

## CANON 3

### **A JUDGE SHALL CONDUCT THE JUDGE'S PERSONAL AND EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITIES TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF CONFLICT WITH THE OBLIGATIONS OF JUDICIAL OFFICE.**

#### **RULE 3.1**

##### **Extrajudicial Activities in General**

A judge may engage in extrajudicial activities, except as prohibited by *law* or this Code. However, when engaging in extrajudicial activities, a judge shall not:

(A) participate in activities that will interfere with the proper performance of the judge's judicial duties;

(B) participate in activities that will lead to frequent disqualification of the judge;

(C) participate in activities that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judge's *independence, integrity, or impartiality*; or demean the judicial office; or

(D) engage in conduct that would appear to a reasonable person to be coercive.

#### **COMMENT**

[1] To the extent that time permits, and judicial independence and impartiality are not compromised, judges are encouraged to engage in appropriate extrajudicial activities. Judges are uniquely qualified to engage in extrajudicial activities that concern the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice, such as by speaking, writing, teaching, or participating in scholarly research projects. In addition, judges are permitted and encouraged to engage in educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic extrajudicial activities not conducted for profit, even when the activities do not involve the law. See Rule 3.7.

[2] Participation in both law-related and other extrajudicial activities helps integrate judges into their communities, and furthers public understanding of and respect for courts and the judicial system.

[3] Discriminatory actions and expressions of bias or prejudice by a judge, even outside the judge's official or judicial actions, are likely to appear to a reasonable person to call into question the judge's integrity and impartiality. Examples include jokes or other remarks that demean individuals based upon their race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. For the same reason, a judge's extrajudicial activities must not be conducted in connection or affiliation with an organization that practices invidious discrimination. See Rule 3.6.

[4] While engaged in permitted extrajudicial activities, judges must not coerce others or take action that would reasonably be perceived as coercive. For example, depending upon the circumstances, a judge's solicitation of contributions or memberships for an organization, even as permitted by Rule 3.7(A),

might create the risk that the person solicited would feel obligated to respond favorably, or would do so to curry favor with the judge.

## **RULE 3.2**

### **Appearances Before Governmental Bodies and Consultation with Government Officials**

A judge shall not appear voluntarily at a public hearing before, or otherwise consult with, an executive or a legislative body or official, except:

(A) in connection with matters concerning the *law*, the legal system, or the administration of justice; or

(B) when the judge is acting *pro se* in a matter involving the judge's legal or *economic interests*, or when the judge is acting in a *fiduciary* capacity.

#### **COMMENT**

[1] Judges possess special expertise in matters of law, the legal system, and the administration of justice, and may properly share that expertise with governmental bodies and executive or legislative branch officials.

[2] In appearing before governmental bodies or consulting with government officials, judges must be mindful that they remain subject to other provisions of this Code, such as Rule 1.3, prohibiting judges from using the prestige of office to advance their own or others' interests, Rule 2.10, governing public comment on pending and impending matters, and Rule 3.1(C), prohibiting judges from engaging in extrajudicial activities that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality.

[3] In general, it would be an unnecessary and unfair burden to prohibit judges from appearing before governmental bodies or consulting with government officials on matters that are likely to affect them as private citizens, such as zoning proposals affecting their real property. In engaging in such activities, however, judges must not refer to their judicial positions, and must otherwise exercise caution to avoid using the prestige of judicial office.

## **RULE 3.3**

### **Testifying as a Character Witness**

A judge shall not testify as a character witness in a judicial, administrative, or other adjudicatory proceeding or otherwise vouch for the character of a person in a legal proceeding, except when duly summoned.

#### **COMMENT**

A judge who, without being subpoenaed, testifies as a character witness inappropriately uses the prestige of judicial office to advance the interests of another. See Rule 1.3. Except in unusual circumstances where the demands of justice require, a judge should discourage a party from requiring the judge to testify as a character witness.

## **RULE 3.4**

### **Appointments to Governmental Positions**

A judge shall not accept appointment to a governmental committee, board, commission, or other governmental position, unless it is one that concerns the *law*, the legal system, or the administration of justice.

