

## Discipline Committee

When the Professional Conduct Committee lays charges of professional misconduct against a member, student, professional corporation or firm (referred to hereafter as a respondent), a formal hearing is held before the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee's members are appointed by the Council and consist of Institute members and public representatives. Hearings are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* and the bylaws of the Institute and are open to the public unless an application that they be held in camera is granted; such applications are rarely granted.

At the hearing, legal counsel to the Professional Conduct Committee acts as prosecutor and presents evidence in support of the charges. Witnesses are examined and cross-examined, and evidence is presented generally as it would be in a civil trial. The Discipline Committee has the authority to issue summonses for witnesses at the request of either the prosecution or the respondent charged.

After considering all the evidence and listening to arguments from both the Professional Conduct Committee and the respondent, the Discipline Committee makes its decision. Courses of action open to the committee include:

- A decision of not guilty
- A decision of guilty and an order or orders that the:
  - Respondent be reprimanded
  - Respondent be fined
  - Respondent be charged costs of the hearing
  - Member or student be suspended from the Institute
  - Student be struck off the register of students
  - Member be expelled from membership in the Institute
  - Member satisfactorily complete a professional development course or courses and/or an examination and/or engage an advisor or tutor
  - Respondent complete a period of supervised practice
  - Respondent be re-investigated by the Professional Conduct Committee
  - Practice of public accounting by the respondent be restricted for a specified period of time
  - Member or student be disciplined in such other manner as the committee may determine
  - Respondent establish or complete a professional training program
  - Respondent establish, maintain and uphold quality control procedures for the practice
  - Decision and order(s) be publicized with or without the respondent's name.

Either the respondent found guilty of professional misconduct, or the Professional Conduct Committee may appeal a decision or order of the Discipline Committee to the Institute's Appeal Committee.

More information may be found at: [http://www.icao.on.ca//index.cfm/ci\\_id/564.htm](http://www.icao.on.ca//index.cfm/ci_id/564.htm)