

# Committee on the Defense of the Professional Rights of Philosophers

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## *2012-2013 Membership*

Larry May, chair (2014)

Christopher Green (2013)

Amy Kind (2014)

Leemon McHenry (2014)

Paul Saka (2013)

Steven Wagner (2015)

Margaret Walker (2015)

Cheshire Calhoun, supernumerary (2014)

Catherine Elgin, *ex officio* (2013)

Paula Gottlieb, *ex officio* (2015)

Manuel Vargas, *ex officio* (2014)

# Report of the Committee on the Defense of Professional Rights of Philosophers

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*Larry May, Chair*  
*September 2013*

During the 2012-2013 academic year the Defense Committee had three major cases presented to us by members alleging violation of professional rights by their universities. Two of them consumed many hours of our committee. In the first case, the committee decided that the APA should censure a university for violations of rights during a tenure review. In the second case, we wrote a strong letter of concern to a university that was on the verge of terminating one of our members in the midst of a contract. We also received a third case that never made it to the full committee. Nonetheless many hours were consumed trying to determine if there was a clear professional rights violation before the complainant decided to pursue legal action rather than to continue with a complaint through our committee. We remain concerned that universities are increasingly not cooperating with our committee forcing us to make determinations often on the basis of only one side to a dispute. In addition, we are seeing an increase in cases that are pursued through the courts at the same time that complaints are filed with our committee, making university cooperation with our investigation less and less likely while the matter is under litigation.