#### **COMMENT**

[1] Rule 3.4 implicitly acknowledges the value of judges accepting appointments to entities that concern the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. Even in such instances, however, a judge should assess the appropriateness of accepting an appointment, paying particular attention to the subject matter of the appointment and the availability and allocation of judicial resources, including the judge's time commitments, and giving due regard to the requirements of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

[2] A judge may represent his or her country, state, or locality on ceremonial occasions or in connection with historical, educational, or cultural activities. Such representation does not constitute acceptance of a government position.

## **RULE 3.5**

### **Use of *Nonpublic Information***

A judge shall not intentionally disclose or use *nonpublic information* acquired in a judicial capacity for any purpose unrelated to the judge's judicial duties.

#### **COMMENT**

[1] In the course of performing judicial duties, a judge may acquire information of commercial or other value that is unavailable to the public. The judge must not reveal or use such information for personal gain or for any purpose unrelated to his or her judicial duties.

[2] This rule is not intended, however, to affect a judge's ability to act on information as necessary to protect the health or safety of the judge or others if consistent with other provisions of this Code.

## **RULE 3.6**

### **Affiliation with Discriminatory Organizations**

(A) A judge shall not hold membership in any organization that practices *invidious discrimination* on the basis of race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

(B) A judge shall not use the benefits or facilities of an organization if the judge *knows* or should know that the organization practices *invidious discrimination* on one or more of the bases identified in paragraph (A). A judge's attendance at an event in a facility of an organization that the judge is not permitted to join is not a violation of this Rule when the

judge's attendance is an isolated event that could not reasonably be perceived as an endorsement of the organization's practices.

#### **COMMENT**

[1] A judge's public manifestation of approval of invidious discrimination on any basis gives rise to the appearance of impropriety and diminishes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. A judge's membership in an organization that practices invidious discrimination creates the perception that the judge's impartiality is impaired.

[2] An organization is generally said to discriminate invidiously if it arbitrarily excludes from membership on the basis of race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or sexual orientation persons who would otherwise be eligible for admission. Whether an organization practices invidious discrimination is a complex question to which judges should be attentive. The answer cannot be determined from a mere examination of an organization's current membership rolls, but rather, depends upon how the organization selects members, as well as other relevant factors, such as whether the organization is dedicated to the preservation of religious, ethnic, or cultural values of legitimate common interest to its members, or whether it is an intimate, purely private organization whose membership limitations could not constitutionally be prohibited.

[3] When a judge learns that an organization to which the judge belongs engages in invidious discrimination, the judge must resign immediately from the organization.

[4] A judge's membership in a religious organization as a lawful exercise of the freedom of religion is not a violation of this Rule.

[5] This Rule does not apply to national or state military service.

### **RULE 3.7**

#### **Participation in Educational, Religious, Charitable, Fraternal, or Civic Organizations and Activities**

(A) Subject to the requirements of Rule 3.1, a judge may participate in activities sponsored by organizations or governmental entities concerned with the *law*, the legal system, or the administration of justice, and those sponsored by or on behalf of educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations not conducted for profit, including but not limited to the following activities:

(1) assisting such an organization or entity in planning related to fund-raising, and participating in the management and investment of the organization's or entity's funds;

(2) soliciting *contributions* for such an organization or entity, but only from *members of the judge's family*, or from judges over whom the judge does not exercise supervisory or appellate authority;

(3) soliciting membership for such an organization or entity, even though the membership dues or fees generated may be used to

support the objectives of the organization or entity, but only if the organization or entity is concerned with the *law*, the legal system, or the administration of justice;

(4) appearing or speaking at, receiving an award or other recognition at, being featured on the program of, and permitting his or her title to be used in connection with an event of such an organization or entity, but if the event serves a fund-raising purpose, the judge may participate only if the event concerns the *law*, the legal system, or the administration of justice;

(5) making recommendations to such a public or private fund-granting organization or entity in connection with its programs and activities, but only if the organization or entity is concerned with the *law*, the legal system, or the administration of justice; and

(6) serving as an officer, director, trustee, or nonlegal advisor of such an organization or entity, unless it is likely that the organization or entity:

(a) will be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come before the judge; or

(b) will frequently be engaged in adversary proceedings in the court of which the judge is a member, or in any court subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the court of which the judge is a member.

(B) A judge may encourage lawyers to provide pro bono legal services.

## COMMENT

[1] The activities permitted by paragraph (A) generally include those sponsored by or undertaken on behalf of public or private not-for-profit educational institutions, and other not-for-profit organizations, including law-related, charitable, and other organizations.

