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GENERAL PROVISIONS, SCOPE, DEFINITIONS, AND PREAMBLE OF THE CODE

Rule 18-100.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Source and Structure of the Code

The substantive provisions and much of the structure of this Code are based in large part on the 2007 Model Code of Judicial Conduct proposed by the American Bar Association (ABA Model Code), although some of those provisions and some of the style and organization of this Code differ from the ABA Model Code. Most of the differences are necessary for consistency with the Maryland Constitution, Maryland statutes, and other Maryland Rules.

Committee note: This Code is divided into five parts: an introductory part consisting of Rules 18-100.1 through 18-100.4; a part consisting of Rules 18-101.1 through 18-101.3 that deal with judicial integrity and the avoidance of impropriety; a part consisting of Rules 18-102.1 through 18-102.16 that deal with the performance of judicial duties; a part consisting of Rules 18-103.1 through 18-103.15 that deal generally with extrajudicial activities; and a part consisting of Rules 18-104.1 through 18-104.6 that deal with political activity.

This structure conforms generally to that of the ABA Model Code but differs from the ABA Model Code in the following principal respects:

(1) This Code assigns each Rule of Judicial Conduct a Maryland Rule number but, so that the parallel will be obvious, the Maryland Rule numbering conforms to that of the ABA Model Code. Thus, for example, ABA Rule 1.1 (Compliance with the Law) is Maryland Rule 18-101.1, which also is ~~also~~ captioned "Compliance with the Law."

(2) This Code consolidates and reorganizes the Preamble, Scope, Application, and Terminology provisions of the ABA Model Code into Rules 18-100.1 through 18-100.4. Although the Preamble is aspirational in nature, the Scope, Application, and Terminology provisions are more substantive and should be in the form of Rules.

(3) The 2007 ABA Code proposed a new and much different structure and format. The enforceable ethical commands in previous Codes were stated in the form of specific Canons, to which were appended interpretative Comments. The enforceable ethical commands in the 2007 ABA Code are stated in the form of Rules that are supplemented by interpretative Comments and headed by very brief and general statements denominated as Canons.

The 2007 ABA Code acknowledges that a judge may be disciplined only for violating a Rule, but it regards the Canons as providing guidance in interpreting the Rules. That guidance, however, is more precisely the function of the Comments under each Rule. The Canons themselves appear to be merely descriptive of the subject matter of the Rules. To avoid any ambiguity over the significance of the Canons and to make clear that attention must be focused on the Rules and the Comments, this Code eliminates the Canons and uses instead a descriptive statement of the Rules in each part.

(4) The 2007 ABA Code contains provisions regarding political activity and financial disclosure by judges. This Code reorganizes those provisions and conforms them to the different methods by which judges in Maryland are selected and retained and to requirements enacted by the Maryland General Assembly or adopted by the Court of Appeals. The intent is to make more clear to each judge and candidate for judicial office what is allowed and what is not allowed.

(b) Interpretive Provisions

(1) Discipline

(A) A judge may be disciplined only for violating a Rule. If a Rule contains a permissive term, such as "may" or "should" the conduct being addressed is committed to the personal and professional discretion of the judge or candidate in question, and no disciplinary action should be taken for action or inaction within the bounds of that discretion.

(B) Although the text of the Rules is binding and enforceable, it is not contemplated that every transgression will result in the imposition of discipline. Whether discipline should be imposed should be determined through a reasonable and reasoned application of the Rules and should depend upon factors such as the seriousness of the transgression, the facts and circumstances at the time of the transgression, the extent of any pattern of improper activity, whether there have been previous violations, and the effect of the improper activity upon the judicial system or others.

(2) Accompanying Comments

(A) The Comments that accompany the Rules contain explanatory material and, in some instances, provide examples of permitted or prohibited conduct.

(B) Comments neither add to nor subtract from the binding obligations set forth in the Rules. Therefore, when a Comment contains the term "must," it does not mean that the Comment itself is binding or enforceable but merely signifies that the Rule in question, properly understood, is obligatory as to the conduct at issue.

(C) The Comments also may identify aspirational goals for judges. To implement fully the principles of this Code, judges should hold themselves to the highest ethical standards and seek to achieve those aspirational goals, thereby enhancing the dignity of the judicial office.

(3) Rules of Reason

Rule 18-100.1

The Rules in this Code are rules of reason that should be applied in a manner that is consistent with Constitutional requirements, statutes, other Court Rules, and decisional law and that gives due regard for all relevant circumstances. The Rules should not be interpreted to impinge upon the essential independence of judges in making judicial decisions.

(4) Collateral Effect

This Code is not designed or intended as a basis for civil or criminal liability. It is also not intended to be the basis for litigants to seek collateral remedies against each other or to obtain tactical advantages in proceedings before a court.

(5) Judicial Ethics Committee Opinion

In interpreting this Code, attention should be given to the opinions of the Judicial Ethics Committee and, if appropriate, that Committee should be asked for a written letter of advice or a binding opinion.

Cross reference: See Rule 18-308, protecting a judge from a charge of violating an ethics provision in this Code if the judge has requested and received an opinion or advice letter from the Committee and is in compliance with that opinion or advice letter or is in compliance with a published opinion of the Committee.

Source: This Rule is new but is derived from paragraphs A-101 through A-108 of former Rule 16-813 (2016).

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GENERAL PROVISIONS, SCOPE, DEFINITIONS, AND PREAMBLE OF THE CODE

Rule 18-100.2. SCOPE

The Rules in this Chapter apply to:

(a) Incumbent judges of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the Circuit Courts, and the District Court;

(b) Except as otherwise expressly provided in specific Rules, incumbent judges of the Orphans' Courts;

(c) Except as otherwise expressly provided in specific Rules, retired judges who are approved for recall for temporary service pursuant to ~~Maryland Constitution, Art. IV, §3A~~ Code, Courts Article, §1-302; and

(d) Candidates and applicants for judicial office as defined in Rule ~~4.1~~ 18-104.1, to the extent that a Rule expressly applies to such candidates or applicants. ~~See Section 4 and Rule 2.11.~~

Source: This Rule is derived from paragraph A-109 of former Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-100.3. DEFINITIONS

In the Rules in this Chapter, the following definitions apply except as otherwise expressly provided or as necessary implication requires:

(a) Domestic Partner

"Domestic partner" means ~~a person~~ an individual with whom another ~~person~~ individual maintains a household and an intimate relationship, other than ~~a person~~ an individual to whom he or she is legally married. ~~See Rules 2.11, 2.13, 3.13, and 3.14.~~

~~Source.— This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 1007 ABA Code.~~

(b) Fiduciary

"Fiduciary" includes relationships such as administrator, attorney-in-fact by power of attorney, personal representative, and trustee. ~~See Rules 2.11, 3.2, and 3.8.~~

~~Source.— This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 1007 ABA Code.~~

(c) Gift

(1) Except as provided in ~~paragraph (b)~~ subsection (c) (2) of this Rule, "gift" means the transfer of anything of economic value, regardless of form, without adequate and lawful consideration.

(2) "Gift" does not include the solicitation, acceptance, receipt, or regulation of a political contribution that is regulated in accordance with:

(A) the Election Law Article of the Maryland Code; or

(B) any other Maryland law regulating the conduct of elections or the receipt of political contributions. ~~See Rule 3.13.~~

~~Source.— This definition is derived from Code, State Government Article, §15-102 (p).~~

(d) Impartial

"Impartial," "impartiality," and "impartially" mean absence of bias or prejudice in favor of, or against, particular parties or classes of parties, as well as maintenance of an open mind in considering issues that may come before a judge. ~~See Rules 1.2, 2.2, 2.10, 2.11, 2.13, 3.1, 3.12, 3.13, 4.4, and 4.5.~~

~~Source.— This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~

(e) Impending Matter

"Impending matter" means a matter that is imminent or expected to occur in the near future. ~~See Rules 2.9, 2.10, 3.13, 4.4, and 4.5.~~

~~Source.— This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~

(f) Independence

"Independence" means a judge's freedom from influence or controls other than those established by law. ~~See Rules 1.2, 3.1, 3.12, 3.13, 4.4, and 4.5.~~

~~Source. This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~

(g) Knowingly

"Knowingly," "knowledge," "known," and "knows" mean actual knowledge of the fact in question. ~~A person's~~ An individual's knowledge may be inferred from circumstances. ~~See Rules 2.11, 2.13, 2.15, 2.16, 3.6, and 4.4, and 4.5.~~

~~Source. This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~

(h) Member of Judge's or Candidate's Family

"Member of a [judge's] [candidate's] family" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or other relative or ~~person~~ individual with whom the judge or candidate maintains a close familial relationship. ~~See Rules 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, and 3.11.~~

~~Source. This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~

(i) Member of Judge's or Candidate's Household

"Member of [judge's] [candidate's] household" means:

(1) if sharing the judge's or candidate's legal residence, the judge's or candidate's spouse, domestic partner, child, ward, financially dependent parent, or other financially dependent relative; or

(2) the judge's or candidate's spouse, child, ward, parent, or other relative, over whose financial affairs the judge or candidate has legal or actual control. ~~See Rule 3.13.~~

~~Source. This definition is derived from Maryland Code, State Government Article, §15-102 (z).~~

(j) Pending Matter

"Pending matter" means a matter that has commenced. A matter continues to be pending through any appellate process until final disposition. ~~See Rules 2.9, 2.10, 3.13, and 4.4, and 4.5.~~

~~Source. This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~

(k) Significant Financial Interest

(1) "Significant financial interest" means ownership of:

(A) an interest as the result of which the owner has received within the past three years, is currently receiving, or in the future is entitled to receive, more than \$1,000 per year;

(B) more than 3% of a business entity; or

(C) a security of any kind that represents, or is convertible into, more than 3% of a business entity.

(2) In applying this definition:

(A) ownership of an interest in a mutual or common investment fund that holds a security is not ownership of the security unless:

(i) the judge participates in the management of the fund;
or

(ii) there is before the judge a pending matter or an impending matter that could substantially affect the value of the interest;

(B) ownership of a government security is not a significant financial interest in the issuer unless there is before the judge

a pending matter or an impending matter that could substantially affect the value of the security;

(C) neither a deposit in a financial institution nor a proprietary interest such as or similar to that of a depositor in a mutual savings association, member of a credit union, or policy holder in a mutual insurance company is a significant financial interest in the entity unless there is before the judge a pending matter or an impending matter that could substantially affect the value of the deposit or interest; and

(D) an ownership interest in a security held by a charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, sororal, or religious organization will not be imputed to a judge merely because the judge or the judge's child, parent, or spouse is an adviser to or director or officer of, or otherwise actively participates in, the organization.

~~Source.—This definition is derived from the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct.~~

(1) Third Degree of Relationship

"Third degree of relationship" includes the following ~~persons~~ individuals: great-grandparent, grandparent, parent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, child, grandchild, great-grandchild, nephew, and niece. ~~See Rules 2.11 and 2.13.~~

~~Source.—This definition is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~

Source: This Rule is derived from paragraphs B-101 through B-112 of former Rule 16-813 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

GENERAL PROVISIONS, SCOPE, DEFINITIONS, AND PREAMBLE OF THE CODE

Rule 18-100.4. PREAMBLE

(a) Importance of Independent, Fair, Competent, Impartial
Judiciary

An independent, fair, competent, and impartial judiciary composed of men and women of integrity who will interpret and apply the law that governs our society is indispensable to our system of justice. Thus, the judiciary plays a central role in preserving the principles of justice and the rule of law.

Inherent in all the Rules contained in this Code are the precepts that judges, individually and collectively, must respect and honor the judicial office as a public trust and strive to maintain and enhance confidence in the legal system.

(b) Dignity of Judicial Office

Judges should maintain the dignity of judicial office at all times, and avoid both impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in their professional and personal lives. They should aspire at all times to conduct that ensures the greatest possible public confidence in their independence, impartiality, integrity, and competence.

(c) Function of Code of Judicial Conduct

This Code of Judicial Conduct establishes standards for the

Rule 18-100.4

ethical conduct of judges and judicial candidates. It is not intended as an exhaustive guide for the conduct of judges and judicial candidates, who are governed in their judicial and personal conduct by general ethical standards as well as by this Code. This Code is intended, however, to provide guidance and assist judges in maintaining the highest standards of judicial and personal conduct, and to provide a basis for regulating their conduct through disciplinary agencies.

Source: ~~This Preamble is derived from the Preamble section of the 2007 ABA Code.~~ This Rule is derived from paragraphs C-101 through C-103 of former Rule 16-813 (2016).

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CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT
*RULES GOVERNING JUDICIAL INTEGRITY AND
THE AVOIDANCE OF IMPROPRIETY*

Rule 18-101.1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW (ABA RULE 1.1)

A judge shall comply with the law, including this Code of
Judicial Conduct.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 1.1 ~~of the 2007 ABA
Code of Rule 16-813 (2016)~~.

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*RULES GOVERNING JUDICIAL INTEGRITY AND
THE AVOIDANCE OF IMPROPRIETY*

Rule 18-101.2. PROMOTING CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY (ABA RULE 1.2)

(a) Promoting Public Confidence

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

(b) Avoiding Perception of Impropriety

A judge shall avoid conduct that would create in reasonable minds a perception of impropriety.

COMMENT

[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 ~~persons~~ individuals and must accept the restrictions imposed by this 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~~ attorneys, support professionalism within the judiciary and the legal profession, and promote access to justice for all.

Rule 18-101.2

[5] Actual improprieties include violations of law, court rules, and this Code. The test for appearance of impropriety is whether the conduct would create in reasonable minds a perception that the judge's ability to carry out judicial responsibilities with competence, impartiality, and integrity is impaired.

[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.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 1.2 of the ~~2007 ABA Code. Comments [1], [2], [3], [4], and [6] are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule. Comment [5] is derived in part from ABA Comment [5] to that Rule and is in part new~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING JUDICIAL INTEGRITY AND

THE AVOIDANCE OF IMPROPRIETY

Rule 18-101.3. AVOIDING LENDING THE PRESTIGE OF JUDICIAL OFFICE
(ABA RULE 1.3)

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

COMMENT

[1] It is improper for a judge to use or attempt to use his or her position to gain personal advantage or deferential treatment of any kind. For example, it would be improper for a judge to allude to his or her judicial status to gain favorable treatment in encounters with traffic officials. Similarly, a judge must not use a judicial letterhead to gain an advantage in conducting his or her personal business.

[2] A judge may provide a reference or recommendation for an individual based upon the judge's personal knowledge. The judge may use an official letterhead if the judge indicates that the reference is personal and if there is no likelihood that the use of the letterhead would reasonably be perceived as an attempt to exert pressure by reason of the judicial office.

[3] Judges may participate in the process of judicial selection by cooperating with appointing authorities and screening committees and by responding to inquiries from such entities concerning the professional qualifications of ~~a person~~ an individual being considered for judicial office.

Cross reference: See Rule ~~4.3~~ 18-104.3.

[4] Special considerations arise when judges write or contribute to publications of for-profit entities, whether related or unrelated to the law. A judge should not permit anyone associated with the publication of such materials to

Rule 18-101.3

exploit the judge's office in a manner that violates this Rule or other applicable law. In contracts for publication of a judge's writing, the judge should retain sufficient control over the advertising to avoid such exploitation.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 1.3 ~~of the 2007 ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES

Rule 18-102.1. GIVING PRECEDENCE TO THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL OFFICE (ABA RULE 2.1)

The duties of judicial office, as prescribed by law, shall take precedence over a judge's personal and extrajudicial activities.

COMMENT

[1] To ensure that judges are available to fulfill their judicial duties, judges must conduct their personal and extrajudicial activities to minimize the risk of conflicts that would result in frequent disqualification.

[2] Although it is not a duty of judicial office unless prescribed by law, judges are encouraged to participate in activities that promote public understanding of and confidence in the justice system.

