



The State Bar Court *of California*

HON. RICHARD A. HONN
PRESIDING JUDGE
HON. MANJARI CHAWLA
SUPERVISING HEARING JUDGE

NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES

The Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California has approved amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the State Bar of California (Rules of Procedure) which will become effective January 1, 2025. Rule 5.19 has been added to the Rules of Procedure, and Standard 1.8 of the Standards for Attorney Sanctions for Professional Misconduct, Effect of Prior Discipline, has been amended.

New Rule 5.19 creates a new procedure for the court, on its own motion or on the motion of a party, to designate as a vexatious litigant any party who abuses the court's process or who has been designated as a vexatious litigant in another court. A party who repeatedly relitigates or attempts to relitigate issues already finally determined, who repeatedly files unmeritorious pleadings, or who engages in tactics that are in bad faith, frivolous, or solely intended to cause harassment and delay may be designated a vexatious litigant. The procedures require that the party be given notice and an opportunity to be heard before the court makes such a designation. Once a party is designated as a vexatious litigant, the court can impose appropriate requirements to control the party's conduct, including an order prohibiting the vexatious litigant from filing a motion, supplement, or amendment to any pleading without first obtaining leave of the court.

The changes to Standard 1.8 will give the court greater discretion when determining the sanction to be applied when a lawyer has a previous record of discipline.

The newly revised, fully updated Rules of Procedure are available on the State Bar Court's website. The revised Rules incorporate rule 5.19, the changes to Standard 1.8 and also the changes previously published in the supplement dated November 25, 2024.