[2] Even for law-related organizations, a judge should consider whether the membership and purposes of the organization, or the nature of the judge's participation in or association with the organization, would conflict with the judge's obligation to refrain from activities that reflect adversely upon a judge's independence, integrity, and impartiality.

[3] Mere attendance at an event, whether or not the event serves a fund-raising purpose, does not constitute a violation of paragraph (A)(4). It is also generally permissible for a judge to serve as an usher or a food server or preparer, or to perform similar functions, at fund-raising events sponsored by educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations so long as such activities are not solicitation and do not present an element of coercion or inappropriately use the prestige of judicial office.

[4] The letterhead may list the judge's title or judicial office if comparable designations are used for other persons. Identification of a judge's position in educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations on letterhead

is appropriate so long as the letterhead is not used for fund-raising or membership solicitation.

[5] In addition to appointing lawyers to serve as counsel for indigent parties in individual cases, a judge may promote broader access to justice by encouraging lawyers to participate in pro bono legal services, if in doing so the judge does not employ coercion, or inappropriately use the prestige of judicial office. Such encouragement may take many forms, including providing lists of available programs, training lawyers to do pro bono legal work, and participating in events recognizing lawyers who have done pro bono work.

## **RULE 3.8**

### **Appointments to *Fiduciary* Positions**

(A) A judge shall not accept appointment to serve in a *fiduciary* position, such as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, attorney in fact, or other personal representative, except for the estate, trust, or person of a *member of the judge's family*, and then only if such service will not interfere with the proper performance of judicial duties.

(B) A judge shall not serve in a *fiduciary* position if the judge as *fiduciary* will likely be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come before the judge, or if the estate, trust, or ward becomes involved in adversary proceedings in the court on which the judge serves, or one under its appellate jurisdiction.

(C) A judge acting in a *fiduciary* capacity shall be subject to the same restrictions on engaging in financial activities that apply to a judge personally.

(D) If a person who is serving in a *fiduciary* position becomes a judge, he or she must comply with this Rule as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event later than one year after becoming a judge.

#### **COMMENT**

A judge should recognize that other restrictions imposed by this Code may conflict with a judge's obligations as a fiduciary; in such circumstances, a judge should resign as fiduciary. For example, serving as a fiduciary might require frequent disqualification of a judge under Rule 2.11 because a judge is deemed to have an economic interest in shares of stock held by a trust if the amount of stock held is more than de minimis.

## **RULE 3.9**

### **Service as Arbitrator or Mediator**

A judge shall not act as an arbitrator or mediator or otherwise perform judicial functions in a private capacity unless expressly authorized by *law*.

## COMMENT

Rule 3.9 does not prohibit a judge from participating in arbitration, mediation or settlement conferences performed as part of judicial duties.

## RULE 3.10

### Practice of Law

A judge must not practice *law*. A judge may act pro se and may, without compensation, give legal advice to and draft or review documents for a *member of the judge's family*, but the judge is prohibited from serving as the family member's lawyer in any forum. This rule does not prohibit the practice of law pursuant to, and in the context of, a judge's military service.

## COMMENT

[1] A judge may act pro se in all legal matters, including matters involving litigation and matters involving appearances before or other dealings with governmental bodies. A judge must not use the prestige of office to advance the judge's personal or family interests. See Rule 1.3.

[2] A judge will remain subject to conflict of interest and impropriety constraints. See Rule 2.11.

[3] A judge or court staff does not violate this rule by supervising a research attorney working for the Kansas Judicial Branch under a legal intern permit or a temporary permit to practice law. See Supreme Court Rules 715 and 718.

[**History:** Am. effective March 1, 2018; [Am. effective December 8, 2022.](#)]

## RULE 3.11

### Financial, Business, or Remunerative Activities

(A) A judge may hold and manage investments of the judge and *members of the judge's family*.

(B) A judge shall not serve as an officer, director, manager, general partner, advisor, or employee of any business entity except that a judge may manage or participate in:

(1) a business closely held by the judge or *members of the judge's family*; or

(2) a business entity primarily engaged in investment of the financial resources of the judge or *members of the judge's family*.

