

# The Illinois Courts Commission: An Overview

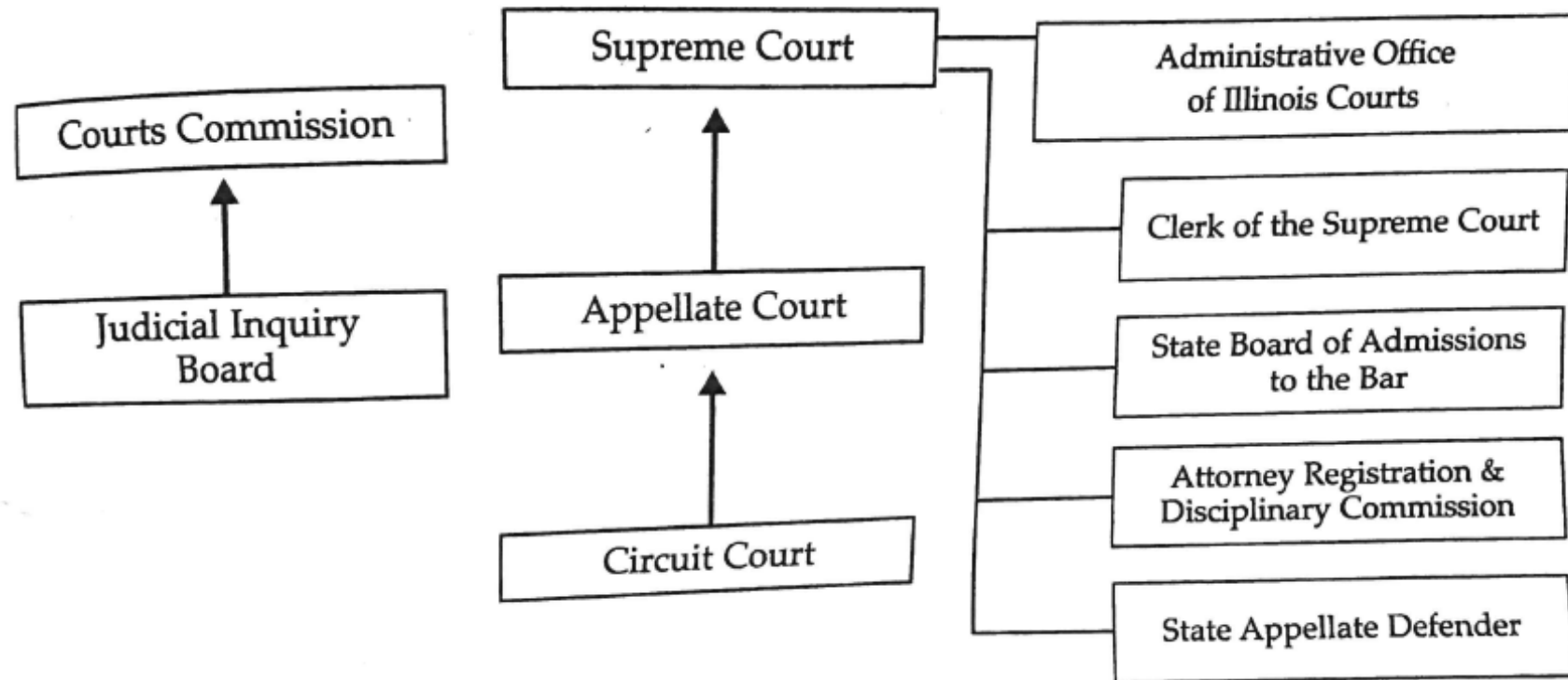
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Shelley Bethune, *Executive Director & General Counsel*