[3] With respect to time devoted to personal and extrajudicial activities, this Rule must be construed in a reasonable manner. Family obligations, illnesses, emergencies, and permissible extrajudicial activities may require a judge's immediate attention. Attending to those obligations and situations, temporary in nature, is not prohibited by this Rule and should be dealt with in accordance with applicable vacation, sick leave, and administrative leave policies.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.1 of the 2007 ABA Code, except that the words "all of" in that Code have been deleted. Comments [1] and [2] are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule. Comment [3] is new of Rule 16-813 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES

Rule 18-102.2. IMPARTIALITY AND FAIRNESS (ABA RULE 2.2)

(a) A judge shall uphold and apply the law and shall perform all duties of judicial office impartially and fairly.

(b) A judge may make reasonable efforts, consistent with the Maryland Rules and other law, to facilitate the ability of all litigants, including self-represented litigants, to be fairly heard.

COMMENT

[1] To ensure impartiality and fairness to all parties, a judge must be objective and open-minded.

[2] Although each judge comes to the bench with a unique background and personal philosophy, a judge must interpret and apply the law without regard to whether the judge approves or disapproves of the law in question.

[3] When applying and interpreting the law, a judge sometimes may make good-faith errors of fact or law. Errors of this kind do not violate this Rule.

~~[4] It is not a violation of this Rule for a judge to make reasonable accommodations to ensure self-represented litigants the opportunity to have their matters fairly heard.~~

Cross reference: See Rule ~~2.6~~ 18-102.6 Comment [2].

Source: This Rule is derived in part from former Rule 2.2 of the ~~2007 ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016) and is in part new.

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RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES

Rule 18-102.3. BIAS, PREJUDICE, AND HARASSMENT (ABA RULE 2.3)

(a) A judge shall perform the duties of judicial office, including administrative duties, without bias or prejudice.

(b) ~~A judge shall not, in~~ In the performance of judicial duties, a judge shall not, by words or conduct, manifest bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation. A judge shall require ~~lawyers~~ attorneys in proceedings before the court, court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to refrain from similar conduct.

(c) The restrictions of ~~paragraph~~ section (b) of this Rule do not preclude judges or ~~lawyers~~ attorneys from making legitimate references to the listed factors, or similar factors, when they are relevant to an issue in a proceeding.

COMMENT

[1] A judge who manifests bias or prejudice in a proceeding impairs the fairness of the proceeding and brings the judiciary into disrepute.

[2] A judge must avoid conduct that may reasonably be perceived as prejudiced or biased. Examples of manifestations of bias or prejudice include epithets; slurs; demeaning nicknames; negative stereotyping; attempted humor based upon stereotypes; threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts; suggestions of

Rule 18-102.3

connections between race, ethnicity, or nationality and crime; and irrelevant references to personal characteristics. Even facial expressions and body language can convey to parties and ~~lawyers~~ attorneys in the proceeding, jurors, the media, and others an appearance of bias or prejudice.

[3] Harassment, as referred to in ~~paragraph~~ section (b) of this Rule, is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward ~~a person~~ an individual on bases such as race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation.

[4] Sexual harassment includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, conduct of a sexual nature through the use of electronic communication that alarms or seriously annoys another, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is unwelcome.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.3 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code with certain style changes~~. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule with certain style changes Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-102.4. EXTERNAL INFLUENCES ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT (ABA RULE 2.4)

(a) A judge shall not be swayed by public clamor or fear of criticism.

(b) A judge shall not permit family, social, political, financial, or other interests or relationships to influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment.

(c) A judge shall not convey or permit others to convey the impression that any person ~~or organization~~ is in a position to influence the judge.

COMMENT

[1] An independent judiciary requires that judges decide cases according to the law and facts, without regard to whether particular laws or litigants are popular or unpopular with the public, the media, government officials, or the judge's friends or family. Confidence in the judiciary is eroded if judicial decision-making is perceived to be subject to inappropriate outside influences.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.4 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-102.5. COMPETENCE, DILIGENCE, AND COOPERATION (ABA RULE 2.5)

(a) A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, promptly, and without favoritism or nepotism.

(b) A judge shall cooperate with other judges and court officials in the administration of court business.

(c) A judge shall not wilfully fail to comply with administrative rules or reasonable directives of a judge with supervisory authority.

COMMENT

[1] Competence in the performance of judicial duties requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary to perform a judge's responsibilities of judicial office.

[2] A judge should seek the necessary docket time, court staff, expertise, and resources to discharge all adjudicative and administrative responsibilities.

[3] Prompt disposition of the court's business requires a judge to devote adequate time to judicial duties, to be punctual in attending court and expeditious in determining matters under submission, and to take reasonable measures to ensure that court officials, litigants, and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys cooperate with the judge to that end.

[4] In disposing of matters promptly and efficiently, a judge must demonstrate due regard for the rights of parties to be heard and to have issues resolved without unnecessary cost or delay. A judge should monitor and supervise cases in ways that reduce or eliminate dilatory practices, avoidable delays, and

unnecessary costs.

Source: ~~Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule are derived from Rule 2.5 of the 2007 ABA Code. Paragraph (c) is new. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule. This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.5 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES

Rule 18-102.6. ENSURING THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD (ABA RULE 2.6)

(a) A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person's ~~lawyer~~ attorney, the right to be heard according to law.

(b) A judge may encourage parties to a proceeding and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to settle matters in dispute but shall not act in a manner that coerces any party into settlement.

COMMENT

[1] The right to be heard is an essential component of a fair and impartial system of justice. Substantive rights of litigants can be protected only if procedures protecting the right to be heard are observed.

[2] Increasingly, judges have before them self-represented litigants whose lack of knowledge about the law and about judicial procedures and requirements may inhibit their ability to be heard effectively. A judge's obligation under Rule ~~2.2~~ 18-102.2 to remain fair and impartial does not preclude the judge from making reasonable accommodations to protect a self-represented litigant's right to be heard, so long as those accommodations do not give the self-represented litigant an unfair advantage. This Rule does not require a judge to make any particular accommodation.

[3] Settlement conferences and referrals to alternative dispute resolution may play an important role in the administration of justice. The judge plays an important role in overseeing the settlement of disputes, but should be careful that efforts to further settlement do not undermine any party's right to be heard according to law. Among the factors that a judge should consider when deciding upon an appropriate settlement practice for a case are (a) whether the parties have requested or voluntarily consented to a certain level of participation by the

Rule 18-102.6

judge in settlement discussions, (b) whether the parties and their ~~counsel~~ attorneys are relatively sophisticated in legal matters, (c) whether the case will be tried by the judge or a jury, (d) whether the parties participate with their ~~counsel~~ attorneys in settlement discussions, (e) whether any parties are self-represented, and (f) the nature of the proceeding.

[4] Judges must be mindful of the effect settlement discussions can have, not only on their objectivity and impartiality, but also on the appearance of their objectivity and impartiality. A judge should keep in mind the effect that the judge's participation in settlement discussions may have on both the judge's own views of the case and the perceptions of the ~~lawyers~~ attorneys and the parties if the case remains with the judge after settlement efforts are unsuccessful. Despite a judge's best efforts, there may be instances when information obtained during settlement discussions could influence a judge's decision making during trial, and, in such instances, the judge should consider whether disqualification may be appropriate. See Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-102.11 (a)(1).

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.6 of the ~~2007~~ ABA Code. ~~Comments [1], [3], and [4] are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule, with some modifications. Comment [2] is~~ new Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-102.7. RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE (ABA RULE 2.7)

A judge shall hear and decide matters assigned to the judge unless recusal is appropriate.

COMMENT

[1] Although there are times when disqualification is necessary or appropriate to protect the rights of litigants and preserve public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, judges must be available to decide matters that come before the courts. The dignity of the court, the judge's respect for fulfillment of judicial duties, and a proper concern for the burdens that may be imposed upon the judge's colleagues require that a judge not use disqualification to avoid cases that present difficult, controversial, or unpopular issues.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.7 of the ~~2007 ABA Code, but substitutes the test of whether "recusal is appropriate" for whether disqualification "is required by Rule 2.11 or other law."~~ The Comment is derived from the ABA Comment to Rule 2.7 but adds "or appropriate" in the first sentence Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-102.8. DECORUM, Demeanor, AND COMMUNICATION WITH JURORS
(ABA RULE 2.8)

(a) A judge shall require order and decorum in proceedings before the court.

(b) A judge shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, court staff, court officials, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and shall require similar conduct of ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control.

(c) A judge shall not commend or criticize jurors for their verdict other than in a court order or opinion in a proceeding.

COMMENT

[1] The duty to hear all proceedings with patience and courtesy is not inconsistent with the duty imposed in Rule ~~2.5~~ 18-102.5 to dispose promptly of the business of the court. Judges can be efficient and businesslike while being patient and deliberate.

[2] Commending or criticizing jurors for their verdict may imply a judicial expectation in future cases and may impair a juror's ability to be fair and impartial in a subsequent case.

[3] A judge who is not otherwise prohibited by law from doing so may meet with jurors who choose to remain after trial but should be careful not to discuss the merits of the case.

Rule 18-102.8

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.8 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-102.9. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS (ABA RULE 2.9)

(a) A judge shall not initiate, permit, or consider ex parte communications, or consider other communications made to the judge out of the presence of the parties or their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, concerning a pending or impending matter, except as follows:

(1) A judge may initiate, permit, or consider any ex parte communication when expressly authorized by law to do so.

(2) When circumstances require it, ex parte communication for scheduling, administrative, or emergency purposes, which does not address substantive matters, is permitted, provided:

(A) the judge reasonably believes that no party will gain a procedural, substantive, or tactical advantage as a result of the ex parte communication; and

(B) the judge makes provision promptly to notify all other parties of the substance of the ex parte communication, and gives the parties an opportunity to respond.

(3) A judge may obtain the advice of a disinterested expert on the law applicable to a proceeding if the judge (A) makes provision promptly to notify all of the parties as to the expert consulted and the substance of the advice, and (B) affords the

parties a reasonable opportunity to respond.

(4) A judge may consult with court staff and court officials whose functions are to aid the judge in carrying out the judge's adjudicative responsibilities, or with other judges, provided the judge does not decide a case based on adjudicative facts that are not made part of the record, and does not abrogate the responsibility personally to decide the matter.

Cross reference: See Comment [1] to Rule ~~3.9~~ 18-103.9, permitting a judge to engage in prehearing and settlement conferences.

(5) ~~A judge may, with~~ With the consent of the parties, a judge may confer separately with the parties and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys as part of a prehearing or settlement conference conducted pursuant to ~~Rules 17-102 (1) and 17-105 (b)~~ the Rules in Title 17.

(6) When serving in a problem-solving court program of a Circuit Court or the District Court pursuant to Rule ~~16-206~~ 16-207, a judge may initiate, permit, and consider ex parte communications in conformance with the established protocols for the operation of the program if the parties have expressly consented to those protocols.

(b) If a judge inadvertently receives an unauthorized ex parte communication bearing upon the substance of a matter, the judge shall make provision promptly to notify the parties of the substance of the communication and provide the parties with an opportunity to respond.

(c) A judge shall not investigate adjudicative facts in a

matter independently, and shall consider only the evidence in the record and any facts that may properly be judicially noticed.

(d) A judge shall make reasonable efforts, including providing appropriate supervision, to ensure that this Rule is not violated by court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control.

COMMENT

[1] To the extent reasonably possible, all parties or their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys shall be included in communications with a judge.

[2] Whenever the presence of a party or notice to a party is required by this Rule, it is the party's ~~lawyer~~ attorney, or if the party is self-represented, the party, who is to be present or to whom notice is to be given.

[3] The proscription against communications concerning a proceeding includes communications with ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, law teachers, and other persons who are not participants in the proceeding, except to the limited extent permitted by this Rule.

[4] A judge may consult with other judges on pending matters, including a retired judge approved for recall, but must avoid ex parte discussions of a case with judges who have previously been disqualified from hearing the matter, and with judges who have appellate jurisdiction over the matter.

[5] The prohibition against a judge investigating adjudicative facts in a matter extends to information available in all mediums, including electronic.

[6] A judge may consult ethics advisory committees, outside counsel, or legal experts concerning the judge's compliance with this Code. Such consultations are not subject to the restrictions of ~~paragraph~~ subsection (a)(2) of this Rule.

Committee note: This Rule does not regulate judicial notice of so-called "legislative facts" (facts pertaining to social policy and their ramifications) or of law.

Cross reference: See Rule 5-201.

Source: This Rule is derived in part from former Rule 2.9 of the 2007 ABA Code and in part from Canon 3B (6) (e) of the former

Rule 18-102.9

~~Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct, except paragraph (a) (6) is new. Comments [1], [2], [3], [4], [5], and [6] are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-102.10. JUDICIAL STATEMENTS ON PENDING AND IMPENDING CASES (ABA RULE 2.10)

(a) A judge shall abstain from public comment that relates to a proceeding pending or impending in any court and that might reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of that proceeding and shall require similar abstention on the part of court personnel subject to the judge's direction and control. This Rule does not prohibit a judge from making public statements in the course of official duties or from explaining for public information the procedures of the court.

(b) With respect to a case, controversy, or issue that is likely to come before the court, a judge shall not make a commitment, pledge, or promise that is inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of the office.

(c) Notwithstanding the restrictions in ~~paragraphs~~ sections (a) and (b) of this Rule, a judge may make public statements in the course of official duties, may explain court procedures, and may comment on any proceeding in which the judge is a litigant in a non-judicial capacity.

COMMENT

[1] This Rule's restrictions on judicial speech are

Rule 18-102.10

essential to the maintenance of the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.

[2] This Rule does not prohibit a judge from commenting on proceedings in which the judge is a litigant in a personal capacity. In cases in which the judge is a litigant in an official capacity, such as a writ of mandamus, the judge must not comment publicly.

[3] "Court personnel," as used in ~~paragraph~~ section (a) of this Rule does not include the ~~lawyers~~ attorneys in a proceeding before the judge. The comment of ~~lawyers~~ attorneys in this regard is governed by Rule ~~3.6~~ 19-303.6 of the Maryland ~~Lawyers'~~ Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived principally from Canon 3B (8) and (9) of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct, which is largely consistent with Rule 2.10 of the 2007 ABA Code. Comments [1] and [2] are derived from the ABA Comments to Rule 2.10 of the 2007 ABA Code. Comment [3] is new. This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.10 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-102.11. DISQUALIFICATION (ABA RULE 2.11)

(a) A judge shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, including the following circumstances:

(1) The judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a party's ~~lawyer~~ attorney, or personal knowledge of facts that are in dispute in the proceeding.

(2) The judge knows that the judge, the judge's spouse or domestic partner, ~~or a person~~ an individual within the third degree of relationship to either of them, or the spouse or domestic partner of such ~~a person~~ an individual:

(A) is a party to the proceeding, or an officer, director, general partner, managing member, or trustee of a party;

(B) is acting as ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney in the proceeding;

(C) is ~~a person~~ an individual who has more than a de minimis interest that could be substantially affected by the proceeding; or

(D) is likely to be a material witness in the proceeding.

(3) The judge knows that he or she, individually or as a fiduciary, or any of the following ~~persons~~ individuals has a significant financial interest in the subject matter in

controversy or in a party to the proceeding:

(A) the judge's spouse or domestic partner;

(B) ~~a person~~ an individual within the third degree of relationship to the judge; or

(C) any other member of the judge's family residing in the judge's household.

(4) The judge, while a judge or a judicial candidate, has made a public statement, other than in a court proceeding, judicial decision, or opinion, that commits or appears to commit the judge to reach a particular result or rule in a particular way in the proceeding or controversy.

(5) The judge:

(A) served as ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney in the matter in controversy, or was associated with ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney who participated substantially as ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney in the matter during such association;

(B) served in governmental employment, and in such capacity participated personally and substantially as ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney or public official concerning the proceeding, or has publicly expressed in such capacity an opinion concerning the merits of the particular matter in controversy;

(C) previously presided as a judge over the matter in another court; or

(D) is a retired judge who is subject to ~~recusal~~ disqualification under Rule ~~3.9~~ 18-103.9.

