



The
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

October 16, 2020 | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Disciplinary Board believes that succession planning is essential to every attorney's practice. Recognizing that the future is unpredictable, attorneys should strive to lessen the impact of unexpected interruption in their relationships with clients by taking protective measures. During the annual registration process, the Disciplinary Board surveyed Pennsylvania attorneys regarding their plans to protect client interests in the event of the attorney's death or disability. The question was designed for informational purposes only as failure to have a designated successor is NOT a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

Attorneys were provided four options for response:

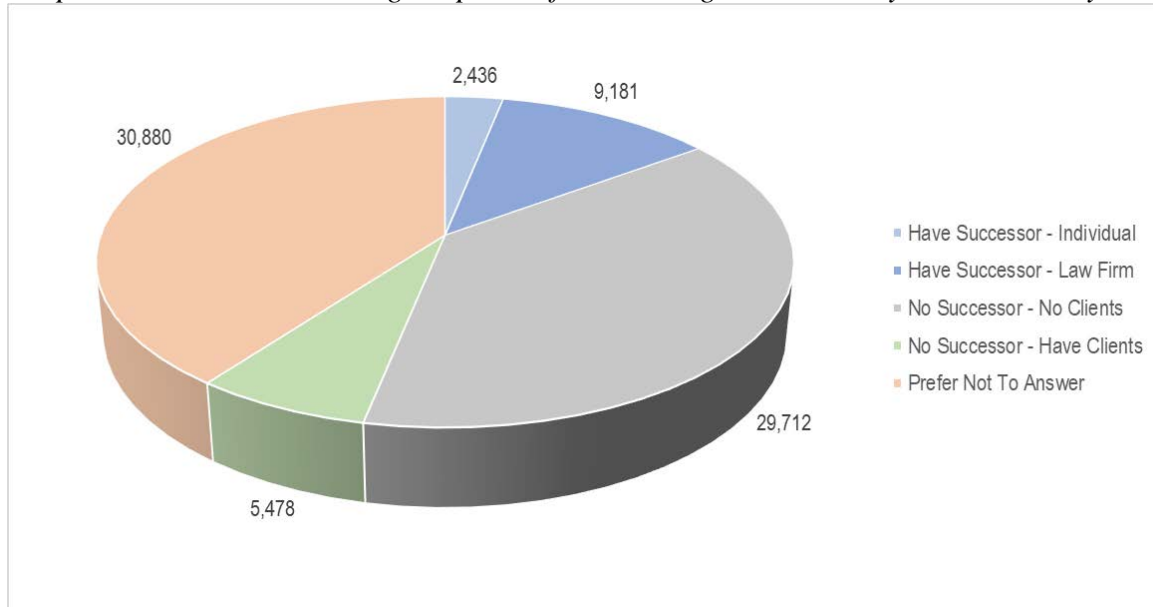
- *In the event of my death or incapacity, I have made arrangements for another Pennsylvania attorney, who is capable of conducting and/or overseeing my legal practice, to protect the interests of my client(s). My designated successor is:*
 - *An Individual; or,*
 - *A Law Firm.*
- *I do not have a designated successor because I do not have Pennsylvania clients.*
- *I do not have a designated successor and I do have Pennsylvania clients.*
- *Prefer Not to Answer.*

The table and graph below reflect the data received from all registered Pennsylvania attorneys (including all active and inactive licenses statuses).

Table 1. Succession Planning Responses from All Registered Pennsylvania Attorneys.

Response	Total	%
I have a successor attorney. My successor is an individual.	2,436	3.14 %
I have a successor attorney. My successor is a law firm.	9,181	11.82 %
I do not have a successor because I do not have PA clients.	29,712	38.24 %
I do not have a successor and I do have PA clients.	5,478	7.05 %
Prefer not to answer.	30,880	39.75 %
TOTAL	77,687	100.00 %

Graph 1. Succession Planning Responses from All Registered Pennsylvania Attorneys.



The table and graph below reflect the data received from attorneys who are registered as Active, which includes the following statuses: Active, In-House Corporate Counsel, Temporary Licensee, and Foreign Legal Consultant.

Table 2. Succession Planning Responses from Active Pennsylvania Attorneys.

Response	Total	%
I have a successor attorney. My successor is an individual.	2,361	3.65 %
I have a successor attorney. My successor is a law firm.	8,959	13.86 %
I do not have a successor because I do not have PA clients.	19,947	30.86 %
I do not have a successor and I do have PA clients.	5,283	8.17 %
Prefer not to answer.	28,088	43.45 %
TOTAL	64,638	100.00 %

Graph 2. Succession Planning Responses from Active Pennsylvania Attorneys.

