

## **CANON 1**

A JUDGE SHALL UPHOLD AND PROMOTE THE INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY, AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE JUDICIARY AND SHALL AVOID IMPROPRIETY AND THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY IN ALL OF THE JUDGE'S ACTIVITIES.

### **COMMENTS**

- [1] An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable for creating and preserving public trust and confidence in the legal system. This Code shall be construed and applied to further this objective.

### **RULE 1.1: COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW**

A judge shall comply with the law,\* including the Code.

### **RULE 1.2: PROMOTING CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY**

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence,\* integrity,\* and impartiality\* of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety\* and the appearance of impropriety.

### **COMMENTS**

- [1] Public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by improper conduct and conduct that creates the appearance of impropriety. This principle applies to both the professional and personal conduct of a judge.
- [2] A judge should expect to be the subject of public scrutiny that might be viewed as burdensome if applied to other citizens and must accept the restrictions imposed by the Code.
- [3] Conduct that compromises or appears to compromise the independence, integrity, and impartiality of a judge undermines public confidence in the judiciary. Because it is not practicable to list all such conduct, the Rule is necessarily cast in general terms.
- [4] Judges should participate in activities that promote ethical conduct among judges and lawyers, support professionalism within the judiciary and the legal profession, and promote access to justice for all.

- [5] Actual improprieties include violations of law, court rules, or provisions of this Code. The test for appearance of impropriety is whether the conduct would create in reasonable minds a perception that the judge violated this Code or engaged in other conduct that reflects adversely on the judge's honesty, impartiality, temperament, or fitness to serve as a judge.
- [6] A judge should initiate and participate in community outreach activities for the purpose of promoting public understanding of and confidence in the administration of justice. In conducting such activities, the judge must act in a manner consistent with this Code.

**RULE 1.3: AVOIDING MISUSE OF THE PRESTIGE OF JUDICIAL OFFICE**

A judge shall not misuse the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests\* of the judge or others or allow others to do so.

**COMMENTS**

- [1] It is improper to use or attempt to use the judge's position to gain personal advantage or deferential treatment of any kind. For example, it would be improper to allude to judicial status to gain favorable treatment in encounters with traffic officials. Similarly, a judge must not use the judicial title in letterhead, e-mails, or any other form of communication, including social media or social networking platforms, to gain an advantage in conducting personal business.
- [2] Judges may provide a reference or recommendation for an individual based on the judge's personal knowledge. Judicial stationery may be used for references and recommendations.
- [3] Judges may participate in the process of judicial selection, except as otherwise prohibited or restricted by Canon 4.
- [4] [Reserved]

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