

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON ETHICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

CEJA Report 1 - A-05

Subject: Judicial Function of the Council on Ethical and Judicial
Affairs – Annual Report

Presented by: Michael S. Goldrich, MD, Chair

1 At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA) presented a
2 detailed explanation of its judicial function. This undertaking was motivated in part by the
3 considerable attention the concept of professionalism has received in many areas of medicine,
4 including the concept of professional self-regulation. The informational report addressed the
5 categories of physicians whose ethical conduct may be investigated (AMA members and applicants
6 for membership); the evidence CEJA considers when it makes a determination; the types of
7 disciplinary sanctions CEJA can impose; and other procedural aspects of the disciplinary peer
8 review process.

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10 With regard to the types of disciplinary sanctions CEJA can impose, the report listed the following
11 sanctions: rejection of an application; acceptance of an application, but conditioned on terms of
12 probation; expulsion of an existing member; probation of an existing member; suspension of an
13 existing member; or admonishment, reprimand, or censure. It also explained that decisions, to the
14 extent required under the procedures of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act, are reported to
15 the National Practitioner Data Bank and to the respective state or national medical specialty
16 societies.

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18 At the 2004 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates, CEJA also presented a report that
19 addressed Resolution 2, I-03, “Discipline of Impaired Physicians by CEJA,” in which a monitoring
20 status was explained further as an alternative to a reportable sanction.

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22 Finally, the 2003 informational report included a tabulation of CEJA’s judicial activities for the
23 year, which represented the first such annual report. In the appendix to this report, a tabulation of
24 CEJA’s most recent activities is presented.

Appendix

CEJA Judicial Function March 1, 2004 ~ March 1, 2005

Physician Members and/or Applicants	SUMMARY OF CEJA ACTIVITIES
3	Determination of no probable cause
16	Final determinations following a plenary hearing
13	Final determinations without a plenary hearing (hearing waived, offer of compromise accepted, or non-response to the offer of a hearing)

Physician Members and/or Applicants	FINAL DETERMINATION (by type of action taken)
1	No sanction or other type of action
9	Monitoring
10	Probation
6	Revocation (existing AMA members)
2	Suspension
1	Denial (applicants)
0	Censure/Admonishment

Physician Members and/or Applicants	PROBATION STATUS
29	Members currently on probation and reviewed semi-annually
3	Probation concluded during reporting interval

Physician Members and/or Applicants	REPORTS OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS
45	Initial letters notifying a physician of CEJA's review
30	Physicians currently under consideration by AMA staff for possible notification
200	Approximate number of cases closed after initial CEJA staff review.