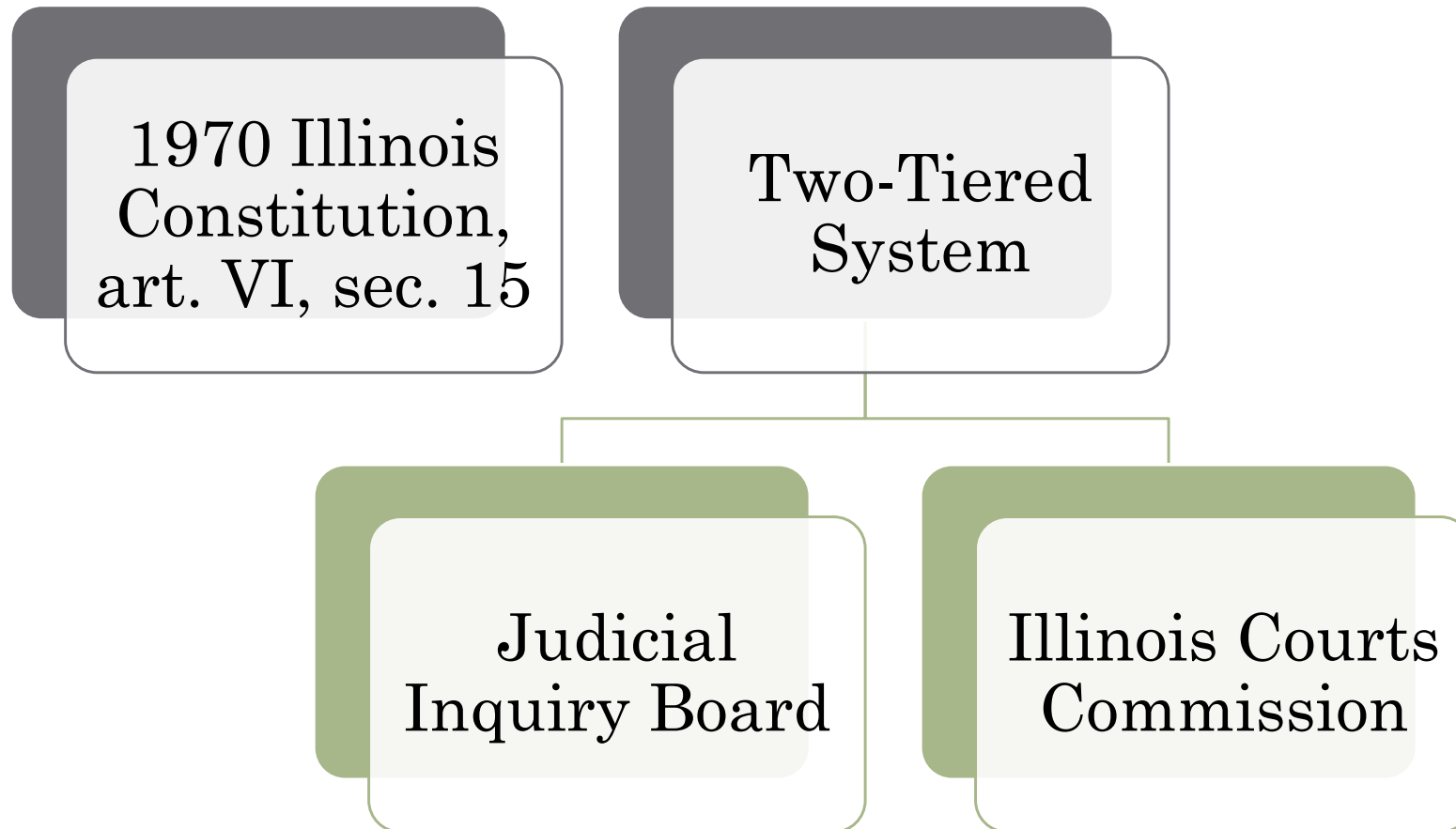
Maeve Degnan, *Assistant General Counsel & Administrator*

# JUDICIAL BRANCH

## Judicial Organization



# Illinois' Judicial Disciplinary System



# Judicial Inquiry Board



Investigates grievances  
against Illinois judges



Files and prosecutes  
complaints with the  
Illinois Courts  
Commission

# Illinois Courts Commission

Hears and decides the complaints filed by  
the Judicial Inquiry Board



Determines whether to discipline a judge

Reprimand

Censure

Suspension

Removal

Retirement



# Illinois Courts Commission

- Seven Commissioners
  - One Supreme Court Justice
  - Two Appellate Court Justices
  - Two Circuit Court Judges
  - Two Public Members
- Commission decisions must be a majority and are final



