

City Bar Issues Report On Southern District Discipline

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The Council on Judicial Administration of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York has issued a report on lawyer discipline in the Southern District of New York. Discipline in the District is administered by a Committee on Grievances consisting of judges appointed by the Chief Judge.

The City Bar Council recommends greater cooperation between the state disciplinary system and the federal system. Confusion occurs when the federal courts apply standards or concepts of discipline which are not based upon the New York Code of Professional Responsibility.

The Council also suggests that the Southern District redefine the term "letter of reprimand or admonition, censure" to conform to the definition utilized in the state courts.

Also recommended is a formal mechanism for coordination by the two systems in the investigation of charges of misconduct against a lawyer, and increased cooperation between the state's grievance committees and federal judges who consider disciplinary action against a lawyer during litigation.