private or informal disposition[2]	Public sanction	Fine	Suspension without pay[3]	Removal	Other[4]
Ohio	NA	Reprimand	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	NA	NA	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
Oregon	NA	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
Pennsylvania	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
Rhode Island	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	Reprimand	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	NA	NA	Yes
Texas	Yes	Warning Reprimand Admonition Censure	NA	NA	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Reprimand	NA	Yes	NA	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Censure	NA	NA	Yes	NA
Washington	NA	Admonishment Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
West Virginia	Yes	Admonishment Reprimand Censure	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	Reprimand Censure	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Censure	NA	NA	Yes	Yes

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