

SUPREME COURT OF GUAM'S ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

Complaint received by the Guam Bar Ethics Committee's Investigative Panel ("GBEC IP") or initiated by the GBEC IP.

Complaint screened by Ethics Prosecutor ("EP") and either dismissed or investigated (either action needs GBEC IP approval).

Investigation results in dismissal, private reprimand administered by GBEC IP (which can be rejected by Respondent), or the filing of formal charges with the GBEC Adjudicative Panel ("GBEC AP").

Formal charges before the GBEC AP proceed to formal administrative hearing (confidentiality remains in place) resulting in dismissal, private reprimand administered by the GBEC AP, or recommendation to the Supreme Court of Guam of greater discipline, which is done through a public filing. Respondent may appeal a private reprimand to the Supreme Court of Guam, although it loses its confidential nature upon such appeal. When any matter reaches the Supreme Court the court has the authority to increase, decrease, or affirm the discipline imposed/recommended below. The Supreme Court of Guam has final authority regarding attorney discipline.

As in other jurisdictions, the Supreme Court of Guam's Attorney Discipline System includes mechanisms such a Summary Suspension, Reciprocal Discipline, Petitions for Leave to Resign in the face of pending charges, and to address allegations involving the possible Unauthorized Practice of Law, etc. The above chart provides a general outline of the step-by-step process used for handling 95+% of the matters that come before the Guam Bar Ethics Committee. Greater detail regarding Guam's the Attorney Discipline System can be found on the Supreme Court of Guam's website, or website of the Guam Compiler of Laws at <http://www.guamcourts.org/CompilerofLaws/index.html> under its "Court Rules" tab.