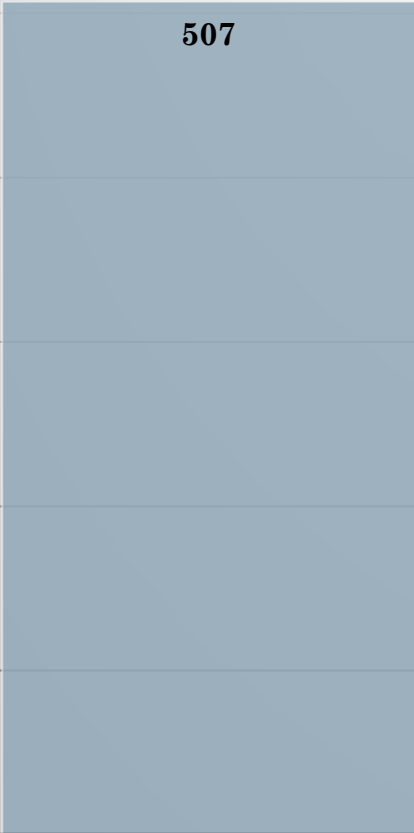
Who is  
complaining  
about judges?

Which judges?

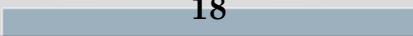
And what did  
they do  
(allegedly)?