Rule 18-102.11

Cross reference: See Code, Courts Article, §1-203 (c) prohibiting a judge from hearing a case in which a partner or employee of the judge's former law firm is an attorney of record during a period in which the judge is receiving a payout of his former interest in the firm.

(b) A judge shall keep informed about the judge's personal and fiduciary economic interests and make a reasonable effort to keep informed about the personal economic interests of the judge's spouse and minor children residing in the judge's household.

(c) A judge subject to disqualification under this Rule, other than for bias or prejudice under ~~paragraph~~ subsection (a)(1) of this Rule, may disclose on the record the basis of the judge's disqualification and may ask the parties and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to consider, outside the presence of the judge and court personnel, whether to waive disqualification. If, following the disclosure, the parties and ~~lawyers~~ attorneys agree, without participation by the judge or court personnel, that the judge should not be disqualified, the judge may participate in the proceeding. The agreement shall be incorporated into the record of the proceeding.

COMMENT

[1] Under this Rule, a judge is disqualified whenever the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, regardless of whether any of the specific provisions of ~~paragraphs~~ subsections (a)(1) through (5) apply. In this Rule, "disqualification" has the same meaning as "recusal."

[2] A judge's obligation not to hear or decide matters in which disqualification is required applies regardless of whether a motion to disqualify is filed.

[3] By decisional law, the rule of necessity may override the rule of recusal. For example, a judge might be required to participate in judicial review of a judicial salary statute or

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might be the only judge available in a matter requiring immediate judicial action, such as a hearing on probable cause or a temporary restraining order. When the rule of necessity does override the rule of recusal, the judge must disclose on the record the basis for possible disqualification and, if practicable, use reasonable efforts to transfer the matter to another judge.

[4] A judge should disclose on the record information that the judge believes the parties or their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys might reasonably consider relevant to a possible motion for disqualification, even if the judge believes there is no basis for disqualification.

[5] This procedure gives the parties an opportunity to waive the recusal if the judge agrees. The judge may comment on possible waiver but must ensure that consideration of the question of waiver is made independently of the judge. A party may act through ~~counsel~~ an attorney if ~~counsel~~ the attorney represents on the record that the party has been consulted and consents. As a practical matter, a judge may request that all parties and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys sign a waiver agreement.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived in part from Rule 2.11 of the 2007 ABA Code and in part from Canon 3D of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct. Comments [1], [2], and [3] are derived from the ABA Comments to Rule 2.11 of the 2007 ABA Code, with some modifications. Comments [4] and [5] are new. ABA Rule 2.11 (a) (4) and ABA Comment [6] are not included. This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.11 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES

Rule 18-102.12. SUPERVISORY DUTIES (ABA RULE 2.12)

(a) A judge shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this Code.

(b) A judge with supervisory authority for the performance of other judges shall take reasonable measures to ensure that those judges properly discharge their judicial responsibilities, including the prompt disposition of matters before them.

COMMENT

[1] A judge is responsible for his or her own conduct and for the conduct of others, such as staff, when those ~~persons~~ individuals are acting at the judge's direction or control. A judge may not direct court personnel to engage in conduct on the judge's behalf or as the judge's representative when such conduct would violate this Code if undertaken by the judge.

[2] Public confidence in the judicial system depends upon timely justice. To promote the efficient administration of justice, a judge with supervisory authority must take the steps needed to ensure that judges under his or her supervision administer their workloads promptly.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.12 of the ~~2007 ABA Code~~. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that ~~Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS

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RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES

Rule 18-102.13. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS (ABA RULE 2.13)

(a) In making administrative appointments, a judge:

(1) shall exercise the power of appointment impartially and on the basis of merit; and

(2) shall avoid nepotism, favoritism, and unnecessary appointments.

(b) A judge shall not approve compensation of appointees beyond the fair value of services rendered.

COMMENT

[1] Appointees of a judge include assigned ~~counsel attorneys~~, officials such as commissioners, special magistrates, receivers, and guardians, and personnel such as clerks, secretaries, and bailiffs. Consent by the parties to an appointment or an award of compensation does not relieve the judge of the obligation prescribed by ~~paragraph section~~ (a) of this Rule.

[2] Unless otherwise defined by law, nepotism is the appointment or hiring of any relative within the third degree of relationship to either the judge or the judge's spouse or domestic partner, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relative.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived generally from Rule 2.13 of the 2007 ABA Code, although paragraph (b) of that Rule is not included. Comments [1] and [2] are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule, although ABA Comment [3] is not included. This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.13 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-102.14. DISABILITY AND IMPAIRMENT OF OTHERS (ABA RULE 2.14)

A judge having a reasonable belief that the performance of ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney or another judge is impaired by drugs or alcohol or by a mental, emotional, or physical condition, shall take appropriate action, which may include a confidential referral to ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney or judicial assistance program.

COMMENT

[1] "Appropriate action" means action intended and reasonably likely to help the judge or ~~lawyer~~ attorney in question to address the problem and prevent harm to the justice system. Depending upon the circumstances, appropriate action may include speaking directly to the impaired ~~person~~ individual, notifying an individual with supervisory responsibility over the impaired ~~person~~ individual, or making a referral to an assistance program.

[2] Taking or initiating corrective action by way of referral to an assistance program may satisfy a judge's responsibility under this Rule. Assistance programs have many approaches for offering help to impaired judges and ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, such as intervention, counseling, or referral to appropriate health care professionals. Depending upon the gravity of the conduct that has come to the judge's attention, however, the judge may be required to take other action, such as reporting the impaired judge or ~~lawyer~~ attorney to the appropriate authority, agency, or body. See Rule ~~2.15~~ 18-102.15.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.14 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code~~. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-102.15. RESPONDING TO JUDICIAL AND ~~LAWYER~~ ATTORNEY
MISCONDUCT (ABA RULE 2.15)

(a) A judge shall take or initiate appropriate corrective measures with respect to the unprofessional conduct of another judge or ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney.

(b) If other corrective measures are not appropriate or, if attempted, were not successful, a judge shall inform the Commission on Judicial Disabilities of facts known to that judge that raise a substantial question as to another judge's fitness for office.

(c) If other corrective measures are not appropriate or, if attempted, were not successful, a judge shall inform the Attorney Grievance Commission of facts known to the judge that raise a substantial question as to ~~a lawyer's~~ an attorney's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney in other respects.

(d) Acts of a judge required or permitted by ~~paragraphs~~ sections (a), (b), and (c) of this Rule shall be absolutely privileged.

COMMENT

[1] Permitting a judge to take "corrective" measures gives the judge a wide range of options to deal with unprofessional conduct. Appropriate corrective measures may include direct communication with the judge or ~~lawyer~~ attorney who is believed to have committed the violation or other direct action if available. There may be instances of professional misconduct that would warrant a private admonition or referral to a bar association counseling service.

Source: This Rule is derived from ~~Canon 3F of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct~~ former Rule 2.15 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF JUDICIAL DUTIES

Rule 18-102.16. COOPERATION WITH DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES

(ABA RULE 2.16)

(a) A judge shall cooperate and be candid and honest with judicial and ~~lawyer~~ attorney disciplinary agencies.

(b) A judge shall not retaliate, directly or indirectly, against a person known or suspected to have assisted or cooperated with an investigation of a judge or ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney.

COMMENT

[1] Cooperation with investigations and proceedings of judicial and ~~lawyer~~ attorney discipline agencies, as required in ~~paragraph~~ section (a) of this Rule, instills confidence in judges' commitment to the integrity of the judicial system and the protection of the public.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.16 of the ~~2007~~ ABA Code. ~~The Comment is derived from the ABA Comment to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-103.1. EXTRA-OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL (ABA RULE 3.1)

~~A Except as prohibited by law or this Code, a judge may engage in extrajudicial activities, ~~except as prohibited by law or this Code.~~ 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;

(d) engage in conduct that would appear to a reasonable person to be coercive; or

(e) make inappropriate use of court premises, staff, stationery, equipment, or other resources.

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~~ 18-103.7.

[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~~ 18-103.6.

[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~~ 18-103.7 (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.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.1 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-103.2. APPEARANCES BEFORE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND
CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (ABA RULE 3.2)

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;

(b) in connection with matters about which the judge acquired knowledge or expertise in the course of the judge's judicial duties; or

(c) when the judge is acting self-represented 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 officials in the 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 ~~4.3~~ 18-101.3, prohibiting judges from using the prestige of office to advance their own or others' interests, Rule ~~2.10~~ 18-102.10, governing public comment on pending and impending matters, and Rule ~~3.1~~ 18-103.1 (c), prohibiting judges from engaging in extrajudicial activities that would appear to a reasonable person

Rule 18-103.2

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 ~~persons~~ individuals, 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.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.2 of the ~~2007~~ ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that ~~Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-103.3. TESTIFYING AS A CHARACTER WITNESS (ABA RULE 3.3)

A Except when duly subpoenaed, 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

[1] A judge who, without being subpoenaed, testifies as a character witness abuses the prestige of judicial office to advance the interests of another. See Rule ~~1-3~~ 18-101.3. 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.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.3 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code. The Comment is derived from the ABA Comment to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-103.4. APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS (ABA RULE 3.4)

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~~ 18-103.4 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 not accept a governmental appointment that could interfere with the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary, assume or discharge an executive or legislative power, or hold another "office" under the Constitution or laws of the United States or the State of Maryland. See Maryland Declaration of Rights, Articles 8, 33, and 35.

[3] 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.

Committee note: Although the Judicial Ethics Committee has concluded that the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution may allow service in reserve components of the armed forces that otherwise might be precluded under this Code, such as service as a judge advocate or military judge, the Attorney General, rather

Rule 18-103.4

than the Judicial Ethics Committee, traditionally has rendered opinions with regard to issues of dual or incompatible offices.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Rule 3.4 of the 2007 ABA Code. Comments [1] and [3] are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule. Comment [2] and the Committee note are derived from the Comment and Committee note to Canon 4C of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.4 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-103.5. USE OF NONPUBLIC INFORMATION (ABA RULE 3.5)

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. Nonpublic information means information that is not available to the public. It may include information that is (a) sealed or shielded pursuant to the Maryland Rules, other law, or court order, (b) impounded, (c) communicated in camera, or (d) offered in grand jury proceedings, pre-sentencing reports, dependency cases, or psychiatric reports.

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 a member of a judge's family, court personnel, or other judicial officers.

Source: ~~The first sentence of this Rule is derived from Rule 3.5 of the 2007 ABA Code. The second sentence is derived from the Terminology section of the 2007 ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to Rule 3.5 of the 2007 ABA Code, except that Comment [2] is modified to eliminate the words "if consistent with other provisions of this Code."~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.5 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-103.6. AFFILIATION WITH DISCRIMINATORY ORGANIZATIONS
(ABA RULE 3.6)

(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~~ section (a) of this Rule. 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

Rule 18-103.6

basis of race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or sexual orientation ~~persons~~ individuals 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.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.6 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-103.7. PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS,
CHARITABLE, FRATERNAL, OR CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES
(ABA RULE 3.7)

(a) Subject to the requirements of Rules ~~3-1~~ 18-103.1 and ~~3-6~~ 18-103.6, 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 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 but not coerce ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to provide pro bono publico legal services.

COMMENT

[1] The activities permitted by ~~paragraph section~~ section (a) of this Rule 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~~ subsection (a)(4) of this Rule. 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. Such activities are not solicitation and do not present an element of coercion or abuse the prestige of judicial office.

[4] Identification of a judge's position in educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations on letterhead used for fund-raising or membership solicitation does not violate this Rule. The letterhead may list the judge's title or judicial office if comparable designations are used for other ~~persons~~ individuals.

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

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.7 of the ~~2007 ABA Code with some modifications. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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Rule 18-103.8. APPOINTMENTS TO FIDUCIARY POSITIONS (ABA RULE 3.8)

(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~~ an estate, or trust, or person of ~~for~~ a member of the judge's family or an individual who is 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~~ an individual 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.

(e) ~~Paragraph~~ Section (a) of this Rule does not apply to

retired judges approved for recall under ~~Maryland Constitution, Article IV, §3A Code, Courts Article, §1-302.~~

COMMENT

[1] 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~~ 18-102.11 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.

Source: ~~Paragraphs (a) through (d) of this Rule are derived from Rule 3.8 of the 2007 ABA Code. Paragraph (e) is derived from Canon 6C of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct. The Comment is derived from the ABA Comment to Rule 3.8 of the 2007 ABA Code. This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.8 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-103.9. SERVICE AS ARBITRATOR OR MEDIATOR (ABA RULE 3.9)

(a) ~~A~~ Unless expressly authorized by law, a judge shall not act as an arbitrator or a mediator or perform other judicial functions apart from the judge's official duties ~~unless expressly authorized by law~~.

(b) A retired judge who is approved for recall for temporary service under ~~Maryland Constitution, Article IV, §3A~~ Code, Courts Article, §1-302 may conduct alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proceedings in a private capacity only if the judge:

(1) conducts no ADR proceedings in a private capacity relating to a case in which the judge currently is ~~presiding~~ sitting;

(2) is not affiliated with a law firm, regardless of whether the law firm also offers ADR services;

(3) discloses to the parties in each judicial proceeding ~~over~~ in which the judge ~~presides~~ sits:

(A) the judge's professional association with any entity that is engaged in offering ADR services;

(B) whether the judge is conducting, or has conducted within the previous 12 months, an ADR proceeding involving any party, attorney, or law firm involved in the judicial proceeding

pending before the judge; and

(C) any negotiations or agreements for future ADR services involving the judge and any of the parties or ~~counsel~~ attorneys to the case; and

(4) except ~~if~~ when there is no disqualification by agreement as permitted by Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-102.11 (c), does not ~~preside over~~ sit in a judicial proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned because of ADR services engaged in or offered by the judge.

Committee note: A retired judge approved for recall may affiliate with an entity that ~~exclusively~~ is engaged exclusively in offering ADR services but may not affiliate with any entity that also is engaged in the practice of law.

COMMENT

[1] Except as provided in ~~paragraph~~ section (b), this Rule does not prohibit a judge from participating in arbitration, mediation, or prehearing or settlement conferences performed as part of assigned judicial duties. Rendering dispute resolution services apart from those duties, whether or not for economic gain, is prohibited unless it is expressly authorized by law.

Source: ~~Paragraph (a) of this Rule is derived from Rule 3.9 of the 2007 ABA Code. Paragraph (b) and the Committee note are derived from Canon 4F (2) of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct and the Committee note thereto. The Comment is derived from the ABA Comment to Rule 3.9 of the 2007 ABA Code. This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.9 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-103.10. PRACTICE OF LAW (ABA RULE 3.10)

(a) In General

Except as expressly allowed by this Rule, a judge shall not practice law.

Cross reference: See Code, Courts Article, §1-203.

(b) Exceptions

(1) A judge may act self-represented in a matter involving the judge or the judge's interest and, if without compensation, may give legal advice to and draft or review documents for a member of the judge's family.

(2) To the extent expressly allowed by law and subject to other applicable provisions of this Code, a part-time judge of an orphans' court who is ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney may practice law, provided that:

(A) the judge shall not use the judge's judicial office to further the judge's success in the practice of law; and

(B) the judge shall not ~~practice or appear as an individual in a matter involving the judge or the judge's interest in the court on which the judge serves, even if another judge is presiding~~ appear as an attorney in the court in which the judge serves.

Cross reference: See Code, Estates and Trusts Article, §2-109 for restrictions on the practice of law by a part-time judge of an orphans' court.

COMMENT

[1] A judge may act self-represented 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~~ 18-101.3.

[2] ~~Paragraphs~~ Section (a) and subsection (b)(1) of this Rule limit the practice of law in a representative capacity but not in a self-represented capacity. A judge may act for himself or herself in all legal matters, including matters involving litigation and matters involving appearances before or other dealings with legislative and other governmental bodies. In so doing, however, a judge must not abuse the prestige of office for any reason, including advancement of an interest of the judge or the judge's family. See Rules ~~2-4~~ 18-102.4 (b) and ~~3-2~~ 18-103.2 (c).

