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THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS
APPOINTED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

August 15, 2022

Honorable James D. Blacklock
Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
P.O. Box 12248
Austin, TX 78711
james.blacklock@txcourts.gov

via Email and
1st Class Regular Mail

RE: Grievance Oversight Committee Biennial Report 2022

Dear Justice Blacklock:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grievance Oversight Committee's 2022 biennial report, recently submitted to the Supreme Court of Texas. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals has reviewed the report and appreciates the Committee's thorough review and evaluation of the grievance system and its thoughtful recommendations.

The Board welcomes the Committee's recommendations regarding potential rule changes to provide further clarity and definition to the Board's role in the disciplinary process. The Committee has provided detailed and reasoned analysis of issues that relate to the Board's ability to fulfill its duties. The Board agrees that the proposed changes would aid the disciplinary system in the ways the Committee describes.

The Board further welcomes efforts to provide additional education and resources for both judges and members of the Bar regarding the disciplinary process. BODA staff are willing to provide any support in these areas as might be useful.

Finally, the Board notes the Committee's discussion regarding various benefits and drawbacks to remote proceedings as opposed to in-person proceedings. The Board generally believes that in-person proceedings are important to deciding disciplinary cases before the Board, and particularly in cases in which the Board sits as a trial court and takes evidence (compulsory discipline, reciprocal discipline, and revocation of probation cases). However, the Board continues to make use of technology for remote proceedings when appropriate and beneficial.

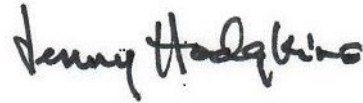
The Board commends the Committee and the Supreme Court for continuing this important work to encourage a collaborative effort among the Board, the State Bar, the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, the district grievance committees, and other stakeholders who share an interest in refining and improving the Texas attorney disciplinary system.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Kelli Hinson
Chair



Jenny Hodgkins
Executive Director
& General Counsel

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