

1 have concerning our operation.

2 The Departmental Disciplinary Committee
3 was established by the Appellate Division,
4 First Department, to assist in the court's
5 role in disciplining attorneys in the First
6 Department, which consists of New York and
7 Bronx Counties. Members of the committee
8 are all appointed by the Appellate Division.
9 They are all volunteers.

10 There are approximately 80,000
11 attorneys in the First Department. As I
12 have indicated, Mr. Reardon is chairman of
13 the committee. The committee also receives
14 hands-on guidance from the Policy Committee
15 appointed by the Appellate Division from the
16 members of the committee. The Policy
17 Committee oversees the general functioning
18 of the committee and the staff and also
19 provides direction on pending issues.

20 Now, the Appellate Division has adopted
21 public rules and procedures governing the
22 Departmental Disciplinary Committee and
23 rules governing the conduct of attorneys.
24 These rules are available to the public,

1 together with the rules of professional
2 conduct which govern attorney conduct, on
3 the Departmental Disciplinary Committee
4 website, which is part of the Appellate
5 Division website.

6 Also available on the website is
7 information about the committee, including
8 information concerning how a complaint can
9 be filed. Information about filing a
10 complaint is also available to members of
11 the public who call or visit the committee's
12 offices. Complaint forms are available in
13 English, Spanish, and Chinese.

14 It is important to note that the
15 purpose of attorney discipline is not to
16 mediate disputes between attorneys and
17 clients or to vindicate the rights of
18 complainants. Such matters can best be
19 handled by the court system. Generally fee
20 disputes, issues of legal strategy, and
21 single incidents of malpractice that might
22 be addressed in a civil matter do not
23 constitute misconduct. The Appellate
24 Division and the committee must devote its