# JIB Requests for Investigation by Source

Number of Complaints



507



18



31

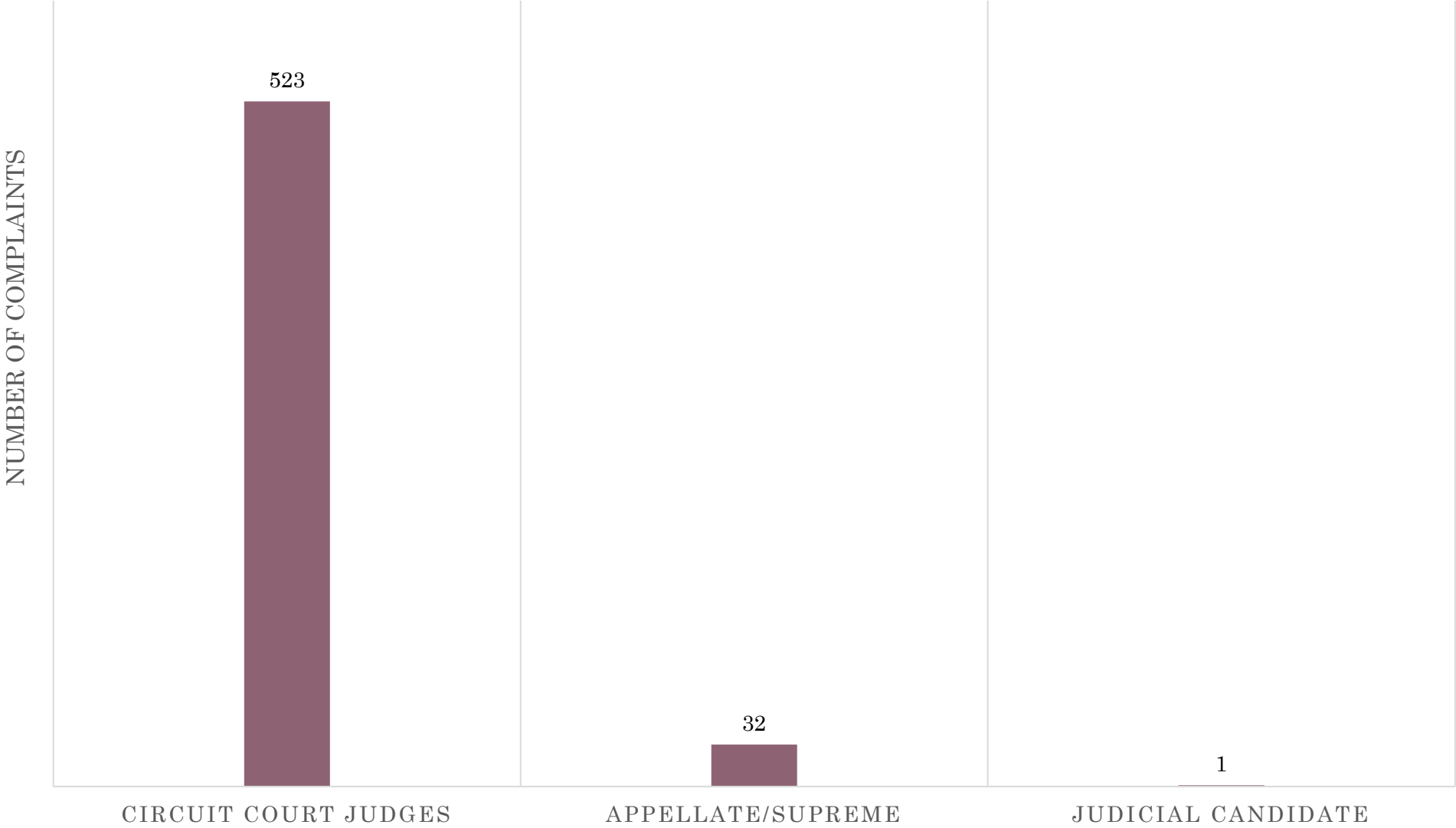
LITIGANT/FAMILY MEMBER/FRIEND

LAWYERS/OTHER JUDGES

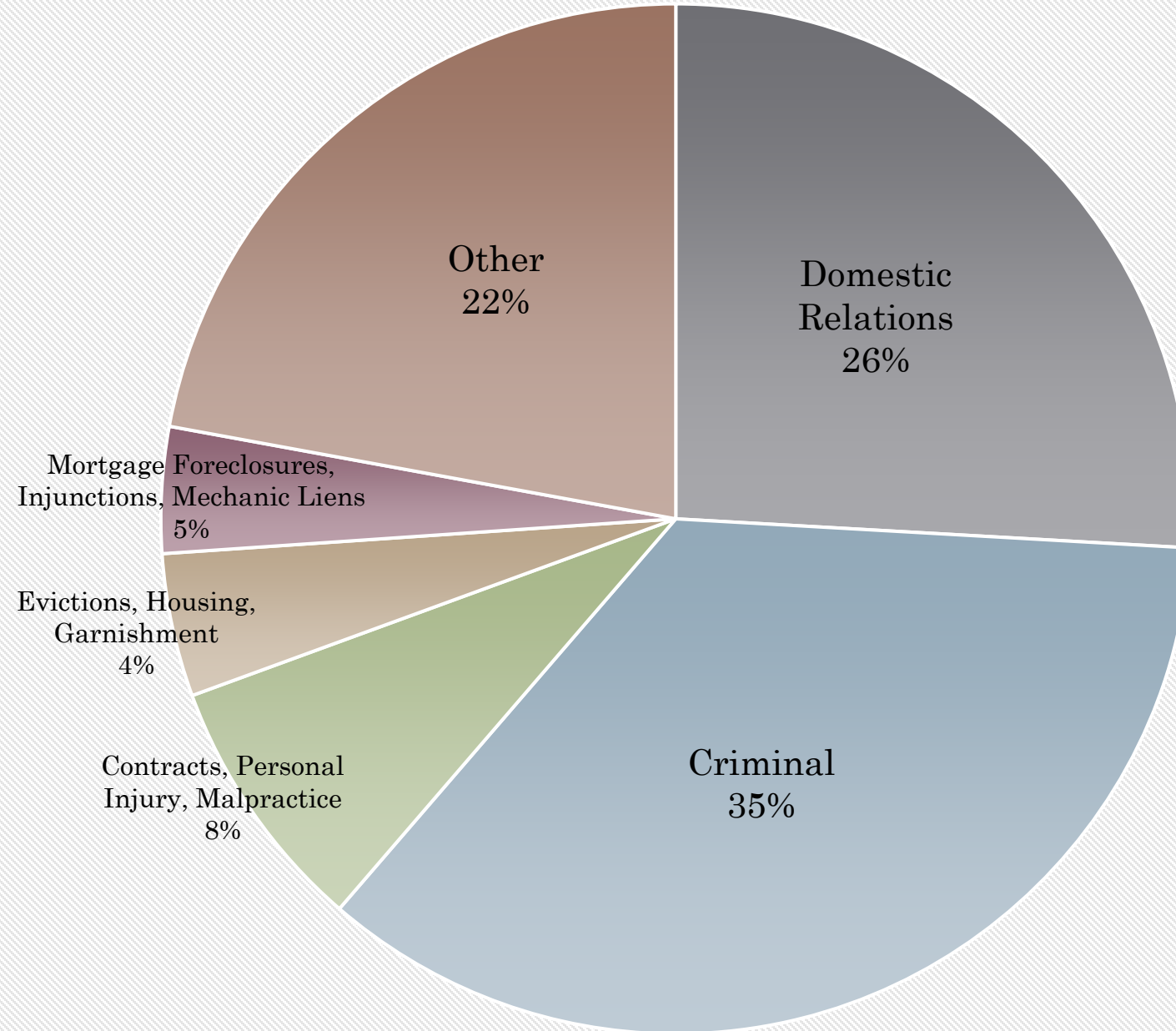
