



**NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY**

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY DEPARTMENT

Everything I can tell you about the PR
department in 30 minutes



WHO WE ARE

- Small department of 5
- Director, 2 Complaints & Investigation Counsels, Paralegal, Executive Assistant



WHAT IS OUR MAIN ROLE

- We investigate/resolve complaints against lawyers
- We received close to 300 complaints last year
- The majority of complaints (about 85%) will be dealt with at the staff level (resolution, dismissal, letter of advice)
- There has been a rise in serious/complex investigations in the last few years
- These are referred to the CIC



WHAT ELSE DO WE DO

- LFCCC claims
- Ethics advice
- Custodianships/receiverships
- UAP reports
- Support for various committees (CIC, FTPC, LFCCC, PRPPC, CPCC, CRC, HC)



HOW DO WE DO IT

- We all wear many different hats
- Early resolution is done mainly by Paralegal
- Investigation of complaints is done by Counsels with the assistance of EA



HOW WE MIGHT INTERACT WITH YOU

- Committees
- Investigation/legal representation
- Ethics advice
- Complaints process



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU HEAR FROM US

- Don't panic!
- Read what we sent you
- If there is a deadline, see if you can meet it
- Communicate with us
- Provide clear, concise and factual responses with copies of relevant documents



WHAT SHOULD YOU AVOID DOING

- Don't ignore us
- Don't leave it to the last minute
- Don't be afraid to contact us



WHY DO WE ASK FOR YOUR RESPONSE

- Address the allegations
- Better understand what happened
- Opportunity to provide your side
- Avoid complaint being returned on review



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM US

- Fairness and understanding
- Timely conclusion
- Periodic communications



QUESTIONS

- Any questions?



CONTACT INFORMATION

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