(C) A judge shall not engage in financial activities permitted under paragraphs (A) and (B) if they will:

(1) interfere with the proper performance of judicial duties;

(2) lead to frequent disqualification of the judge;

- (3) involve the judge in frequent transactions or continuing business relationships with lawyers or other persons likely to come before the court on which the judge serves; or
- (4) result in violation of other provisions of this Code.

**COMMENT**

[1] Judges are generally permitted to engage in financial activities, including managing real estate and other investments for themselves or for members of their families. Participation in these activities, like participation in other extrajudicial activities, is subject to the requirements of this Code. For example, it would be improper for a judge to spend so much time on business activities that it interferes with the performance of judicial duties. See Rule 2.1. Similarly, it would be improper for a judge to use his or her official title or appear in judicial robes in business advertising, or to conduct his or her business or financial affairs in such a way that disqualification is frequently required. See Rules 1.3 and 2.11.

[2] As soon as practicable without serious financial detriment, the judge must divest himself or herself of investments and other financial interests that might require frequent disqualification or otherwise violate this Rule.

**RULE 3.12**

**Compensation for Extrajudicial Activities**

A judge may accept reasonable compensation for extrajudicial activities permitted by this Code or other *law* unless such acceptance would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judge's *independence, integrity, or impartiality*.

**COMMENT**

[1] A judge is permitted to accept honoraria, stipends, fees, wages, salaries, royalties, or other compensation for speaking, teaching, writing, and other extrajudicial activities, provided the compensation is reasonable, commensurate with the task performed, and does not exceed what a person who is not a judge would receive for the same activity. The judge should be mindful, however, that judicial duties must take precedence over other activities. See Rule 2.1.

[2] Compensation derived from extrajudicial activities may be subject to public reporting. See Rule 3.15.

**RULE 3.13**

**Acceptance and Reporting of Gifts, Loans, Bequests, Benefits, or Other Things of Value**

(A) A judge shall not accept any gifts, loans, bequests, benefits, or other things of value, if acceptance is prohibited by *law* or would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judge's *independence, integrity, or impartiality*.

(B) Unless otherwise prohibited by *law*, or by paragraph (A), a judge may accept the following without publicly reporting such acceptance:

(1) items with little intrinsic value, such as plaques, certificates, trophies, and greeting cards;

(2) gifts, loans, bequests, benefits, or other things of value from friends, relatives, or other persons, including lawyers, whose appearance or interest in a proceeding *pending* or *impending* before the judge would in any event require disqualification of the judge under Rule 2.11;

(3) ordinary social hospitality;

(4) rewards and prizes given to competitors or participants in random drawings, contests, or other events that are open to persons who are not judges;

(5) books, magazines, journals, audiovisual materials, and other resource materials supplied by publishers on a complimentary basis for official use; or

(6) gifts, awards, or benefits associated with the business, profession, or other separate activity of a spouse, a *domestic partner*, or other *family member of a judge residing in the judge's household*, but that incidentally benefit the judge.

(C) Unless otherwise prohibited by *law* or by paragraph (A), a judge may accept the following items, and must report such acceptance to the extent required by Rule 3.15:

(1) gifts incident to a public testimonial;

(2) invitations to the judge and the judge's spouse, *domestic partner*, or guest to attend without charge:

(a) an event associated with a bar-related function or other activity relating to the *law*, the legal system, or the administration of justice; or

(b) an event associated with any of the judge's educational, religious, charitable, fraternal or civic activities permitted by this Code, if the same invitation is offered to nonjudges who are engaged in similar ways in the activity as is the judge;

(3) gifts, loans, bequests, benefits, or other things of value, if the source is a party or other person, including a lawyer, who has come or is likely to come before the judge, or whose interests have come or are likely to come before the judge;

(4) commercial or financial opportunities and benefits, including special pricing and discounts, and loans from lending institutions in their regular course of business, if the same opportunities and benefits or loans are made available on the same terms to similarly situated persons who are not judges; and

(5) scholarships, fellowships, and similar benefits or awards, if they are available to similarly situated persons who are not judges, based upon the same terms and criteria.