ANONYMOUS LETTERS, CONCERNED  
CITIZENS, COURT STAFF, NEWS  
REPORTS, WITNESSES



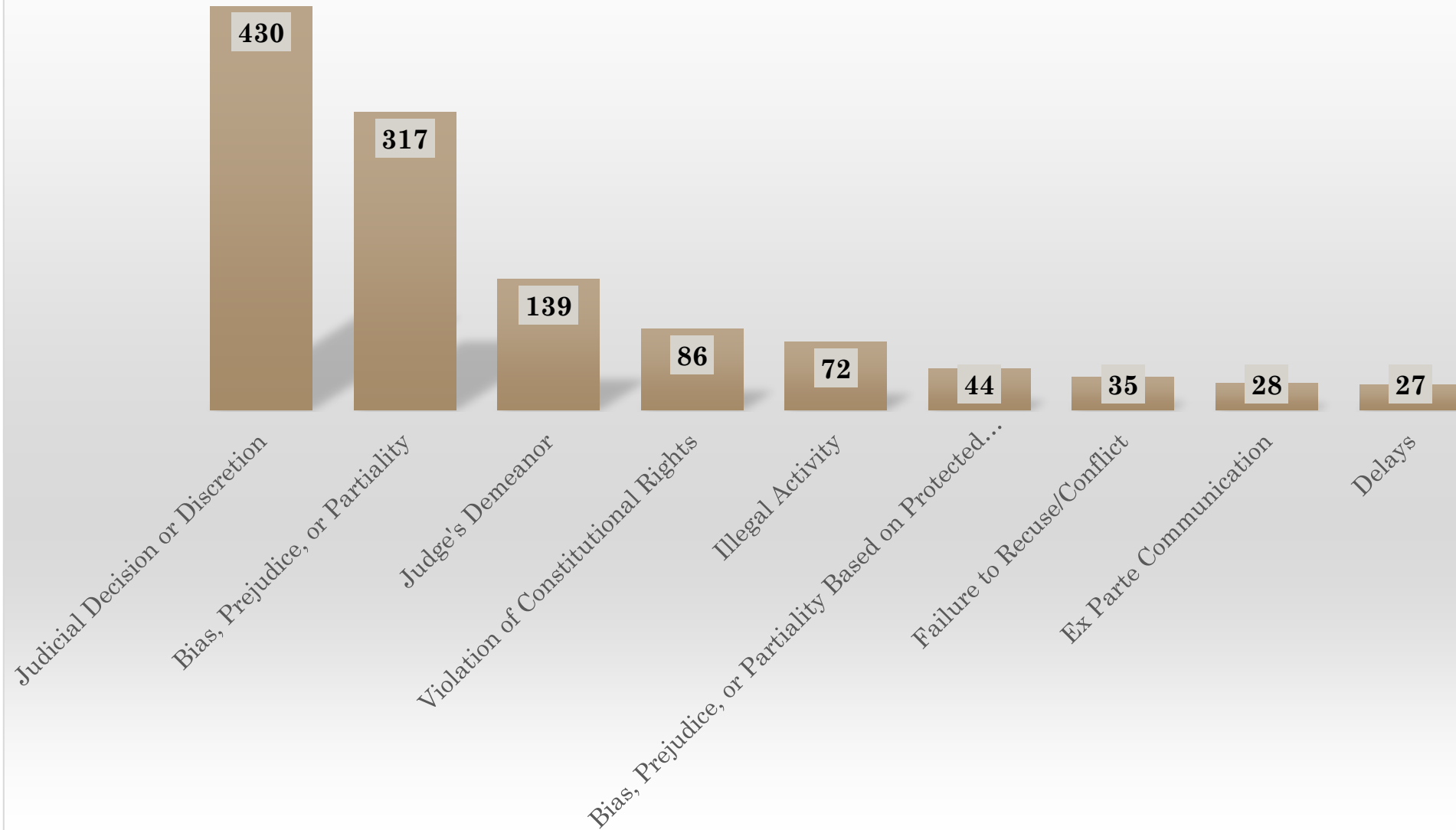
# JIB REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION BY JUDICIAL OFFICE