[3] This Rule allows a judge to give legal advice to, and draft legal documents for, a member of the judge's family. Except for a part-time orphans' court judge allowed to practice law, however, a judge must not receive any compensation from, or act as an advocate or negotiator for, a member of the judge's family in a legal matter.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Canon 4G of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct. Comment [1] is derived from the ABA Comment to Rule 3.10 of the 2007 ABA Code. Comments [2] and [3] are derived from the Comment to Canon 4G of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct. This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.10 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.10 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-103.11. FINANCIAL, BUSINESS, OR REMUNERATIVE ACTIVITIES
(ABA RULE 3.11)

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

(b) Except as permitted by Rule ~~3.7~~ 18-103.7, 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~~ sections (a) or (b) of this Rule 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~~ attorneys 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.

(d) This Rule does not apply to retired judges approved for recall under ~~Maryland Constitution, Article IV, §3A Code, Courts Article, §1-302.~~

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~~ 18-102.1. 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~~ 18-101.3 and ~~2.11~~ 18-102.11.

[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.

Source: ~~Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this Rule are derived from Rule 3.11 of the 2007 ABA Code and the Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule. Paragraph (d) is derived from Canon 6C of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct. This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.11 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-103.12. COMPENSATION FOR EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES

(ABA RULE 3.12)

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.

Cross reference: See Rule ~~3.9~~ 18-103.9 requiring certain disclosures and action by retired judges approved for recall who provide alternative dispute resolution services.

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 and commensurate with the task performed. The judge should be mindful, however, that judicial duties must take precedence over other activities. See Rule ~~2.1~~ 18-102.1, Code, Family Law Article, §§2-406 and 2-410, and Md. Rules ~~16-821 through 16-824~~ 18-501 through 18-504.

[2] Compensation derived from extrajudicial activities may be subject to public reporting. See Rule ~~3.15~~ 18-103.15.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.12 of the ~~2007~~ ABA Code. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule Rule 16-813 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-103.13. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, LOANS, BEQUESTS, BENEFITS,
OR OTHER THINGS OF VALUE (ABA RULE 3.13)

(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~~
section (a) of this Rule, a judge may accept the following:

(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~~ attorneys, 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~~ 18-102.11;

(3) ordinary social hospitality;

(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;

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

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

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

(8) 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;

(9) gifts incident to a public testimonial; or

(10) 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.

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~~ 18-103.13 imposes restrictions upon the acceptance of such benefits, according to the magnitude of the risk. ~~Paragraph~~ Section (b) of this Rule identifies circumstances in which the risk that the acceptance would appear to undermine the judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality is low. As the value of the benefit or the likelihood that the source of the benefit will appear before the judge increases, the judge is prohibited under ~~paragraph~~ section (a) of this Rule from accepting the gift.

[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~~ 18-102.11, there would be no opportunity for a gift to influence the judge's decision-making. ~~Paragraph~~ Subsection (b) (2) of this Rule places no restrictions upon the ability of a judge to accept gifts or other things of value from friends or relatives under these circumstances.

[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~~ 18-103.13 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~~ 18-103.13 and influence the judge indirectly. Where the gift or benefit is being made primarily to such other ~~persons~~ individuals, and the judge is merely an incidental beneficiary,

Rule 18-103.13

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~~ 18-103.13 does not apply to contributions to a judge's campaign for judicial office.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Rule 3.13 of the 2007 ABA Code, except that paragraph (c) (3) is eliminated, paragraphs (c) (1) and (2) are added to paragraph (b) and provisions relating to the reporting of gifts are covered in Rule 3.15. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to Rule 3.13 of the 2007 ABA Code.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.13 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-103.14. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES AND WAIVERS OF FEES OR CHARGES (ABA RULE 3.14)

(a) Unless otherwise prohibited by Rule ~~3.1~~ 18-103.1, Rule ~~3.13~~ 18-103.13 (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.

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 activities 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~~ 18-102.11;

(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

Rule 18-103.14

are invited, and whether the program is designed specifically for judges.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.14 of the ~~2007~~ ABA Code. ~~The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to that Rule~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-103.15. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (ABA RULE 3.15)

A judge ~~must~~ shall accurately complete and timely file an annual ~~Statement of Financial Interests~~ Financial Disclosure Statement on the form and as otherwise prescribed by the Court of Appeals pursuant to ~~Md. Rule 16-815~~ 18-603.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Md. Rule 16-815.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.15 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-104.1. DEFINITIONS (ABA RULE 4.1)

(a) Applicant

(1) "Applicant" means ~~a person~~ an individual who has applied for appointment by the Governor to a judicial office.

(2) The ~~person~~ individual becomes an applicant when the ~~person~~ individual files an application with a judicial nominating commission and remains an applicant until the Governor makes an appointment to that judicial office unless, prior to that time, the ~~person~~ individual formally withdraws the application.

(3) If the ~~person~~ individual is not appointed but, pursuant to an Executive Order of the Governor or other law, remains eligible for appointment to another judicial office without a further application to or recommendation from the judicial nominating commission, the ~~person~~ individual remains an applicant until the Governor makes an appointment to that other judicial office, unless, prior to that time, the ~~person~~ individual formally withdraws the application.

Cross reference: Executive Order ~~01.01.2008.04~~ 01.01.2015.09.

(b) Candidate

"Candidate" means a candidate for election or a District Court candidate for retention.

(c) Candidate for Election

(1) "Candidate for election" means ~~a person~~ an individual who:

(A) seeks initial election to a Circuit Court or an Orphans' Court;

(B) is an incumbent judge of a Circuit Court or Orphans' Court and seeks to retain that office through an election conducted pursuant to Art. IV, §3, 5, or 40 of the Maryland Constitution; or

(C) is an incumbent judge of the Court of Appeals or Court of Special Appeals and seeks to retain that office through a retention election conducted pursuant to Art. IV, §5A of the Maryland Constitution.

(2) ~~A person~~ An individual becomes a candidate for election:

(A) ~~as to~~ if the individual is a newly appointed judge, from the date the judge takes the oath of office;

(B) ~~as to~~ if the individual is any other incumbent judge, from the earlier of:

(i) the date two years prior to the general election pertaining to that judge's re-election or subsequent retention; or

(ii) the date on which a newly appointed judge to that court becomes a candidate in the same general election.

(C) ~~as to~~ if the individual is a judge who seeks election to another judicial office, the earlier of:

(i) the date on which the judge files a certificate of

candidacy in accordance with Maryland election laws, but no earlier than two years prior to the general election for that office; or

(ii) the date on which a newly appointed judge to that court becomes a candidate in the same general election; and

(D) ~~as to a lawyer~~ if the individual is an attorney who seeks a judicial office, the date on which the ~~lawyer~~ attorney files a certificate of candidacy in accordance with Maryland election laws, but no earlier than two years prior to the general election for the office.

(3) ~~A person~~ An individual who becomes a candidate under ~~paragraph~~ section (c) of this Rule remains a candidate until the general election for the office unless, prior to that time, the ~~person~~ individual files a formal withdrawal of candidacy in accordance with Maryland election laws.

(d) District Court Candidate for Retention

"District Court candidate for retention" means an incumbent judge of the District Court who seeks retention for an additional term pursuant to Art. IV, §41D of the Maryland Constitution. A District Court judge becomes a candidate for retention from the date one year prior to the expiration of the judge's current term.

(e) Political Organization

"Political organization" includes a political party, a political committee, and a partisan organization, as those terms are defined in Maryland Code, Election Article, §1-101.

~~Source: These definitions are new.~~

COMMENT

[1] ~~This Rule is new.~~ It Rule 18-104.1 is intended to reflect and focus on the different ways in which judges in Maryland are selected and retained. See Maryland Constitution, Art. IV, §5A (appellate judges), §§3 and 5 (Circuit Court judges), §41D (District Court judges), and §40 (Orphans' Court judges).

(a) In all cases, a vacancy is filled by appointment by the Governor. The appointment of appellate, District Court, and Orphans' Court judges requires the advice and consent of the Senate; the appointment of Circuit Court judges does not.

(b) Appellate judges then face an uncontested plebiscite election (yes or no for continuance in office) for an additional 10-year term, following which they face another such election for a succeeding term.

(c) Circuit Court judges face a potentially contested primary and general election for a 15-year term, at the end of which, in order to remain in office, they must be appointed by the Governor for a "bridge" term until the next election and then prevail in that election.

(d) District Court judges do not face election but receive a 10-year term, at the end of which, they must be reappointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(e) Orphans' Court judges face a potentially contested primary and general election every four years.

[2] The first context, applicable to all appellate, Circuit Court, and District Court judges and many Orphans' Court judges, is initial appointment by the Governor to fill a vacancy. Except for Orphans' Court judges, that requires an application to and consideration by a judicial nominating commission, which normally interviews the applicants, receives information and recommendations from Bar Associations, other interested groups, and members of the public, and sends to the Governor a list of recommended applicants. The Governors have agreed, expressly or tacitly, to appoint from the list of applicants recommended by the applicable nominating commission. The applicants may be lawyers attorneys seeking initial appointment to the Bench, incumbent Circuit Court judges seeking reappointment, upon the expiration of their 15-year term, for a "bridge" period until the next election, or other judges seeking appointment to a different

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court. Rule ~~4.1~~ 18-104.1 (a) defines those ~~persons~~ individuals as "applicants."

[3] ~~A person~~ An individual seeking election, either through a potentially contested election (Circuit Court and Orphans' Court) or through a plebiscite-type retention election (appellate judges), is defined in Rule ~~4.1~~ 18-104.1 (c) as a "candidate for election." A District Court judge, at the end of the 10-year term, faces confirmation by the Senate for an additional term. That judge is not a candidate for election but is defined in Rule ~~4.1~~ 18-104.1 (d) as a "District Court candidate for retention."

[4] ~~The remaining~~ Rules in ~~Section 4~~ 18-104.2 through 18-104.6 specify the political activity allowed or not allowed to ~~persons~~ individuals falling within those categories, as well as to incumbent judges who are not within any of them.

[5] Even when subject to election, a judge plays a role different from that of a legislator or executive branch official. Rather than making decisions based on the expressed views or preferences of the electorate, a judge makes decisions based on the law and the facts of each case. In furtherance of that interest, judges and candidates for judicial office must, to the greatest extent possible, be free and appear to be free from political influence and political pressure. ~~The Rules in Section 4 18-104.1 through 18-104.6~~ impose narrowly tailored restrictions on the political and campaign activities of all judges and candidates for judicial office.

Source: ~~This Rule and Comments [1] through [4] are new. Comment [5] is derived from ABA Comment [1] to Rule 4.1 of the 2007 ABA Code.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.1 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-104.2. POLITICAL CONDUCT OF JUDGE WHO IS NOT A CANDIDATE
(ABA RULE 4.2)

(a) A judge who is not a candidate shall not engage in any partisan political activity.

(b) A judge shall resign when the judge becomes a candidate for a non-judicial office, except that a judge may continue to hold judicial office while a candidate for election as a delegate to a Maryland Constitutional Convention.

Source: ~~Rule 4.2 is derived from former Md. Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 5A.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.2 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-104.3. POLITICAL CONDUCT OF APPLICANT (ABA RULE 4.3)

An applicant for judicial office may initiate communications or contact with a judicial nominating commission or its members and may seek endorsements for the appointment from any other person ~~or organization~~, other than a political organization.

COMMENT

[1] Rule ~~4.3~~ 18-104.3 is derived in part from Rule 4.3 of the 2007 ABA Code but departs from it in one important respect. Under Rule ~~4.3~~ 18-104.3, an applicant may initiate communications or contact with a judicial nominating commission or its members, but neither the Commission nor its members are obliged to respond to such communications or contact. Applicants may appear for interviews before the commission and may respond to questions or inquiries from commission members, and they may solicit endorsements from other persons ~~or organizations~~ (other than a political organization). If they have a question regarding the procedure or their application, they may contact the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.3 of ~~the 2007 ABA Code~~. ~~The Comment is new.~~ Rule 16-813 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-104.4. POLITICAL CONDUCT OF CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION

(ABA RULE 4.4)

A candidate for election:

(a) shall comply with all applicable election laws and regulations;

(b) shall act at all times in a manner consistent with the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office;

(c) subject to the other provisions of this Rule, may engage in partisan political activity allowed by law with respect to such candidacy, and, in that regard:

(1) may publicly endorse or oppose candidates for the same judicial office;

(2) may attend or purchase tickets for dinners or other events sponsored by a political organization or a candidate for public office; and

(3) may seek, accept, and use endorsements from any person ~~or organization~~; but

(4) shall not act as a leader in or hold office in a political organization, make a speech for a candidate or political organization, or publicly endorse a candidate for non-

judicial office.

(d) As to statements and materials made or produced during a campaign:

(1) shall review, approve, and be responsible for the content of all campaign statements and materials produced by the candidate or by the candidate's campaign committee or other authorized agents;

(2) shall take reasonable measures to ensure that other persons do not undertake on behalf of the candidate activities that the candidate is prohibited from doing by this Rule;

(3) with respect to a case, controversy, or issue that is likely to come before the court, shall not make a commitment, pledge, or promise that is inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of the office;

(4) shall not make any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court;

(5) shall not knowingly, or with reckless disregard for the truth, misrepresent the candidate's identity or qualifications, the identity or qualifications of an opponent, or any other fact, or make any false or misleading statement;

(6) may speak or write on behalf of the candidate's candidacy through any medium, including advertisements, websites, or other campaign literature; and

(7) subject to ~~paragraph~~ section (b) of this Rule, may respond to a personal attack or an attack on the candidate's

record.

COMMENT

[1] This Rule is derived in part from former Md. Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 5B and from the 2007 ABA Code, but it has been substantially reorganized into three basic segments: general requirements (~~paragraphs~~ sections (a) and (b)); the extent to which candidates for election may engage in partisan political conduct (~~paragraph~~ section (c)); and the rules governing campaign statements (~~paragraph~~ section (d)).

[2] Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (a) requires candidates for election to comply with all election laws and regulations. The Election Law Article of the Maryland Code contains laws governing candidates, campaign contributions, finance, expenditures, and reporting. Those requirements are supplemented by regulations adopted by the State Board of Elections. Candidates for election must become familiar with applicable laws and regulations and comply with them.

[3] Public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary is eroded if judges or candidates for judicial office are perceived to be subject to political influence. Although they may register to vote as members of a political party, they are prohibited by Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (c)(4) from assuming leadership roles in political organizations.

[4] Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (c)(4) also prohibits candidates for election from making speeches on behalf of political organizations or publicly endorsing or opposing candidates for public office, to prevent them from abusing the prestige of judicial office to advance the interests of others. See Rule ~~4.3~~ 18-101.3. Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 does not prohibit candidates for election from (a) campaigning on their own behalf, (b) endorsing or opposing candidates for election to the same judicial office for which they are running, or (c) from having their name on the same sample ballot as a candidate for another public office.

[5] Although members of the families of candidates for election are free to engage in their own political activity, including running for public office, there is no "family exception" to the prohibition in Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (c)(4) against publicly endorsing candidates for public office. A candidate for election must not become involved in, or be publicly associated with, a family member's political activity or campaign for public office. To avoid public misunderstanding, candidates for election should take, and should urge members of their families to take, reasonable steps to avoid any implication that they endorse any family member's candidacy or other political activity.

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[6] Judicial candidates must be scrupulously fair and accurate in all statements made by them and by their campaign committees. Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (d) (5) obligates them to refrain from making statements that are false or misleading, or that omit facts necessary to make the communication considered as a whole not materially misleading. Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (d) (1) requires the candidate to review and approve the content of statements made by the candidate's campaign committee or other authorized agents and makes the candidate responsible for those statements.

[7] Candidates for election are sometimes the subject of false, misleading, or unfair allegations made by opposing candidates, third parties, or the media. As long as the candidate for election does not violate Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (d), he or she may make a factually accurate public response, although it is preferable for someone else to respond if the allegations relate to a pending case. If an independent third party has made unwarranted attacks on a candidate for election's opponent, the candidate for election may disavow the attacks and request the third party to cease and desist.

