

## CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

[Note: The following Code of Judicial Conduct of the American Bar Association, as amended by the New Jersey Supreme Court, replaces the Canons of Judicial Ethics of the American Bar Association.]

- Canon 1. A Judge Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary
- Canon 2. A Judge Should Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All Activities
- Canon 3. A Judge Should Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently
- Canon 4. A Judge May Engage in Activities to Improve the Law, the Legal System, and the Administration of Justice
- Canon 5. A Judge Shall so Conduct the Judge's Extra-Judicial Activities as to Minimize the Risk of Conflict With Judicial Obligations
- Canon 6. A Judge Shall Not Receive Compensation for Quasi-Judicial and Extra-Judicial Activities
- Canon 7. A Judge Shall Refrain From Political Activity
- Applicability - Compliance With the Code of Judicial Conduct

### **Canon 1. A Judge Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary**

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing, and should personally observe, high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further that objective.

### **Canon 2. A Judge Should Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All Activities**

A. A judge should respect and comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

**B. A judge should not allow family, social, political, or other relationships to influence judicial conduct or judgment. A judge should not lend the prestige of office to advance the private interests of others; nor should a judge convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position of influence. A judge shall not testify as a character witness.**

C. A judge shall not hold membership in any organization that practices invidious discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

**Commentary:** Public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by irresponsible or improper conduct by judges. A judge must avoid all impropriety and appearance of impropriety and must expect to be the subject of constant public scrutiny. A judge must therefore accept restrictions on personal conduct that might be viewed as burdensome by the ordinary citizen and should do so freely and willingly.

The testimony of a judge as a character witness injects the prestige of the office into the proceeding in which the judge testifies and may be misunderstood to be an official testimonial. This Canon, however, does not afford a judge a privilege against testifying as a witness as to evidentiary facts of which the judge has personal knowledge.