## Requests for Investigation by Court Division

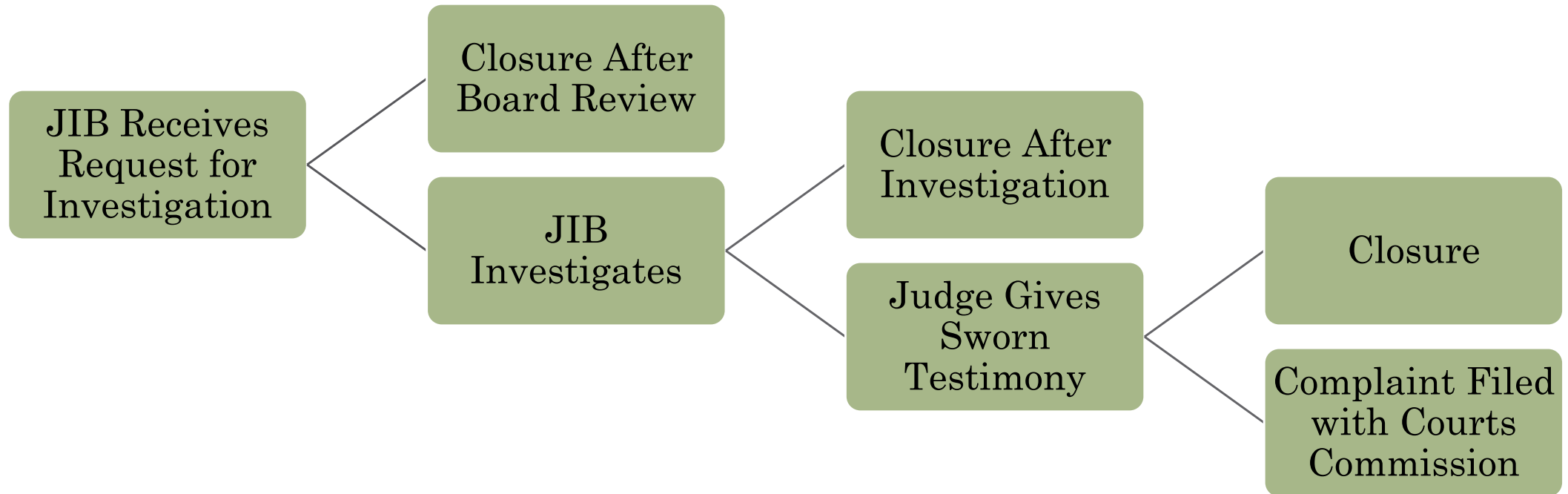


# Subject Matter of Requests for Investigation



The background consists of a dense, overlapping collage of rectangular sticky notes in various colors including teal, purple, olive green, and mustard yellow. Each sticky note features a large, bold, black question mark. The notes are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured and busy visual field.