[8] Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4 (d) (3) prohibits candidates for election, with regard to cases or issues likely to come before the court, from making a commitment, promise, or pledge that is inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of the office. The making of a commitment, promise, or pledge is not dependent on, or limited to, the use of any specific words or phrases. The totality of the statement must be examined to determine if a reasonable person would believe that the candidate has specifically undertaken to reach a particular result. Commitments, promises, and pledges must be contrasted with statements or announcements of personal views on legal, political, or other issues, which are not prohibited. When making such statements, a judge should acknowledge the overarching judicial obligation to apply and uphold the law, without regard to his or her personal views.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived in part from Rule 4.1 of the 2007 ABA Code and in part from Canon 5 of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct. The Comments are derived from the ABA Comments to Rule 4.1 of the 2007 ABA Code. This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.4 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 100 - MARYLAND CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-104.5. POLITICAL CONDUCT OF DISTRICT COURT CANDIDATE FOR RETENTION (ABA RULE 4.5)

A District Court candidate for retention:

(a) may contact and communicate with the Governor and members of the State Senate regarding the candidate's reconfirmation;

(b) may seek, accept, and use endorsements from any person ~~or~~ organization;

(c) shall act at all times in a manner consistent with the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office;

(d) subject to ~~paragraph~~ section (c) of this Rule, may respond to a personal attack or an attack on the candidate's record;

(e) with respect to a case, controversy, or issue that is likely to come before the court, shall not make a commitment, pledge, or promise that is inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of the office; and

(f) shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard for the truth misrepresent the candidate's identity or qualifications or any other fact.

COMMENT

[1] Because a District Court candidate for retention does not face an election, the political activity allowed is much more limited. It is reasonable to permit the judge to contact the Governor, who must transmit the judge's name to the Senate, and members of the Senate, regarding the judge's reconfirmation, and to seek endorsements that may be helpful to the judge in that regard. The constraints in ~~paragraphs~~ sections (c) through (f) of this Rule, which are taken from Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-104.4, are applicable as well to even this political activity.

Source: ~~This Rule and the Comment are new.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.5 of Rule 16-813 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-104.6. APPLICABILITY AND DISCIPLINE (ABA RULE 4.6)

(a) A candidate who is a judge shall comply with ~~the Rules in this Section 4~~ 18-104.1 through 18-104.6. A candidate who is ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney shall comply with Rule ~~8.2~~ 19-308.2 of the Maryland ~~Lawyers'~~ Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct (~~Maryland Rule 16-812~~).

(b) A successful candidate and a judge who unsuccessfully sought a different judicial office are subject to judicial discipline for campaign conduct. An unsuccessful candidate who is ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney is subject to attorney discipline for campaign conduct

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Canon 5D of the former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct. This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.6 of Rule 16-813 (2016).~~

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GENERAL PROVISIONS, SCOPE, AND DEFINITIONS

Rule 18-200.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees governs the conduct of judicial appointees. It is patterned after the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct (MCJC) set forth in ~~Rule 16-813~~ Title 18, Chapter 100, and the provisions of this Code should be read in a consistent manner with parallel provisions in the MCJC.

This Code sets forth minimum standards and is not intended as a limitation on an appointing authority's power to impose additional requirements.

Source: This Rule is derived from the Preamble Section of former Rule 16-814 (2016).

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GENERAL PROVISIONS, SCOPE, AND DEFINITIONS

Rule 18-200.2. SCOPE

(a) District Court Commissioners and Full-time Standing Magistrates, Examiners, and Auditors

This Code applies in its entirety to District Court Commissioners and full-time standing magistrates, examiners, and auditors.

(b) Part-time Standing Magistrates, Examiners, and Auditors

Except as otherwise provided in a specific Rule, this Code applies in its entirety to part-time standing magistrates, examiners, and auditors.

(c) Special Magistrates, Examiners, and Auditors

During the period of their serving in that capacity, special magistrates, examiners, and auditors are subject only to ~~the Rules in Sections 1 and 2~~ 18-200.1 through 18-202.16, to Rule ~~3.5~~ 18-203.5, and to such of the Comments to those Rules as are relevant, given the limited duration of the service. Special magistrates, examiners, and auditors shall, however, on request of a party or the appointing authority, disclose any extra-official activity or interests covered by the other Rules in this Code that may be grounds for a motion to recuse under Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-202.11.

~~Source. This provision is new.~~

Committee note: District Court Commissioners, despite the number of hours they may actually be on duty, are regarded as full-time judicial appointees. Auditors, examiners, and magistrates may fall into several categories.

Under Code, Courts Article, §2-102, all courts may appoint a magistrate, examiner, or auditor in "a specific proceeding." Under Code, Courts Article, §2-501, the judges of the circuit courts have more general authority to employ magistrates, examiners, and auditors. That authority is extended and made more specific in Rules 2-541 (Magistrates), 2-542 (Examiners), and 2-543 (Auditors).

Rules 2-541, 2-542, and 2-543 create two categories of magistrates, examiners, and auditors - standing and special. Standing magistrates, examiners, and auditors are employed to deal with whatever cases are referred to them on an on-going basis, but their employment by the court may be full-time or part-time. Special magistrates, examiners, and auditors are appointed "for a particular action," and thus, like appointments made under Code, Courts Article, §2-102, their service is limited to the particular action or proceeding. During that period of service, however, it is possible that they may work full-time or part-time, as necessary or as directed by the court. A magistrate, examiner, or auditor may therefore be standing full-time, standing part-time, special full-time, or special part-time.

This Code, in its entirety, applies to District Court Commissioners and full-time standing magistrates, examiners, and auditors. Because their employment by the court is full-time and more-or-less permanent, it is appropriate to limit some of their extra-official activities in the same manner as judges. Standing magistrates, examiners, and auditors who work only part-time but whose employment is also more-or-less permanent and who handle whatever cases are referred to them also need to be subject to most of the requirements and limitations in the Code, but it is impractical to preclude them from engaging in other lawful remunerative activities, such as practicing law or accounting or providing ADR services. They are subject to the entire Code, except as provided in specific Rules. Special magistrates, examiners, and auditors, appointed for only one proceeding, are subject to those Rules governing such things as fairness, impartiality, integrity, and diligence during the period of their service, but, with the exception of Rule 18-203.5, it is impractical and unnecessary to subject them across-the-board to ~~the Rules in Section 4 or most of the Rules in Section 3~~ 18-203.1 through 18-204.5 (political and extra-official activities), provided that, upon request of a party or the appointing

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authority, they disclose any activity or interest that may be cause for recusal.

Source: This Rule is derived from the Application Section of former Rule 16-814 (2016).

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GENERAL PROVISIONS, SCOPE, AND DEFINITIONS

Rule 18-200.3. DEFINITIONS

(a) Judicial Appointee

"Judicial appointee" means:

(1) an auditor, examiner, or magistrate appointed by a court of this State; and

Cross reference: See Rules 2-541, 2-542, and 2-543.

(2) a District Court commissioner appointed pursuant to Article IV, §41G of the Maryland Constitution.

~~Source: With style changes this definition is derived from the former Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees.~~

Cross reference: For the definition of "judicial appointee" for purposes of filing a financial disclosure statement, see Rule ~~16-816~~ 18-604.

(b) Member of Judicial Appointee's Family

"Member of judicial appointee's family" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or other relative or ~~person~~ individual with whom the judicial appointee maintains a close familial relationship.

~~Source: This definition is derived from Section B-108 of the MCJC.~~

(c) Member of Judicial Appointee's Household

"Member of judicial appointee's household" means:

(1) if sharing the judicial appointee's legal residence, the

judicial appointee's spouse, domestic partner, child, ward, financially dependent parent, or other financially dependent relative; or

(2) the judicial appointee's spouse, domestic partner, child, ward, parent, or other relative over whose financial affairs the judicial appointee has legal or actual control.

~~Source: This definition is derived from Section B-109 of the MCJC.~~

(d) Other Definitions

As to a judicial appointee, "domestic partner," "fiduciary," "gift," "impartial, impartiality, and impartially," "impending matter," "independence," "knowingly, knowledge, known, and knows," "pending matter," "significant financial interest," and "third degree of relationship" have the meanings set forth, respectively, in ~~Sections B-101, B-102, B-103, B-104, B-105, B-106, B-107, B-110, and B-111, and B-112 of the MCJC~~ Rule 18-100.3 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (j), (k), and (l) of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct.

Source: This Rule is derived from the Definitions Section of former Rule 16-814 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING INTEGRITY AND THE AVOIDANCE OF IMPROPRIETY

Rule 18-201.1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW

A judicial appointee shall comply with the law, including the Rules in this Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees that are applicable.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 1.1 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING INTEGRITY AND THE AVOIDANCE OF IMPROPRIETY

Rule 18-201.2. PROMOTING CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY

(a) A judicial appointee shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.

(b) A judicial appointee shall avoid conduct that would create in reasonable minds a perception of impropriety.

COMMENT

[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 judicial appointee.

[2] A judicial appointee 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 this Code.

[3] Conduct that compromises or appears to compromise the independence, integrity, and impartiality of a judicial appointee 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] Judicial appointees should participate in activities that promote ethical conduct among judicial appointees and ~~lawyers~~ attorneys 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, and this Code. The test for appearance of impropriety is whether the conduct would create in reasonable minds a perception that the judicial appointee's ability to carry out the responsibilities of the judicial appointee's position with competence, impartiality, and integrity is impaired.

Rule 18-201.2

[6] A judicial appointee should, where appropriate, 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 judicial appointee must act in a manner consistent with this Code.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 1.2 of ~~the~~ MCJC Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-201.3. AVOIDING LENDING THE PRESTIGE OF THE POSITION

A judicial appointee shall not lend the prestige of the judicial appointee's position to advance the personal or economic interests of the judicial appointee or others, or allow others to do so.

COMMENT

[1] It is improper for a judicial appointee to use or attempt to use his or her position to gain personal advantage or deferential treatment of any kind. For example, it would be improper for a judicial appointee to allude to his or her official status to gain favorable treatment in encounters with traffic officials. Similarly, a judicial appointee must not use an official letterhead to gain an advantage in conducting his or her personal business.

[2] A judicial appointee may provide a reference or recommendation for an individual based upon the judicial appointee's personal knowledge. The judicial appointee may use an official letterhead if the judicial appointee indicates that the reference is personal and if there is no likelihood that the use of the letterhead would reasonably be perceived as an attempt to exert pressure by reason of the judicial appointee's position.

[3] Judicial appointees may participate in the process of judicial selection by cooperating with appointing authorities and screening committees and by responding to inquiries from such entities concerning the professional qualifications of ~~a person~~ an individual being considered for judicial office.

Cross reference: See Rule 18-204.3.

[4] Special considerations arise when judicial appointees write or contribute to publications of for-profit entities, whether related or unrelated to the law. A judicial appointee

Rule 18-201.3

should not permit anyone associated with the publication of such materials to exploit the judicial appointee's position in a manner that violates this Rule or other applicable law. In contracts for publication of a judicial appointee's writing, the judicial appointee should retain sufficient control over the advertising to avoid such exploitation.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 1.3 of ~~MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING THE PERFORMANCE OF A JUDICIAL APPOINTEE'S DUTIES

Rule 18-202.1. GIVING PRECEDENCE TO THE DUTIES OF POSITION

The duties of the judicial appointee's position, as prescribed by law and by the conditions and requirements imposed by the appointing authority, shall take precedence over a judicial appointee's personal and extra-official activities.

COMMENT

[1] To ensure that judicial appointees are available to fulfill their official duties, judicial appointees must conduct their personal and extra-official activities to minimize the risk of conflicts that would result in frequent disqualification.

[2] Although it is not a duty of a judicial appointee's position unless prescribed by law, judicial appointees are encouraged to participate in activities that promote public understanding of and confidence in the justice system.

[3] With respect to time devoted to personal and extra-official activities, this Rule must be construed in a reasonable manner. Family obligations, illnesses, emergencies, and other permissible extra-official activities may require a judicial appointee's immediate attention. Attending to those obligations and situations, temporary in nature, is not prohibited by this Rule and should be dealt with in accordance with applicable vacation, sick leave, and administrative leave policies. Judicial appointees must not permit their other activities to interfere with their ability to perform the duties of their public position.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.1 of MCJCR Rule 16-814 (2016). ~~The last sentence of Comment [3] is new.~~

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Rule 18-202.2. IMPARTIALITY AND FAIRNESS

(a) A judicial appointee shall uphold and apply the law and shall perform all duties of the position impartially and fairly.

(b) A judicial appointee may make reasonable efforts, consistent with the Maryland Rules and other law, to facilitate the ability of all litigants, including self-represented litigants, to be fairly heard.

COMMENT

[1] To ensure impartiality and fairness to all parties, a judicial appointee must be objective and open-minded.

[2] Although each judicial appointee comes to the position with a unique background and personal philosophy, a judicial appointee must interpret and apply the law without regard to whether the judicial appointee approves or disapproves of the law in question.

[3] When applying and interpreting the law, a judicial appointee sometimes may make good-faith errors of fact or law. Errors of this kind do not violate this Rule.

~~[4] It is not a violation of this Rule for a judicial appointee to make reasonable accommodations to ensure self-represented litigants the opportunity to have their matters fairly heard.~~

Cross reference: See Rule ~~2.6~~ 18-202.6 Comment [2].

Source: This Rule is derived in part from former Rule 2.2 of ~~MCJE~~ Rule 16-814 (2016) and is in part new.

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Rule 18-202.3. BIAS, PREJUDICE, AND HARASSMENT

(a) A judicial appointee shall perform the duties of the position, including administrative duties, without bias or prejudice.

(b) ~~A judicial appointee shall not, in~~ In the performance of the judicial appointee's duties, a judicial appointee shall not, by words or conduct, manifest bias, prejudice, or harassment based upon race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation. A judicial appointee shall require ~~lawyers~~ attorneys in proceedings before the judicial appointee, court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judicial appointee's direction and control to refrain from similar conduct.

(c) The restrictions of ~~paragraph~~ section (b) of this Rule do not preclude judicial appointees or ~~lawyers~~ attorneys from making legitimate references to the listed factors, or similar factors, when they are relevant to an issue in a proceeding.

COMMENT

[1] A judicial appointee who manifests bias or prejudice in a proceeding impairs the fairness of the proceeding and brings the judiciary into disrepute.

Rule 18-202.3

[2] A judicial appointee must avoid conduct that may reasonably be perceived as prejudiced or biased. Examples of manifestations of bias or prejudice include epithets, slurs, demeaning nicknames, negative stereotyping, attempted humor based upon stereotypes, threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts, suggestions of connections between race, ethnicity, or nationality and crime, and irrelevant references to personal characteristics. Even facial expressions and body language can convey to parties and ~~lawyers~~ attorneys in the proceeding, the media, and others an appearance of bias or prejudice.

[3] Harassment, as referred to in paragraph section (b) of this Rule, is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a person individual on bases such as race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation.

[4] Sexual harassment includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, conduct of a sexual nature through the use of electronic communication that alarms or seriously annoys another, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is unwelcome.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.3 of ~~MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.4. EXTERNAL INFLUENCES ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) A judicial appointee shall not be swayed by public clamor or fear of criticism.

(b) A judicial appointee shall not permit family, social, political, financial, or other interests or relationships to influence the judicial appointee's official conduct or judgment.

(c) A judicial appointee shall not convey or permit others to convey the impression that any person ~~or organization~~ is in a position to influence the judicial appointee.

COMMENT

[1] An independent judiciary requires that judicial appointees decide matters according to the law and facts, without regard to whether particular laws or litigants are popular or unpopular with the public, the media, government officials, or the judicial appointee's friends or family. Confidence in the judiciary is eroded if a judicial appointee's decision-making is perceived to be subject to inappropriate outside influences.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.4 of ~~MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.5. COMPETENCE, DILIGENCE, AND COOPERATION

(a) A judicial appointee shall perform the duties of the position competently, diligently, promptly, and without favoritism or nepotism.

