

JUDICIAL ETHICS

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Conference

Ethics – is derived from the Ancient Greek word **ethikos**, meaning “relating to one’s character”. The root word of ethikos is **ethos** “character, moral nature”.

JUDGE

- Judge has a Latin origin and comes from iudicem,(I-U-DEE-KEM) that constitutes of ius 'right, law' and the root dicere 'to say. ' In the sense of a public official responsible for administering justice in a court of law, the word judge was mentioned for the first time in the Bible of

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT RULE 10

CANNON 1⁴ CANONS

1.1 COMPLY WITH THE LAW

**1.2 PROMOTE CONFIDENCE IN
JUDICIARY**

**1.3 AVOID THE ABUSE OF
JUDICIAL OFFICE**

CANON 2

- **2.1 JUDICIAL OFFICE TAKES PRECEDENCE**
- **2.2 PERFORM DUTIES FAIRLY AND IMPARTIALLY**
- **2.3 BE FREE FROM BIAS, PREJUDICE, AND HARASSMENT**
- **2.4 DON'T BE INFLUENCED BY EXTERNAL THINGS**
- **2.5 BE COMPETENT, PROMPT, AND DILIGENT**
- **2.6 ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**
- **2.7 ITS JUDGES RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE**
- **2.8 REQUIRE ORDER & DECORUM, HAVE GOOD DEMEANOR, DON'T CRITICIZE**

CANON 2 CONTINUED

- **2.9 AVOID EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**
- **2.10 DON'T MAKE STATEMENTS ON PENDING CASES**
- **2.11 DISQUALIFY YOURSELF WHEN ITS APPROPRIATE**
- **2.12 SUPERVISE COURT STAFF AND OFFICIALS**
- **2.13 APPOINT APPROPRIATE PEOPLE TO ROLES**
- **2.14 REPORT WHEN LAWYERS OR JUDGES ARE IMPAIRED**
- **2.15 REPORT MISCONDUCT**
- **2.16 COOPERATE WITH DISCIPLINARY**

CANON 3

- **3.1 AVOID EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITIES THAT INTERFERE WITH JOB DUTIES OR UNDERMINE JUDICIARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITY**
- **3.2 DON'T VOLUNTARILY GO TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR CONSULT WITH AN EXECUTIVE OR LEGISLATIVE BODY UNLESS ITS APPROPRIATE**
- **3.3 DON'T TESTIFY AS A CHARACTER WITNESS UNLESS SUBPOENAED**
- **3.4 AVOID APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS UNLESS IT RELATES TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM**

CANON 3 CONTINUED

- **3.5 DON'T DISCLOSE NONPUBLIC INFORMATION**
- **3.6 DON'T AFFILIATE WITH DISCRIMINATORY ORGANIZATIONS**
- **3.7 BE SMART WITH EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE, FRATERNAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS**
- **3.8 AVOID APPOINTMENTS FOR FIDUCIARY POSITIONS**
- **3.9 DON'T BE AN ARBITRATOR OR MEDIATOR**
- **3.10 DON'T PRACTICE LAW AND WRAP UP PRACTICE WITHIN 180 DAYS**

CANON 3 CONTINUED

- **3.11 DON'T LET INVESTMENTS INTERFERE**
- **3.12 MAKE SURE COMPENSATION FOR EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITIES IS REASONABLE**
- **3.13 BE SMART ABOUT RECEIVING GIFTS**
- **3.14 BE SMART ABOUT REIMBURSEMENT**
- **3.15 REPORT REQUIRED**
COMPENSATION RECEIVED

CANON 4

- **4.1 AVOID POLITICS BEST YOU CAN**
- **4.2 DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS-ACT APPROPRIATELY AND FOLLOW RULE 4.2**
- **4.3 APPOINTIVE CANDIDATE JUDGES CAN COMMUNICATE DIFFERENTLY AND SEEK ENDORSEMENTS**
- **4.4 CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES – BE SMART DURING ELECTIONS – CANDIDATE IS RESPONSIBLE**
- **4.5 NONJUDICIAL OFFICES – UPON BECOMING CANDIDATE FOR NONJUDICIAL ELECTIVE THE JUDGE MUST RESIGN**
- **4.5 UPON BECOMING CANDIDATE FOR NONJUDICIAL APPOINTED OFFICE – NOT REQUIRED TO RESIGN IF COMPLIANT**
- **NO JUDICIAL CANDIDATE CAN NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY BE CANDIDATE FOR ELECTED NONJUDICIAL POSITION**

JUDGES GONE WRONG

- In Utah, a judge texted a video of a man's scrotum to court clerks. He was reprimanded but remains on the bench.
- In Indiana, three judges attending a conference last spring got drunk and sparked a 3 a.m. brawl outside a White Castle fast-food restaurant that ended with two of the judges shot. Although the state supreme court found the three judges had “discredited the entire Indiana judiciary,” each returned to the bench after a suspension.
- In Texas, a judge burst in on jurors deliberating the case of a woman charged with sex trafficking and declared that God told him the defendant was innocent. The offending judge received a warning and returned to the bench. The defendant was convicted after a new judge took over the case.

JUDGES GONE WRONG

- **131 Federal Judges Broke the Law by Hearing Cases Where They Had a Financial Interest**
- **The judges failed to recuse themselves from 685 lawsuits from 2010 to 2018 involving firms in which they or their family held shares, a Wall Street Journal investigation found**

JUDGES GONE WRONG

- **Judge Wade Harper McCree, formerly of the 3rd Circuit Court in Wayne County, Michigan, was removed from the bench for conducting an affair with Geniene La'Shay Mott, a party to a child support case over which McCree was presiding. McCree failed to recuse himself from her case while he engaged in sexual intercourse with Mott in his judicial chambers and traded lurid texts with her while working**

JUDGE QUOTES

- If you're going to be a good and faithful judge, you have to resign yourself to the fact that you're not always going to like the conclusions you reach. If you like them all the time, you're probably doing something wrong.

QUOTES ABOUT JUDGES

A good judge remembers what it was like to be a lawyer.