*What happens with  
all these complaints?*



# Illinois Courts Commission

Hears and decides the complaints filed by  
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Reprimand

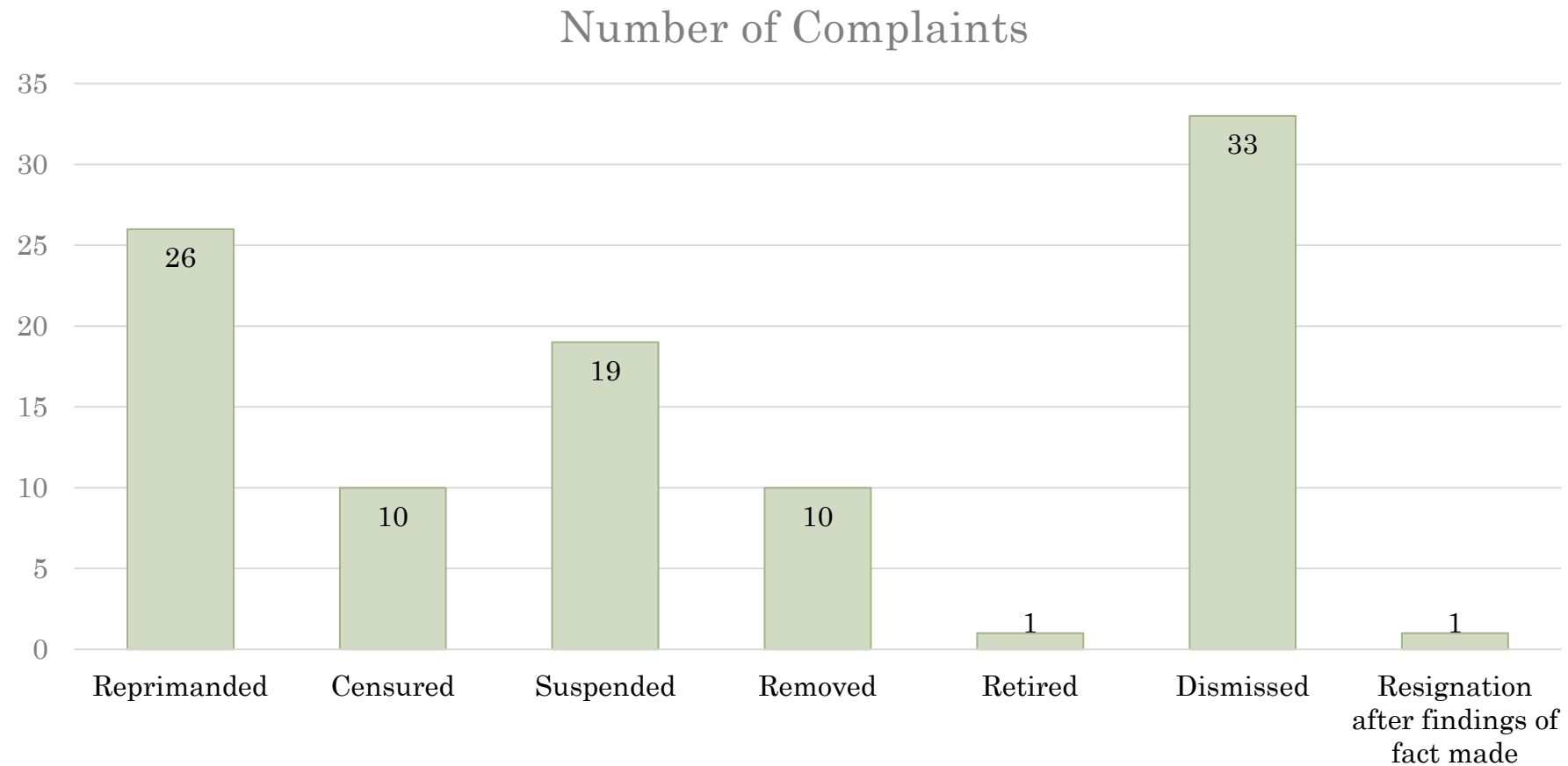
Censure

Suspension

Removal

Retirement

# Disposition of Commission Cases



# Illinois Courts Commission

[www.illinoiscourtscommission.gov](http://www.illinoiscourtscommission.gov)



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**Case Research**