

BBO Launches In-House Commissioner Program

The BBO is proud to announce that its in-house commissioner program is now underway. Massachusetts is one of the first states in the country to implement this type of program through its oversight board. To accomplish this, the BBO expanded its legal staff with an additional lawyer, Michelle Yu. Ms. Yu, a graduate of New England Law, Boston and formerly an investigator in the Office of Bar Counsel, will handle the day-to-day operations of the commissioner program under the title “Legal Program Manager” in coordination with General Counsel or one of the Assistant General Counsel.

A commissioner is typically appointed when an attorney dies, becomes disabled, or unexpectedly disappears without a succession plan in place, or when an attorney is suspended and fails properly to close their practice. Bringing the program in-house at the BBO will allow for a consistent, professionalized approach.

We look to the bar to share with anyone who may need this service the information about our in-house commissioner initiative. Interested parties could include a surviving spouse of a lawyer who has died, a relative or friend of a lawyer who has become incapacitated, a colleague of a lawyer who has left practice unexpectedly, or anyone else faced with the need promptly and efficiently to identify and protect at-risk clients.

We hope this new service will be of value to the public and the bar and are proud of the fact that the BBO will be able to provide it in-house. It is our expectation that our in-house commissioner program and the related public education campaign will greatly enhance and strengthen the integrity of the bar, the administration of justice, and the protection of the public.