

# Judicial Council

**Michael Kesselbrenner, MD, Chair**  
**Reference Committee B**

The Judicial Council of the Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ) serves as the dispute resolution arm of MSNJ. The Council receives and reviews complaints from the public and others regarding physician conduct, billing practices, and various disputes. The Council accepts complaints, refers matters that involve an MSNJ member physician to local judicial councils for review and decision. Decisions of the Judicial Council and local judicial committees are binding.

Original jurisdiction concerning complaints rests with the judicial committee of county medical society in which the subject physician holds membership. The MSNJ Judicial Council holds appellate jurisdiction.

In 2010-2011 the office for the Judicial Council received 7 complaints from various sources. Of those complaints, 5 were referred to county medical societies. The rest involving non-members, the complainants were referred to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners and to the New Jersey Department of Consumers Affairs.

For the same 2010-2011 period the MSNJ Member Resource Center (MRC) received approximately 107 patient complaints via phone and through web inquiries. Of these 23 pertained to member physicians and were referred to the appropriate county medical society.

Also during 2010-2011 the MSNJ Member Resource Center researched a project to allow complaints to be filed online. However due to the extensive computer programming required to perform this function, and the high costs associated, this project is on hold.

At the May 15, 2010 Judicial Council Annual meeting, the Council briefly discussed the process for appointment of the fifth member of the Judicial Council. This appointment is still pending.