



**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

424 S. Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 • 217.525.1760 • isba.org

Sent electronically to: RulesCommittee@Illinoiscourts.gov

January 26, 2022

Committee Secretary
Supreme Court Rules Committee
222 N. LaSalle St., 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Proposal 21-08 (P.R. 0301)(New Rules)

Dear Rules Committee:

On behalf of its more than 27,000 members, the Illinois State Bar Association **supports** the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee's proposal to adopt a new Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct.

The current Judicial Code largely has been in place since 1993. As highlighted by the IJEC proposal, opportunities exist for the current Judicial Code to be reorganized, updated, and improved. As reflected in the IJEC's detailed Report and Recommendations accompanying its proposal, much of the substance of the current Code is left in place. Importantly, however, it reorganizes the structure of the Judicial Code to follow the 2007 ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct (already adopted by most other states). This has several practical benefits for the bench and bar primarily by facilitating comprehensive understanding and guidance on common issues that have been addressed by other jurisdictions. (Notwithstanding this reorganization to more closely follow the ABA Model Rule format, the IJEC proposal does continue to accommodate Illinois specific precedent and policy.) The IJEC proposal also updates the Code to address new issues facing judges like social media, changes in recognized family relationships, and economic reporting concerns. Finally, the proposal clarifies several issues which the IJEC has over the years found to be challenging for those seeking guidance.

The ISBA expresses its appreciation to the IJEC, an independent joint committee of the ISBA, Chicago Bar Association, and Illinois Judges Association, for its many years of service to the Illinois bench and bar. Because of the IJEC's unique position and subject matter expertise, the ISBA believes that adoption of the IJEC proposal will improve, and strengthen the public's confidence in, the administration of justice in Illinois.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments with respect to the IJEC proposal to adopt a new Illinois Judicial Code.

Very truly yours,

Anna Krolikowska

Anna Krolikowska
President, Illinois State Bar Association