



LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL REPORT FORM

Chief Judge of Circuit:	Hon. Leah R. Case
Name of Submitter:	Hon. Michael S. Orfinger
Date:	June 11, 2015

***Reports must be filed by June 15 and December 15 each year.**

SC 2023-0884 - Appendix A Code for Resolving Professionalism Referrals 3.7 Reporting

- a) Each LPP must file a written report with the chief judge of its circuit, the Florida Supreme Court, and The Florida Bar identifying all professionalism referrals received against a member of The Florida Bar in June and December of each calendar year.
- b) The biannual reports must include the following information for each referral for the six (6) calendar months preceding the month in which the report is due:
 - 1. The date of the referral;
 - 2. The circuit in which the issue arose;
 - 3. A short summary detailing the substance of the referral;
 - 4. The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process;
 - 5. Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process;
 - 6. The resolution, if any, of the referral; and
 - 7. Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent.
- c) The reports must not include identifying information for the respondent or the party who submitted the referral.

INFORMATION FOR SUBMITTERS

1. **Purpose and Use:** This form collects information about your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel and its activity for the last six (6) months. This form also asks for updates to the contact information for your Local Professionalism Panel. The information about your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel will be used to update the Center's Local Professionalism Panel contact list, as well as to gauge how each Circuit is carrying out panel activities.
2. **Reporting Period:** Reports must be filed by June 15th and December 15th and include information for the six (6) calendar months preceding the month in which the report is due.
3. **Where to Submit:** Submit this form and any attachments by email to cfp@floridabar.org or by regular mail to:

The Florida Bar
Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism
651 E. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

4. **Questions:** Direct all questions about this form to cfp@floridabar.org.

June Reports should include information from January 1 to June 15.
December Reports should include information from June 16 to December 15.

LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL QUESTIONS

Please complete the information below regarding any activity within your Local Professionalism Panel. Additional pages may be attached as needed.

- 1. Please describe the process by which complaints are addressed.** You may attach a link to the complaint form or link to where information is located on your website that advises the consumers, attorneys, and judges how to file a complaint.

Referrals to the Seventh Judicial Circuit Local Professionalism Panel are commenced by submitting a Referral Form to the Panel via e-mail to lpp@circuit7.org. The Referral Form and the Panel's Operating Procedures are available on the Court's website, at <https://circuit7.org/professionalism/>.

- 2. Please describe what types of professionalism issues are seen most often in this Circuit?**

The Seventh Circuit's LPP has to date received only three complaints/referrals. Two of the three came from the same party (a represented litigant in a dissolution of marriage), and both were against the opposing lawyer, who represented her spouse. The essence of the complaints was that opposing counsel was filing dilatory and frivolous motions, and that the attorney was attempting to delay the dissolution proceedings. The complainant also accused her spouse's attorney of filing verified pleadings containing false statements.

In the last six months, the only referral the LPP has received dealt with one lawyer's failure to pay another lawyer a referral fee. That referral/complaint is discussed in more detail below.

3. What are believed to be the causes of professionalism issues within your Circuit?

I believe there to be very few "professionalism issues in the Seventh Circuit. I attribute that to a very active chapter of the American Inns of Court, and voluntary bar associations in each of the four counties of the circuit that place a premium on collegiality. In addition to CLE opportunities, they provide occasions for lawyers to get acquainted with the judges and with each other. Later this summer, the Volusia County Bar Association will present a professionalism seminar. I expect that attorneys from the other three counties in the circuit will attend as well.

4. How often does your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel meet?

Our Panel does not meet on a set schedule. We have met on one occasion this calendar year, on June 6, 2025.

5. Please describe any training provided to committee members.

All members of the Panel have watched The Florida Bar's CLE Course #8354, "Local Professionalism Panel Training." It is our understanding that this training complies with the requirements of rule 3.4 of The Code for Resolving Professionalism Referrals. In addition, I designated a member of our Panel to attend the biennial meeting of Panel chairs in November 2024, and she shared with us the information she obtained in that meeting.

6. How is your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel promoted?

Chief Judge Leah R. Case entered an Administrative Order titled Re: Local Professionalism Panel, G-2023-035-SC, that designates each member of the Panel and their term of appointment. The Administrative Order is on the Seventh Circuit's website at <https://circuit7.org/orders/g-2023-035-sc/>, and it is recorded in all four counties of the Seventh Judicial Circuit. In addition, the Administrative Order has been sent to each of the four voluntary County Bar Associations in the Circuit, so that they can include it on their websites and/or newsletters. It has already been published in the Volusia County Bar Association newsletter. Copies have also been furnished to each judge of the Circuit, and to the Clerks of Court in each of the four counties. The Seventh Circuit's website has a "Professionalism" page with, among other things, links to the Panel's operating procedures and the referral form.

7. Please provide information regarding all complaint intake for the appropriate dates. If filing in June, the information should be from January 1st – June 15th. If filing in December, the information should be from June 16th – December 15th.

1.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent to the person submitting the referral.	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

2.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

3.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

4.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

5.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

6.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

7.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

8.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

9.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

10.

Date of Referral:	Circuit in which issue arose:
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

8. **Please provide the contact information for all current panel members.** Please include: name(s), email(s), address(es), and phone number(s), and title if applicable.

Name	Title/Firm	Email	Address	Phone Number

The Florida Bar will publish on its website the LPP biannual reports. The Chief Judge, or the Chief Judge's designee, will publish on the judicial Circuit's website the LPP biannual reports from that Circuit.