#### **COMMENT**

[1] Whenever a judge accepts a gift or other thing of value without paying fair market value, there is a risk that the benefit might be viewed as intended to influence the judge's decision in a case. Rule 3.13 imposes restrictions upon the acceptance of such benefits, according to the magnitude of the risk. Paragraph (B) identifies circumstances in which the risk that the acceptance would appear to undermine the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality is low, and explicitly provides that such items need not be publicly reported. As the value of the benefit or the likelihood that the source of the benefit will appear before the judge increases, the judge is either prohibited under paragraph (A) from accepting the gift, or required under paragraph (C) to publicly report it.

[2] Gift-giving between friends and relatives is a common occurrence, and ordinarily does not create an appearance of impropriety or cause reasonable persons to believe that the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality has been compromised. In addition, when the appearance of friends or relatives in a case would require the judge's disqualification under Rule 2.11, there would be no opportunity for a gift to influence the judge's decision making. Paragraph (B)(2) places no restrictions upon the ability of a judge to accept gifts or other things of value from friends or relatives under these circumstances, and does not require public reporting.

[3] Businesses and financial institutions frequently make available special pricing, discounts, and other benefits, either in connection with a temporary promotion or for preferred customers, based upon longevity of the relationship, volume of business transacted, and other factors. A judge may freely accept such benefits if they are available to the general public, or if the judge qualifies for the special price or discount according to the same criteria as are applied to persons who are not judges. As an example, loans provided at generally prevailing interest rates are not gifts, but a judge could not accept a loan from a financial institution at below-market interest rates unless the same rate was being made available to the general public for a certain period of time or only to borrowers with specified qualifications that the judge also possesses.

[4] Rule 3.13 applies only to acceptance of gifts or other things of value by a judge. Nonetheless, if a gift or other benefit is given to the judge's spouse, domestic partner, or member of the judge's family residing in the judge's household, it may be viewed as an attempt to evade Rule 3.13 and influence the judge indirectly. Where the gift or benefit is being made primarily to such other persons, and the judge is merely an incidental beneficiary, this concern is reduced. A judge should, however, remind family and household members of the restrictions imposed upon judges, and urge them to take these restrictions into account when making decisions about accepting such gifts or benefits.

[5] Rule 3.13 does not apply to contributions to a judge's campaign for judicial office. Such contributions are governed by other Rules of this Code, including Rules 4.3 and 4.4.

## RULE 3.14

### Reimbursement of Expenses and Waivers of Fees or Charges

(A) Unless otherwise prohibited by Rules 3.1 and 3.13(A) or other *law*, a judge may accept reimbursement of necessary and reasonable expenses for travel, food, lodging, or other incidental expenses, or a waiver or partial waiver of fees or charges for registration, tuition, and similar items, from sources other than the judge's employing entity, if the expenses or charges are associated with the judge's participation in extrajudicial activities permitted by this Code.

(B) Reimbursement of expenses for necessary travel, food, lodging, or other incidental expenses shall be limited to the actual costs reasonably incurred by the judge and, when appropriate to the occasion, by the judge's spouse, *domestic partner*, or guest.

(C) A judge who accepts reimbursement of expenses or waivers or partial waivers of fees or charges on behalf of the judge or the judge's spouse, *domestic partner*, or guest shall publicly report such acceptance as required by Rule 3.15.

#### COMMENT

[1] Educational, civic, religious, fraternal, and charitable organizations often sponsor meetings, seminars, symposia, dinners, awards ceremonies, and similar events. Judges are encouraged to attend educational programs, as both teachers and participants, in law-related and academic disciplines, in furtherance of their duty to remain competent in the law. Participation in a variety of other extrajudicial activity is also permitted and encouraged by this Code.

[2] Not infrequently, sponsoring organizations invite certain judges to attend seminars or other events on a fee-waived or partial-fee-waived basis, and sometimes include reimbursement for necessary travel, food, lodging, or other incidental expenses. A judge's decision whether to accept reimbursement of expenses or a waiver or partial waiver of fees or charges in connection with these or other extrajudicial activities must be based upon an assessment of all the circumstances. The judge must undertake a reasonable inquiry to obtain the information necessary to make an informed judgment about whether acceptance would be consistent with the requirements of this Code.