(b) A judicial appointee shall cooperate with judges, other judicial appointees of the court, and court officials in the administration of court business.

(c) A judicial appointee shall not wilfully fail to comply with administrative rules or reasonable directives of a judge or other judicial appointee with supervisory authority.

COMMENT

[1] Competence in the performance of a judicial appointee's duties requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary to perform the responsibilities of the position.

[2] A judicial appointee should seek the necessary docket time, court staff, expertise, and resources to discharge the judicial appointee's responsibilities.

[3] Prompt disposition of the court's business requires a judicial appointee to devote adequate time to the position in accordance with the requirements imposed by the appointing authority, to be punctual in attendance and expeditious in determining matters under submission, and to take reasonable measures to ensure that court officials, litigants, and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys cooperate with the judicial appointee to that end.

Rule 18-202.5

[4] In disposing of matters promptly and efficiently, a judicial appointee must demonstrate due regard for the rights of parties to be heard and to have issues resolved without unnecessary cost or delay. A judicial appointee should monitor and supervise cases in ways that reduce or eliminate dilatory practices, avoidable delays, and unnecessary costs.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.5 of ~~MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.6. ENSURING THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD

(a) A judicial appointee shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person's ~~lawyer~~ attorney, the right to be heard according to law.

(b) A judicial appointee may encourage parties to a proceeding and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to settle matters in dispute but shall not act in a manner that coerces any party into settlement.

COMMENT

[1] The right to be heard is an essential component of a fair and impartial system of justice. Substantive rights of litigants can be protected only if procedures protecting the right to be heard are observed.

[2] Increasingly, judicial appointees have before them self-represented litigants whose lack of knowledge about the law and about judicial procedures and requirements may inhibit their ability to be heard effectively. A judicial appointee's obligation under Rule ~~2-2~~ 18-202.2 to remain fair and impartial does not preclude the judicial appointee from making reasonable accommodations to protect a self-represented litigant's right to be heard, so long as those accommodations do not give the self-represented litigant an unfair advantage. This Rule does not require a judicial appointee to make any particular accommodation.

[3] Settlement conferences and referrals to alternative dispute resolution may play an important role in the administration of justice. A judicial appointee may play an important role in overseeing the settlement of disputes, but should be careful that efforts to further settlement do not undermine any party's right to be heard according to law. Among the factors that a judicial appointee should consider when deciding upon an appropriate settlement practice for a case are

Rule 18-202.6

(a) whether the parties have requested or voluntarily consented to a certain level of participation by the judicial appointee in settlement discussions, (b) whether the parties and their ~~counsel~~ attorneys are relatively sophisticated in legal matters, (c) whether the case will be tried by a judge or a jury, (d) whether the parties participate with their ~~counsel~~ attorneys in settlement discussions, (e) whether any parties are self-represented, and (f) the nature of the proceeding.

[4] Judicial appointees must be mindful of the effect settlement discussions can have, not only on their objectivity and impartiality, but also on the appearance of their objectivity and impartiality. A judicial appointee should keep in mind the effect that the judicial appointee's participation in settlement discussions may have on both the judicial appointee's own views of the case and the perceptions of the ~~lawyers~~ attorneys and the parties if the case remains with the judicial appointee after settlement efforts are unsuccessful. Despite a judicial appointee's best efforts, there may be instances when information obtained during settlement discussions could influence a judicial appointee's decision making during proceedings, and, in such instances, the judicial appointee should consider whether disqualification may be appropriate. See Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-202.11 (a) (1).

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.6 of ~~MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.7. RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE

A judicial appointee shall hear and decide matters assigned to the judicial appointee unless recusal is appropriate.

COMMENT

[1] Although there are times when disqualification is necessary or appropriate to protect the rights of litigants and preserve public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, judicial appointees must be available to decide matters that come before them. The dignity of the court, the judicial appointee's respect for fulfillment of the duties of the position, and a proper concern for the burdens that may be imposed upon the judges and the judicial appointee's colleagues require that a judicial appointee not use disqualification to avoid cases that present difficult, controversial, or unpopular issues.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.7 of ~~MCJ~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.8. DECORUM AND DEMEANOR

(a) A judicial appointee shall require order and decorum in proceedings before the judicial appointee.

(b) A judicial appointee shall be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants, witnesses, ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, court staff, court officials, and others with whom the judicial appointee deals in an official capacity, and shall require similar conduct of ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judicial appointee's direction and control.

COMMENT

[1] The duty to hear all proceedings with patience and courtesy is not inconsistent with the duty imposed in Rule ~~2.5~~ 18-202.5 to dispose promptly of the business of the court. Judicial appointees can be efficient and businesslike while being patient and deliberate.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.8 of ~~the MCJC,~~ ~~except that Comments [2] and [3] were deleted~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.9. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

(a) A judicial appointee shall not initiate, permit, or consider ex parte communications, or consider other communications made to the judicial appointee out of the presence of the parties or their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, concerning a pending or impending matter, except as follows:

(1) A judicial appointee may initiate, permit, or consider any ex parte communication when expressly authorized by law to do so.

(2) When circumstances require it, ex parte communication for scheduling, administrative, or emergency purposes, which does not address substantive matters, is permitted, provided:

(A) the judicial appointee reasonably believes that no party will gain a procedural, substantive, or tactical advantage as a result of the ex parte communication; and

(B) the judicial appointee makes provision promptly to notify all other parties of the substance of the ex parte communication, and gives the parties an opportunity to respond.

(3) A judicial appointee may obtain the advice of a disinterested expert on the law applicable to a proceeding if the judicial appointee (A) makes provision promptly to notify all of

the parties as to the expert consulted and the substance of the advice, and (B) affords the parties a reasonable opportunity to respond.

(4) A judicial appointee may consult with court staff and court officials whose functions are to aid the judicial appointee in carrying out the judicial appointee's adjudicative responsibilities, or with a judge, provided the judicial appointee does not make a decision based on adjudicative facts that are not made part of the record, and does not abrogate the responsibility personally to decide the matter.

(5) ~~A judicial appointee may, with~~ With the consent of the parties, a judicial appointee may confer separately with the parties and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys as part of a settlement conference conducted pursuant to ~~Rules 17-102 (1) and 17-105 (b)~~ the Rules in Title 17.

(6) When serving in a problem-solving court program of a Circuit Court or the District Court pursuant to Rule ~~16-206~~ 16-207, a judicial appointee may initiate, permit, and consider ex parte communications in conformance with the established protocols for the operation of the program if the parties have expressly consented to those protocols.

Cross reference: See Rule 4-216 (b) limiting ex parte communications with a District Court Commissioner. To the extent of any inconsistency between that Rule and this one, Rule 4-216 (b) prevails.

(b) If a judicial appointee inadvertently receives an unauthorized ex parte communication bearing upon the substance of

a matter, the judicial appointee shall make provision promptly to notify the parties of the substance of the communication and provide the parties with an opportunity to respond.

(c) Unless expressly authorized by law, a judicial appointee shall not investigate adjudicative facts in a matter independently, and shall consider only the evidence presented and any facts that may properly be judicially noticed.

Cross reference: See Code, Courts Article, §2-607 (c) (2) authorizing District Court Commissioners to conduct investigations and inquiries into the circumstances of matters presented to determine if probable cause exists for the issuance of a charging document, warrant, or criminal summons.

(d) A judicial appointee shall make reasonable efforts, including providing appropriate supervision, to ensure that this Rule is not violated by court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judicial appointee's direction and control.

COMMENT

[1] To the extent reasonably possible, all parties or their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys shall be included in communications with a judicial appointee.

[2] Whenever the presence of a party or notice to a party is required by this Rule, it is the party's ~~lawyer~~ attorney, or if the party is self-represented, the party, who is to be present or to whom notice is to be given.

[3] The proscription against communications concerning a proceeding includes communications with ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, law teachers, and other persons who are not participants in the proceeding, except to the limited extent permitted by this Rule.

[4] A judicial appointee may consult with judges or other judicial appointees on pending matters, including a retired judge approved for recall, but must avoid ex parte discussions of a case with judges or judicial appointees who have previously been disqualified from hearing the matter or with a judge whom the judicial appointee knows has been assigned to hear exceptions to the judicial appointee's recommendation in the matter.

Rule 18-202.9

[5] The prohibition against a judicial appointee investigating adjudicative facts in a matter extends to information available in all mediums, including electronic.

[6] A judicial appointee may consult ethics advisory committees, outside counsel, or legal experts concerning the judicial appointee's compliance with this Code. Such consultations are not subject to the restrictions of ~~paragraph~~ subsection (a) (2) of this Rule.

Committee note: This Rule does not regulate judicial notice of so-called "legislative facts" (facts pertaining to social policy and their ramifications) or of law.

Cross reference: See Rule 5-201.

Source: This Rule is derived from ~~in part~~ former Rule 2.9 of the MCJE Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.10. STATEMENTS ON PENDING AND IMPENDING CASES

(a) A judicial appointee shall abstain from public comment that relates to a proceeding pending or impending in any court and that might reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of that proceeding and shall require similar abstention on the part of court personnel subject to the judicial appointee's direction and control. This Rule does not prohibit a judicial appointee from making public statements in the course of official duties or from explaining for public information the procedures of the court.

(b) With respect to a case, controversy, or issue that is likely to come before the court, a judicial appointee shall not make a commitment, pledge, or promise that is inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of the office.

(c) Notwithstanding the restrictions in ~~paragraphs~~ sections (a) and (b) of this Rule, a judicial appointee may make public statements in the course of official duties, may explain court procedures, and may comment on any proceeding in which the judicial appointee is a litigant in a non-official capacity.

COMMENT

Rule 18-202.10

[1] This Rule's restrictions are essential to the maintenance of the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.

[2] This Rule does not prohibit a judicial appointee from commenting on proceedings in which the judicial appointee is a litigant in a personal capacity. In cases in which the judicial appointee is a litigant in an official capacity, such as a writ of mandamus, the judicial appointee must not comment publicly.

[3] "Court personnel," as used in ~~paragraph~~ section (a) of this Rule does not include the ~~lawyers attorneys~~ in a proceeding before the judicial appointee. The comment of ~~lawyers attorneys~~ in this regard is governed by Rule ~~3.6~~ 19-303.6 of the Maryland ~~Lawyers' Attorneys'~~ Rules of Professional Conduct.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.10 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.11. DISQUALIFICATION

(a) A judicial appointee shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judicial appointee's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, including the following circumstances:

(1) The judicial appointee has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a party's ~~lawyer~~ attorney, or personal knowledge of facts that are in dispute in the proceeding.

(2) The judicial appointee knows that the judicial appointee, the judicial appointee's spouse or domestic partner, or a ~~person~~ individual within the third degree of relationship to either of them, or the spouse or domestic partner of such a ~~person~~ individual:

(A) is a party to the proceeding, or an officer, director, general partner, managing member, or trustee of a party;

(B) is acting as a ~~lawyer~~ attorney in the proceeding;

(C) is a ~~person~~ an individual who has more than a de minimis interest that could be substantially affected by the proceeding; or

(D) is likely to be a material witness in the proceeding.

(3) The judicial appointee knows that he or she, individually

or as a fiduciary, or any of the following ~~persons~~ individuals has a significant financial interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the proceeding:

(A) the judicial appointee's spouse or domestic partner;

(B) ~~a person~~ an individual within the third degree of relationship to the judicial appointee; or

(C) any other member of the judicial appointee's family residing in the judicial appointee's household.

(4) The judicial appointee, while a judicial appointee or as an applicant for the position, has made a public statement, other than in a court proceeding, decision, or opinion, that commits or appears to commit the judicial appointee to reach a particular result or rule in a particular way in the proceeding or controversy.

(5) The judicial appointee:

(A) served as a ~~lawyer~~ attorney in the matter in controversy, or was associated with a ~~lawyer~~ attorney who participated substantially as a ~~lawyer~~ attorney in the matter during such association; or

(B) served in governmental employment, and in such capacity participated personally and substantially as a ~~lawyer~~ attorney or public official concerning the proceeding, or has publicly expressed in such capacity an opinion concerning the merits of the particular matter in controversy.

(6) If the judicial appointee is part-time, the judicial appointee or any attorney with whom the judicial appointee is

associated represents a party or otherwise has an interest in the proceeding.

(b) A judicial appointee shall keep informed about the judicial appointee's personal and fiduciary economic interests and make a reasonable effort to keep informed about the personal economic interests of the judicial appointee's spouse and minor children residing in the judicial appointee's household.

(c) A judicial appointee subject to disqualification under this Rule, other than for bias or prejudice under ~~paragraph~~ subsection (a) (1) of this Rule, may disclose on the record the basis of the judicial appointee's disqualification and may ask the parties and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to consider, outside the presence of the judicial appointee and court personnel, whether to waive disqualification. If, following the disclosure, the parties and ~~lawyers~~ attorneys agree, without participation by the judicial appointee or court personnel, that the judicial appointee should not be disqualified, the judicial appointee may participate in the proceeding. The agreement shall be incorporated into the record of the proceeding.

COMMENT

[1] Under this Rule, a judicial appointee is disqualified whenever the judicial appointee's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, regardless of whether any of the specific provisions of ~~paragraphs~~ subsections (a) (1) through (5) apply. In this Rule, "disqualification" has the same meaning as "recusal."

[2] A judicial appointee's obligation not to hear or decide matters in which disqualification is required applies regardless of whether a motion to disqualify is filed.

[3] A judicial appointee should disclose on the record information that the judicial appointee believes the parties or their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys might reasonably consider relevant to a possible motion for disqualification, even if the judicial appointee believes there is no basis for disqualification.

[4] This procedure gives the parties an opportunity to waive the recusal if the judicial appointee agrees. The judicial appointee may comment on possible waiver but must ensure that consideration of the question of waiver is made independently of the judicial appointee. A party may act through ~~counsel~~ an attorney if ~~counsel~~ the attorney represents on the record that the party has been consulted and consents. As a practical matter, a judicial appointee may request that all parties and their ~~lawyers~~ attorneys sign a waiver agreement.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Rule 2.11 of the MCJC, except that Comment [3] was deleted. Paragraph (a) (6) is derived from Canon 3D (1) (b) (ii) of the former Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees. This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.11 of Rule 16-814 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-202.12. SUPERVISORY DUTIES

(a) A judicial appointee shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judicial appointee's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judicial appointee's obligations under this Code.

(b) A judicial appointee with supervisory authority for the performance of other judicial appointees shall take reasonable measures to ensure that those judicial appointees properly discharge their official responsibilities, including the prompt disposition of matters before them.

COMMENT

[1] A judicial appointee is responsible for his or her own conduct and for the conduct of others, such as staff, when those ~~persons~~ individuals are acting at the judicial appointee's direction or control. A judicial appointee may not direct court personnel to engage in conduct on the judicial appointee's behalf or as the judicial appointee's representative when such conduct would violate this Code if undertaken by the judicial appointee.

[2] Public confidence in the judicial system depends upon timely justice. To promote the efficient administration of justice, a judicial appointee with supervisory authority must take the steps needed to ensure that judicial appointees under his or her supervision administer their workloads promptly.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.12 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.13. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

(a) In making official administrative appointments that the judicial appointee is otherwise authorized to make, a judicial appointee:

(1) shall exercise the power of appointment impartially and on the basis of merit; and

(2) shall avoid nepotism, favoritism, personal benefit, and unnecessary appointments.

(b) A judicial appointee shall not approve compensation of appointees beyond the fair value of services rendered.

Committee note: This Rule may not be construed as a source of authority for judicial appointees to make administrative appointments but only as a limit on the exercise of such authority to the extent it otherwise exists.

COMMENT

[1] Consent by the parties to an appointment or an award of compensation does not relieve the judicial appointee of the obligation prescribed by paragraph section (a) of this Rule.

[2] Unless otherwise defined by law, nepotism is the appointment or hiring of any relative within the third degree of relationship to either the judicial appointee or the judicial appointee's spouse or domestic partner, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relative.

