A grievance against a judge or attorney may be submitted to the Disciplinary Counsel or a certified grievance committee of a local bar association. If either of those bodies determines that there exists substantial credible evidence of professional misconduct, a formal complaint is drafted. It then moves to a probable cause panel of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline, which determines if there is probable cause. If the panel determines that there is probable cause, the formal complaint becomes public and is filed with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline. Hearings are then conducted by the board and if it finds a violation, a recommendation is made to the Supreme Court of Ohio. The Supreme Court of Ohio makes the final decision as to findings of misconduct and issues an appropriate sanction.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

**A grievance is submitted to one of these two bodies:**

**DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL**

- If no substantial credible evidence of misconduct is found, the grievance is dismissed.

**CERTIFIED GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

- If it's determined that there is substantial credible evidence of misconduct, a complaint is drafted and it proceeds to:
  
  **PROBABLE CAUSE PANEL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE**

- If no substantial credible evidence of misconduct is found, the grievance is dismissed and may be reviewed by Disciplinary Counsel.

If probable cause is found, the complaint becomes public and proceeds to:

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE**

- If no answer is filed:
  
  **SUPREME COURT OF OHIO**
  
  - The board certifies respondent’s default to the court.
  - The court may order an interim default suspension.
  - The interim default suspension is converted into an indefinite suspension after six months if no motion to remand is filed by the parties.
  - The case may be remanded to the board if the respondent seeks leave to answer the complaint or the relator seeks respondent’s disbarment.

- If an answer is filed:
  
  **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE**
  
  - If an answer is filed by the subject of the complaint, disciplinary hearings are conducted by a three-member panel and a recommendation is made to the full board as to whether a violation has occurred and the appropriate sanction.

**Three-Member Panel**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE**

- If the full board agrees with the panel or the master commissioner, it makes a recommendation to the Supreme Court for an appropriate sanction.

- If the three-member panel votes unanimously to dismiss the complaint, it is dismissed with no further review.

**Full Board**

- If the full board votes to dismiss the complaint, it is dismissed with no further review.

**SUPREME COURT OF OHIO**

- The case is filed with the clerk of the Supreme Court, parties may file objections to the board’s report and have an oral argument.
- The court renders a decision.