[3] A judge must assure himself or herself that acceptance of reimbursement or fee waivers would not appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality. The factors that a judge should consider when deciding whether to accept reimbursement or a fee waiver for attendance at a particular activity include:

(a) whether the sponsor is an accredited educational institution or bar association rather than a trade association or a for-profit entity;

(b) whether the funding comes largely from numerous contributors rather than from a single entity and is earmarked for programs with specific content;

(c) whether the content is related or unrelated to the subject matter of litigation pending or impending before the judge, or to matters that are likely to come before the judge;

(d) whether the activity is primarily educational rather than recreational, and whether the costs of the event are reasonable and comparable to those associated with similar events sponsored by the judiciary, bar associations, or similar groups;

(e) whether information concerning the activity and its funding sources is available upon inquiry;

(f) whether the sponsor or source of funding is generally associated with particular parties or interests currently appearing or likely to appear in the judge's court, thus possibly requiring disqualification of the judge under Rule 2.11;

(g) whether differing viewpoints are presented; and

(h) whether a broad range of judicial and nonjudicial participants are invited, whether a large number of participants are invited, and whether the program is designed specifically for judges.

## **RULE 3.15**

### **Reporting Requirements**

(A) A judge must publicly report:

(1) compensation received for extrajudicial activities as permitted by Rule 3.12 and compensation received by the judge's spouse or *domestic partner*. Reportable compensation means income received for the personal services of the judge in an amount in excess of \$500 from any single payor or in excess of \$3,000 from all payors during the reporting period; income received for the personal services of the judge's spouse or *domestic partner* in an amount in excess of \$3,000 from a single source during the reporting period; and income derived from business; royalties, including ownership of mineral rights; annuities; life insurance; and contract payments.

(2) fees and commissions. A judge must report each client or customer who pays fees or commissions to a business or combination of businesses from which fees or commissions the judge, the judge's spouse, or the judge's *domestic partner* received an aggregate in excess of \$3,000 during the reporting period. The phrase "client or customer" relates only to businesses or a combination of businesses. The term "business" means any corporation, association, partnership, proprietorship, trust, joint venture, governmental agency unit or governmental subdivision, and every other business interest, including ownership or use of land for income. The term "combination of businesses" means any two or more businesses owned or controlled directly by the same interests. The term "other business interest" means any endeavor that produces income,

including appraisals, consulting, authorships, inventing, or the sale of goods and services.

(3) ownership interests. A judge must report any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, retirement plan, joint venture, and every other business interest, including land used for income, in which either the judge, the judge's spouse or *domestic partner*, dependent children, or dependent stepchildren have owned a legal or equitable interest exceeding \$5,000 during the reporting period.

(4) gifts and other things of value as permitted by Rule 3.13(C), unless the value of such items, alone or in the aggregate with other items received from the same source in the same calendar year, does not exceed \$200.

(5) reimbursement of expenses and waiver of fees or charges permitted by Rule 3.14(A), unless the amount of reimbursement or waiver, alone or in the aggregate with other reimbursements or waivers received from the same source in the same calendar year, does not exceed \$200. Expense reimbursement limited to the actual cost of travel, food, and lodging reasonably incurred by the judge and, where appropriate to the occasion, by the judge's spouse or *domestic partner* should be reported as a gift. Any payment in excess of such an amount is to be reported as compensation.

(6) positions. A judge must report any business, organization, including a labor organization, educational or other institution, and entity in which the judge now holds or has held a position of officer, director, associate, partner, proprietor, trustee, guardian, custodian, or similar *fiduciary*, representative, employee, or consultant at the time of filing this report or during the reporting period.

(7) liabilities. A judge must report all of the judge's, the judge's spouse's or *domestic partner's*, dependent children's, and dependent stepchildren's liabilities to any creditor that exceeded \$10,000 at any time during the reporting period except for any liability owed to a spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child; any mortgage secured by real property that is a personal residence of the judge or the judge's spouse or *domestic partner*; any loan secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances that does not exceed the purchase price of the item securing the liability; any student loans or loans from a lending institution in its regular course of business on the same terms generally available to persons who are not judges; any revolving charge account, the balance of which did not exceed \$10,000 at the close of the reporting period; and political campaign funds.

(B) A judge must report annually the information listed above in (A)(1) through (7) on a form reviewed by the Commission on Judicial

Conduct and approved by the Supreme Court. The judge's report for the preceding calendar year must be submitted as a public document with the Office of Judicial Administration on or before April 15 of each year. **[History:** Am. (b) effective February 4, 2020; [Am. effective December 8, 2022.](#)]