[3] Rule ~~2-13~~ 18-202.13 does not apply to the appointment or compensation of an employee in the private office of a part-time judicial appointee.

Rule 18-202.13

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Rule 2.13 of the MCJC, except that the first sentence of Comment [1] was deleted.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.13 of Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.14. DISABILITY AND IMPAIRMENT OF OTHERS

A judicial appointee having a reasonable belief that the performance of a ~~lawyer~~ attorney, a judge, or another judicial appointee is impaired by drugs or alcohol or by a mental, emotional, or physical condition, shall take appropriate action, which may include a confidential referral to a ~~lawyer~~ attorney or judicial assistance program.

COMMENT

[1] "Appropriate action" means action intended and reasonably likely to help the judge, judicial appointee, or ~~lawyer~~ attorney in question to address the problem and prevent harm to the justice system. Depending upon the circumstances, appropriate action may include speaking directly to the impaired ~~person~~ individual, notifying an individual with supervisory responsibility over the impaired ~~person~~ individual, or making a referral to an assistance program.

[2] Taking or initiating corrective action by way of referral to an assistance program may satisfy a judicial appointee's responsibility under this Rule. Assistance programs have many approaches for offering help to impaired judges and ~~lawyers~~ attorneys, such as intervention, counseling, or referral to appropriate health care professionals. Depending upon the gravity of the conduct that has come to the judicial appointee's attention, however, the judicial appointee may be required to take other action, such as reporting the impaired judge, judicial appointee, or ~~lawyer~~ attorney to the appropriate authority, agency, or body. See Rule ~~2.15~~ 18-202.15.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.14 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.15. RESPONDING TO JUDICIAL AND ~~LAWYER~~ ATTORNEY
MISCONDUCT

(a) A judicial appointee shall take or initiate appropriate corrective measures with respect to the unprofessional conduct of a judge, another judicial appointee, or ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney.

(b) If other corrective measures are not appropriate or, if attempted, were not successful, a judicial appointee:

(1) shall inform the Commission on Judicial Disabilities of facts known to the judicial appointee that raise a substantial question as to a judge's fitness for office;

(2) shall inform the Attorney Grievance Commission of facts known to the judicial appointee that raise a substantial question as to ~~a lawyer's~~ an attorney's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney in other respects; and

(3) shall inform the appointing authority of facts known to the judicial appointee that raise a substantial question as to another judicial appointee's fitness for the position.

(c) Acts of a judicial appointee required or permitted by ~~paragraphs~~ sections (a) or (b) of this Rule shall be absolutely privileged.

COMMENT

Rule 18-202.15

[1] Permitting a judicial appointee to take "corrective" measures gives the judicial appointee a wide range of options to deal with unprofessional conduct. Appropriate corrective measures may include direct communication with the judge, ~~lawyer~~ attorney, or other judicial appointee who is believed to have committed the violation or other direct action if available. There may be instances of professional misconduct that would warrant a private admonition or referral to a bar association counseling service.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived from Rule 2.15 of the MCJC, except that paragraph (b)(3) is new.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.15 of Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-202.16. COOPERATION WITH DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES

(a) A judicial appointee shall cooperate and be candid and honest with judicial and ~~lawyer~~ attorney disciplinary agencies.

(b) A judicial appointee shall not retaliate, directly or indirectly, against a person known or suspected to have assisted or cooperated with an investigation of a judge, another judicial appointee, or a ~~lawyer~~ an attorney.

COMMENT

[1] Cooperation with investigations and proceedings of judicial and ~~lawyer~~ attorney discipline agencies, as required in ~~paragraph~~ section (a) of this Rule, instills confidence in judicial appointees' commitment to the integrity of the judicial system and the protection of the public.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 2.16 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING EXTRA-OFFICIAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-203.1. EXTRA-OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL

~~A Except as prohibited by law or this Code, a judicial appointee may engage in extra-official activities, except as prohibited by law or this Code.~~ When engaging in extra-official activities, a judicial appointee shall not:

(a) participate in activities that will interfere with the proper performance of the judicial appointee's official duties;

(b) participate in activities that will lead to frequent disqualification of the judicial appointee;

(c) participate in activities that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judicial appointee's independence, integrity, or impartiality;

(d) engage in conduct that would appear to a reasonable person to be coercive; or

(e) make inappropriate use of court premises, staff, stationery, equipment, or other resources.

COMMENT

[1] To the extent that time permits, and independence and impartiality are not compromised, judicial appointees are encouraged to engage in appropriate extra-official activities. Judicial appointees are uniquely qualified to engage in extra-official 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

Rule 18-203.1

addition, judicial appointees are permitted and encouraged to engage in educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic extra-official activities not conducted for profit, even when the activities do not involve the law. See Rule ~~3.7~~ 18-203.7.

[2] Participation in both law-related and other extra-official activities helps integrate judicial appointees 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 judicial appointee, even outside the judicial appointee's official actions, are likely to appear to a reasonable person to call into question the judicial appointee'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 judicial appointee's extra-official activities must not be conducted in connection or affiliation with an organization that practices invidious discrimination. See Rule ~~3.6~~ 18-203.6.

[4] While engaged in permitted extra-official activities, judicial appointees must not coerce others or take action that would reasonably be perceived as coercive. For example, depending upon the circumstances, a judicial appointee's solicitation of contributions or memberships for an organization, even as permitted by Rule ~~3.7~~ 18-203.7 (a), might create the risk that the person solicited would feel obligated to respond favorably, or would do so to curry favor with the judicial appointee.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.1 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.2. APPEARANCES BEFORE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND
CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

A judicial appointee 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;

(b) in connection with matters about which the judicial appointee acquired knowledge or expertise in the course of the judicial appointee's official duties;

(c) when the judicial appointee is acting self-represented in a matter involving the judicial appointee's legal or economic interests, or when the judicial appointee is acting in a fiduciary capacity; or

(d) as permitted by Rule ~~3-10~~ 18-203.10.

COMMENT

[1] Judicial appointees 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 officials in the executive or legislative branch ~~officials~~.

[2] In appearing before governmental bodies or consulting with government officials, judicial appointees must be mindful that they remain subject to other provisions of this Code, such

Rule 18-203.2

as Rule ~~1-3~~ 18-201.3, prohibiting them from using the prestige of office to advance their own or others' interests, Rule ~~2-10~~ 18-202.10, governing public comment on pending and impending matters, and Rule ~~3-1~~ 18-203.1 (c), prohibiting judicial appointees from engaging in extra-official activities that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judicial appointee's independence, integrity, or impartiality.

[3] In general, it would be an unnecessary and unfair burden to prohibit judicial appointees 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, judicial appointees must not refer to their official positions, and must otherwise exercise caution to avoid using the prestige of their position.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.2 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.3. TESTIFYING AS A CHARACTER WITNESS

A Except when duly subpoenaed, a judicial appointee 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

[1] A judicial appointee who, without being subpoenaed, testifies as a character witness abuses the prestige of the position to advance the interests of another. See Rule ~~1-3~~ 18-201.3. Except in unusual circumstances where the demands of justice require, a judicial appointee should discourage a party from requiring the judicial appointee to testify as a character witness.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.3 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.4. APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS

A judicial appointee shall not accept appointment to: (a) a Judicial Nominating Commission or (b) any other governmental committee, board, commission, or position, unless it is one that concerns the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice.

COMMENT

[1] Rule ~~3-4~~ 18-203.4 implicitly acknowledges the value of judicial appointees accepting appointments to entities that concern the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. Even in such instances, however, a judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee's time commitments, and giving due regard to the requirements of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

[2] A judicial appointee may not accept a governmental appointment that could interfere with the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary, assume or discharge an executive or legislative power, or hold another "office" under the Constitution or laws of the United States or the State of Maryland. See Maryland Declaration of Rights, Articles 8, 33, and 35.

[3] A judicial appointee 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 18-203.4

Committee note: Although the Judicial Ethics Committee has concluded that the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution may allow service in reserve components of the armed forces that otherwise might be precluded under this Code, such as service as a judge advocate or military judge, the Attorney General, rather than the Judicial Ethics Committee, traditionally has rendered opinions with regard to issues of dual or incompatible offices.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.4 of ~~the~~ MCJC Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.5. USE OF NONPUBLIC INFORMATION

A judicial appointee shall not intentionally disclose or use nonpublic information acquired in an official capacity for any purpose unrelated to the judicial appointee's official duties. Nonpublic information means information that is not available to the public. It may include information that is (a) sealed or shielded pursuant to the Maryland Rules, other law, or court order, (b) impounded, (c) communicated in camera, or (d) offered in grand jury proceedings, pre-sentencing reports, dependency cases, or psychiatric reports.

COMMENT

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

[2] This Rule is not intended, however, to affect a judicial appointee's ability to act on information as necessary to protect the health or safety of the judicial appointee or a member of a judicial appointee's family, court personnel, or other judicial officers.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.5 of ~~the MCJE~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.6. AFFILIATION WITH DISCRIMINATORY ORGANIZATIONS

(a) A judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee shall not use the benefits or facilities of an organization if the judicial appointee knows or should know that the organization practices invidious discrimination on one or more of the bases identified in ~~paragraph~~ section (a) of this Rule. A judicial appointee's attendance at an event in a facility of an organization that the judicial appointee is not permitted to join is not a violation of this Rule when the judicial appointee's attendance is an isolated event that could not reasonably be perceived as an endorsement of the organization's practices.

COMMENT

[1] A judicial appointee'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 judicial appointee's membership in an organization that practices invidious discrimination creates the perception that the judicial appointee's impartiality is impaired.

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[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~~ individuals who would otherwise be eligible for admission. Whether an organization practices invidious discrimination is a complex question to which judicial appointees 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 judicial appointee learns that an organization to which the judicial appointee belongs engages in invidious discrimination, the judicial appointee must resign immediately from the organization.

[4] A judicial appointee'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.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.6 of ~~the~~ MCJC Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.7. PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS,
CHARITABLE, FRATERNAL, OR CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

(a) Subject to the requirements of Rules ~~3.1~~ 18-203.1 and ~~3.6~~ 18-203.6, a judicial appointee 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 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 judicial appointee's family, judges, or other judicial appointees over whom the judicial appointee does not exercise supervisory 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 judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee; or

(B) will frequently be engaged in adversary proceedings in the appointing court.

(b) A judicial appointee may encourage but not coerce ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to provide pro bono publico legal services.

COMMENT

[1] The activities permitted by ~~paragraph section~~ section (a) of this Rule 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 judicial appointee should consider whether the membership and purposes of the organization or the nature of the judicial appointee's participation in or association with the organization would conflict with the judicial appointee's obligation to refrain from activities that reflect adversely upon a judicial appointee'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~~ subsection (a)(4) of this Rule. It is also generally permissible for a judicial appointee 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. Such activities are not solicitation and do not present an element of coercion or abuse the prestige of the judicial appointee's position.

[4] Identification of a judicial appointee's position in educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations on letterhead used for fund-raising or membership solicitation does not violate this Rule. The letterhead may list the judicial appointee's title or position if comparable designations are used for other ~~persons~~ individuals.

[5] A judicial appointee may promote access to justice by encouraging ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to participate in pro bono publico legal services, if in doing so the judicial appointee does not employ coercion, or abuse the prestige of the judicial appointee's position. Such encouragement may take many forms, including providing lists of available programs, training ~~lawyers~~ attorneys to do pro bono publico legal work, and participating in events recognizing ~~lawyers~~ attorneys who have done pro bono publico work.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.7 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.8. APPOINTMENTS TO FIDUCIARY POSITIONS

(a) Except as provided in ~~paragraph~~ section (b) of this Rule, a judicial appointee may hold a fiduciary position, such as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, attorney in fact, or other personal representative.

(b) A judicial appointee shall not hold a fiduciary position if:

(1) doing so would interfere with the proper performance of the judicial appointee's official duties; or

(2) the fiduciary will likely be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come before the judicial appointee, or if the estate, trust, or ward becomes involved in adversary proceedings in the appointing court.

(c) A judicial appointee acting in a fiduciary capacity shall be subject to the same restrictions on engaging in financial activities that apply to a judicial appointee personally.

(d) If ~~a person~~ an individual who is serving in a fiduciary position becomes a judicial appointee, he or she must comply with this Rule as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event later than one year after becoming a judicial appointee.

COMMENT

[1] A judicial appointee should recognize that other restrictions imposed by this Code may conflict with the judicial appointee's obligations as a fiduciary; in such circumstances, a judicial appointee should resign as fiduciary. For example, serving as a fiduciary might require frequent disqualification of a judicial appointee under Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-202.11 because a judicial appointee 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.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived in part from Rule 3.8 of the MCJC but permits judicial appointees to serve as a fiduciary in situations in which a judge is not permitted to serve. This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.8 of Rule 16-814 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-203.9. SERVICE AS ARBITRATOR OR MEDIATOR

(a) ~~A Unless expressly authorized by law, a full-time judicial appointee shall not act as an arbitrator or a mediator or perform other alternative dispute resolution functions apart from the judicial appointee's official duties unless expressly authorized by law.~~

(b) A part-time judicial appointee may conduct alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proceedings in a private capacity only if the judicial appointee:

(1) conducts no ADR proceedings in a private capacity relating to a matter currently assigned to the judicial appointee;

(2) discloses to the parties in each matter assigned to the judicial appointee:

(A) the judicial appointee's professional association with any entity that is engaged in offering ADR services;

(B) whether the judicial appointee is conducting, or has conducted within the previous 12 months, an ADR proceeding involving any party, attorney, or law firm involved in the matter assigned to the judicial appointee; and

(C) any negotiations or agreements for future ADR services

involving the judicial appointee and any of the parties or ~~counsel~~ attorneys to the case; and

(3) except ~~if~~ when there is no disqualification by agreement as permitted by Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-202.11 (c), does not participate in a matter in which the judicial appointee's impartiality might reasonably be questioned because of ADR services engaged in or offered by the judicial appointee.

COMMENT

[1] This Rule does not prohibit a part-time judicial appointee from participating in arbitration, mediation, or other alternative dispute resolution services in a private capacity. See, however, Rule ~~3.1~~ 18-203.1.

[2] Magistrates may conduct settlement conferences pursuant to ~~Rules 17-102 (1) and 17-105 (b)~~ the Rules in Title 17 as part of assigned official duties. Full-time judicial appointees shall not otherwise render dispute resolution services, whether or not for economic gain, unless expressly authorized by law.

Source: ~~This Rule is derived in part from Canon 4F of the former Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees.~~ This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.9 of Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.10. PRACTICE OF LAW

(a) In General

Except as expressly allowed by this Rule, a judicial appointee shall not practice law.

(b) Exceptions

(1) A judicial appointee may act self-represented in a matter involving the judicial appointee or the judicial appointee's interest and, if without compensation, may give legal advice to and draft or review documents for a member of the judicial appointee's family.

(2) To the extent not expressly prohibited by law or by the appointing authority and subject to other applicable provisions of this Code, a part-time judicial appointee who is ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney may practice law, provided that:

(A) the judicial appointee shall not use his or her position to further the judicial appointee's success in the practice of law; and

(B) the judicial appointee shall not practice or appear in the appointing court, as an individual in a matter involving the judicial appointee or the judicial appointee's interest ~~in the appointing court~~.

(c) Prior to assuming official duties, a full-time judicial appointee shall enter into an agreement for payments, if any, relating to the judicial appointee's former law practice. A payment period limited to a maximum of five years is presumptively reasonable.

Committee note: Section (c) of this Rule does not appear in Rule 18-103.10, dealing with judges. A 2005 Administrative Order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals contains a comparable provision pertaining to judges.

COMMENT

[1] A judicial appointee may act self-represented in all legal matters, including matters involving litigation and matters involving appearances before or other dealings with governmental bodies. A judicial appointee must not use the prestige of office to advance the judicial appointee's personal or family interests. See Rule ~~1-3~~ 18-201.3.

