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VIA EMAIL

January 21, 2022

Supreme Court of Illinois Rules Committee
222 N. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Members of the Supreme Court of Illinois Rules Committee,

On behalf of the Chicago Bar Association, I am writing in support of the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee (IJE) proposal to implement a new Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct.

For thirty years, the IJE has responded to ethics inquiries from judges and judicial candidates through either immediate oral responses, or more detailed formal opinions. In responding to such inquiries, the Committee has relied on the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct, and opinions issued by IJE, bodies like IJE and courts.

They have worked for several years on the proposal for the new Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct. The proposal aligns the structuring and numbering of the Code provisions with the 2007 revision of the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct, which has been adopted by a majority of states, to facilitate access to decisional law and ethics opinions. The IJE incorporated provisions to address the impact of social media, changes in recognized family relations, and economic forces warranting changes to monetary thresholds for reporting assets and indebtedness. The proposal also clarifies provisions the IJE's experience has shown challenging to judges seeking guidance on ethical issues.

The CBA appreciates the time, talent, and dedication of the IJE in drafting the proposed Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct and we strongly support the adoption of the proposal.

Very truly yours.

E. Lynn Grayson
President

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