~~Source:—This Rule is derived from Canon 4G of the former Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees. This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.10 of Rule 16-814 (2016).~~

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Rule 18-203.11. FINANCIAL, BUSINESS, OR REMUNERATIVE ACTIVITIES

(a) A judicial appointee may hold and manage investments of the judicial appointee and members of the judicial appointee's family.

(b) ~~(1)~~ Except as permitted by Rule ~~3.7~~ 18-203.7, a full-time judicial appointee shall not serve as an officer, director, manager, general partner, advisor, or employee of any business entity except that a judicial appointee may manage or participate in:

~~(A)~~ (1) a business closely held by the judicial appointee or members of the judicial appointee's family; or

~~(B)~~ (2) a business entity primarily engaged in investment of the financial resources of the judicial appointee or members of the judicial appointee's family.

~~(2) This section does not apply to a part-time judicial appointee.~~

(c) A judicial appointee shall not engage in financial activities permitted under ~~paragraphs~~ sections (a) or (b) of this Rule if they will:

(1) interfere with the proper performance of the judicial appointee's official duties;

(2) lead to frequent disqualification of the judicial appointee;

(3) involve the judicial appointee in frequent transactions or continuing business relationships with ~~lawyers~~ attorneys or other persons likely to come before the appointing court; or

(4) result in violation of other provisions of this Code.

COMMENT

[1] Judicial appointees 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 extra-official activities, is subject to the requirements of this Code. For example, it would be improper for a judicial appointee to spend so much time on business activities that it interferes with the performance of the judicial appointee's official duties. See Rule ~~2.1~~ 18-202.1. Similarly, it would be improper for a judicial appointee to use his or her official title or conduct his or her business or financial affairs in such a way that disqualification is frequently required. See Rules ~~1.3~~ 18-201.3 and ~~2.11~~ 18-202.11.

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

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.11 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.12. COMPENSATION FOR EXTRA-OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES

A judicial appointee may accept reasonable compensation for extra-official activities permitted by this Code or other law unless such acceptance would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judicial appointee's independence, integrity, or impartiality.

COMMENT

[1] A judicial appointee 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 and commensurate with the task performed. The judicial appointee should be mindful, however, that official duties must take precedence over other activities.

[2] Compensation derived from extra-official activities may be subject to public reporting. See Rule ~~3.15~~ 18-203.15.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.12 of the ~~MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.13. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, LOANS, BEQUESTS, BENEFITS,
OR OTHER THINGS OF VALUE

(a) A judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee's independence, integrity, or impartiality.

(b) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, or by ~~paragraph~~ section (a) of this Rule, a judicial appointee may accept the following:

(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~~ attorneys, whose appearance or interest in a proceeding pending or impending before the judicial appointee would in any event require disqualification of the judicial appointee under Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-202.11;

(3) ordinary social hospitality;

(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 judicial appointees;

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

(6) scholarships, fellowships, and similar benefits or awards, if they are available to similarly situated ~~persons~~ individuals who are not judicial appointees, based upon the same terms and criteria;

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

(8) 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 judicial appointee residing in the judicial appointee's household, but that incidentally benefit the judicial appointee.

(9) gifts incident to a public testimonial;

(10) invitations to the judicial appointee and the judicial appointee'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 judicial appointee's educational, religious, charitable, fraternal or civic activities permitted by this Code, if the same invitation is offered to persons who are not judicial appointees who are engaged in similar ways in the activity as is the judicial appointee.

COMMENT

[1] Whenever a judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee's decision in a case. ~~Rule 3.13~~ 18-203.13 imposes restrictions upon the acceptance of such benefits, according to the magnitude of the risk. ~~Paragraph Section~~ (b) of this Rule identifies circumstances in which the risk that the acceptance would appear to undermine the judicial appointee's independence, integrity, or impartiality is low. As the value of the benefit or the likelihood that the source of the benefit will appear before the judicial appointee increases, the judicial appointee is prohibited under ~~paragraph section~~ (a) of this Rule from accepting the gift.

[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 judicial appointee's independence, integrity, or impartiality has been compromised. In addition, when the appearance of friends or relatives in a case would require the judicial appointee's disqualification under ~~Rule 2.11~~ 18-202.11, there would be no opportunity for a gift to influence the judicial appointee's decision-making. ~~Paragraph Subsection~~ (b) (2) of this Rule places no restrictions upon the ability of a judicial appointee to accept gifts or other things of value from friends or relatives under these circumstances.

[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 judicial appointee may freely accept such benefits if they are available to the general public, or if the judicial appointee qualifies for the special price or discount according to the same criteria as are applied to persons who are not judicial appointees. As an example, loans provided at generally prevailing interest rates

are not gifts, but a judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee also possesses.

[4] Rule ~~3.13~~ 18-203.13 applies only to acceptance of gifts or other things of value by a judicial appointee. Nonetheless, if a gift or other benefit is given to the judicial appointee's spouse, domestic partner, or member of the judicial appointee's family residing in the judicial appointee's household, it may be viewed as an attempt to evade Rule ~~3.13~~ 18-203.13 and influence the judicial appointee indirectly. Where the gift or benefit is being made primarily to such other persons, and the judicial appointee is merely an incidental beneficiary, this concern is reduced. A judicial appointee should, however, remind family and household members of the restrictions imposed upon judicial appointees and urge them to take these restrictions into account when making decisions about accepting such gifts or benefits.

[5] Rule ~~3.13~~ 18-203.13 does not apply to contributions to a judicial appointee's campaign for judicial office.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.13 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.14. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES AND WAIVERS OF FEES OR CHARGES

(a) Unless otherwise prohibited by Rule ~~3.1~~ 18-203.1, Rule ~~3.13~~ 18-203.13 (a), or other law, a judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee's employing entity, if the expenses or charges are associated with the judicial appointee's participation in extra-official 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 judicial appointee and, when appropriate to the occasion, by the judicial appointee's spouse, domestic partner, or guest.

COMMENT

[1] Educational, civic, religious, fraternal, and charitable organizations often sponsor meetings, seminars, symposia, dinners, awards ceremonies, and similar events. Judicial appointees 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

extra-official activities is also permitted and encouraged by this Code.

[2] Not infrequently, sponsoring organizations invite certain judicial appointees 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 judicial appointee's decision whether to accept reimbursement of expenses or a waiver or partial waiver of fees or charges in connection with these or other extra-official activities must be based upon an assessment of all the circumstances. The judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee must assure himself or herself that acceptance of reimbursement or fee waivers would not appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judicial appointee's independence, integrity, or impartiality. The factors that a judicial appointee 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 judicial appointee, or to matters that are likely to come before the judicial appointee;

(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 judicial appointee's court, thus possibly requiring disqualification of the judicial appointee under Rule ~~2.11~~ 18-202.11;

Rule 18-203.14

(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 or judicial appointees.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.14 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-203.15. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A judicial appointee must accurately complete and timely file an annual ~~Statement of Financial Interests~~ Financial Disclosure Statement on the form and as otherwise prescribed by the Court of Appeals pursuant to ~~Md. Rule 16-816~~ 18-604.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 3.15 of ~~the MCJC Rule 16-814~~ (2016).

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RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-204.1. DEFINITIONS

(a) Applicant

(1) "Applicant" means a judicial appointee who has applied for appointment by the Governor to a judicial office.

(2) A judicial appointee becomes an applicant when the judicial appointee files an application with a judicial nominating commission and remains an applicant until the Governor makes an appointment to that judicial office unless, prior to that time, the judicial appointee formally withdraws the application.

(3) If the judicial appointee is not appointed but, pursuant to an Executive Order of the Governor or other law, remains eligible for appointment to another judicial office without a further application to or recommendation from the judicial nominating commission, the judicial appointee remains an applicant until the Governor makes an appointment to that other judicial office, unless, prior to that time, the judicial appointee formally withdraws the application.

Cross reference: Executive Order ~~01.01.2008.04~~ 01.01.2015.09.

(b) Candidate for Election

(1) "Candidate for election" means a judicial appointee who

seeks initial election to a Circuit Court or an Orphans' Court.

(2) A judicial appointee becomes a candidate for election on the date on which the judicial appointee files a certificate of candidacy in accordance with Maryland election laws, but no earlier than two years prior to the general election for that office.

(3) A judicial appointee who becomes a candidate for election under ~~paragraph~~ section (c) of this Rule remains a candidate for election until the general election for the office unless, prior to that time, the judicial appointee files a formal withdrawal of candidacy in accordance with Maryland election laws.

(c) Political Organization

"Political organization" includes a political party, a political committee, and a partisan organization, as those terms are defined in Maryland Code, Election Article, §1-101.

Source: ~~These definitions are derived from Rule 4.1 of the MCJC.~~
This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.1 of Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-204.2. POLITICAL CONDUCT OF JUDICIAL APPOINTEE WHO IS NOT A CANDIDATE

(a) A judicial appointee who is not a candidate for election shall not engage in any partisan political activity.

(b) A judicial appointee shall resign when the judicial appointee becomes a candidate for a non-judicial office, except that a judicial appointee may continue to hold the appointed position while a candidate for election as a delegate to a Maryland Constitutional Convention.

Source: Rule 4.2 is derived from Rule 4.2 of the MCJC. This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.2 of Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-204.3. POLITICAL CONDUCT OF APPLICANT

An applicant for judicial office may initiate communications or contact with a judicial nominating commission or its members and may seek endorsements for the appointment from any other person ~~or organization~~, other than a political organization.

COMMENT

[1] An applicant may initiate communications or contact with a judicial nominating commission or its members, but neither the commission nor its members are obliged to respond to such communications or contact. Applicants may appear for interviews before the commission and may respond to questions or inquiries from commission members, and they may solicit endorsements from other persons ~~or organizations~~ (other than a political organization). If they have a question regarding the procedure or their application, they may contact the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.3 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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Rule 18-204.4. POLITICAL CONDUCT OF CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION

A candidate for election:

(a) shall comply with all applicable election laws and regulations;

(b) shall act at all times in a manner consistent with the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office;

(c) subject to the other provisions of this Rule, may engage in partisan political activity allowed by law with respect to such candidacy, and, in that regard:

(1) may publicly endorse or oppose candidates for the same judicial office;

(2) may attend or purchase tickets for dinners or other events sponsored by a political organization or a candidate for public office; and

(3) may seek, accept, and use endorsements from any person ~~or organization~~; but

(4) shall not act as a leader in or hold office in a political organization, make a speech for a candidate or political organization, or publicly endorse a candidate for non-judicial office.

(d) As to statements and materials made or produced during a campaign:

(1) shall review, approve, and be responsible for the content of all campaign statements and materials produced by the candidate or by the candidate's campaign committee or other authorized agents;

(2) shall take reasonable measures to ensure that other persons do not undertake on behalf of the candidate activities that the candidate is prohibited from doing by this Rule;

(3) with respect to a case, controversy, or issue that is likely to come before the judicial appointee, shall not make a commitment, pledge, or promise that is inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of the office;

(4) shall not make any statement that would reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of a matter pending or impending in any court;

(5) shall not knowingly, or with reckless disregard for the truth, misrepresent the candidate's identity or qualifications, the identity or qualifications of an opponent, or any other fact, or make any false or misleading statement;

(6) may speak or write on behalf of the candidate's candidacy through any medium, including advertisements, websites, or other campaign literature; and

(7) subject to ~~paragraph~~ section (b) of this Rule, may respond to a personal attack or an attack on the candidate's record.

COMMENT

[1] This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.4 of ~~the MCJE~~ Rule 16-814.

[2] Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (a) requires candidates for election to comply with all election laws and regulations. The Election Law Article of the Maryland Code contains laws governing candidates, campaign contributions, finance, expenditures, and reporting. Those requirements are supplemented by regulations adopted by the State Board of Elections. Candidates for election must become familiar with applicable laws and regulations and comply with them.

[3] Public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary is eroded if judicial appointees, as candidates for judicial office, are perceived to be subject to political influence. Although they may register to vote as members of a political party, they are prohibited by Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (c) (4) from assuming leadership roles in political organizations.

[4] Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (c) (4) also prohibits candidates for election from making speeches on behalf of political organizations or publicly endorsing or opposing candidates for public office, to prevent them from abusing the prestige of judicial office to advance the interests of others. See Rule ~~4.3~~ 18-201.3. Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 does not prohibit candidates for election from (a) campaigning on their own behalf, (b) endorsing or opposing candidates for election to the same judicial office for which they are running, or (c) from having their name on the same sample ballot as a candidate for another public office.

[5] Although members of the families of candidates for election are free to engage in their own political activity, including running for public office, there is no "family exception" to the prohibition in Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (c) (4) against publicly endorsing candidates for public office. A candidate for election must not become involved in, or be publicly associated with, a family member's political activity or campaign for public office. To avoid public misunderstanding, candidates for election should take, and should urge members of their families to take, reasonable steps to avoid any implication that they endorse any family member's candidacy or other political activity.

[6] Judicial candidates must be scrupulously fair and accurate in all statements made by them and by their campaign committees. Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (d) (5) obligates them to refrain from making statements that are false or misleading, or that omit facts necessary to make the communication considered as a whole not materially misleading. Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (d) (1) requires the

Rule 18-204.4

candidate to review and approve the content of statements made by the candidate's campaign committee or other authorized agents and makes the candidate responsible for those statements.

[7] Candidates for election are sometimes the subject of false, misleading, or unfair allegations made by opposing candidates, third parties, or the media. As long as the candidate for election does not violate Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (d), he or she may make a factually accurate public response, although it is preferable for someone else to respond if the allegations relate to a pending case. If an independent third party has made unwarranted attacks on a candidate for election's opponent, the candidate for election may disavow the attacks and request the third party to cease and desist.

[8] Rule ~~4.4~~ 18-204.4 (d) (3) prohibits candidates for election, with regard to cases or issues likely to come before the court, from making a commitment, promise, or pledge that is inconsistent with the impartial performance of the duties of the office. The making of a commitment, promise, or pledge is not dependent on, or limited to, the use of any specific words or phrases. The totality of the statement must be examined to determine if a reasonable person would believe that the candidate has specifically undertaken to reach a particular result. Commitments, promises, and pledges must be contrasted with statements or announcements of personal views on legal, political, or other issues, which are not prohibited. When making such statements, a candidate for election should acknowledge the overarching judicial obligation to apply and uphold the law, without regard to his or her personal views.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.4 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 200 - MARYLAND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

RULES GOVERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Rule 18-204.5. APPLICABILITY AND DISCIPLINE

(a) A judicial appointee shall comply with ~~the Rules in this Section 4~~ 18-204.1 through 18-204.5 and with Rule ~~8.2~~ 19-308.2 of the Maryland ~~Lawyers'~~ Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct (~~Maryland Rule 16-812~~). If successful as a candidate for election, the judicial appointee is subject to judicial discipline for campaign conduct. If unsuccessful, the judicial appointee is subject to attorney discipline for campaign conduct.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 4.5 of ~~the MCJC~~ Rule 16-814 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 300 - JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Rule 18-301. DEFINITIONS

In this ~~Rule~~ Chapter the following definitions apply except as otherwise expressly provided or as necessary implication requires:

(a) Committee

"Committee" means the Judicial Ethics Committee.

(b) Ethics Provision

"Ethics provision" means:

(1) a provision of Code, General Provisions Article, §5-501 et seq. or §5-601 et seq.;

(2) as to a judge, also a provision of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct; and

(3) as to a judicial appointee as defined in Rule ~~16-814~~ 18-200.3, also a provision of the Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees.

(c) State Official in Judicial Branch

"State official in the Judicial Branch" means an individual who is in the Judicial Branch and is a State official, as defined in Code, General Provisions Article, §5-101 (11).

Source: This Rule is derived from section (a) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 300 - JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Rule 18-302. EXISTENCE; MEMBERSHIP; TERMS

(a) Creation

There is a Judicial Ethics Committee.

(b) ~~Composition~~ Membership

The Committee consists of 11 members appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Of the 11 members:

- (1) one shall be a judge of the Court of Special Appeals;
- (2) two shall be circuit court judges;
- (3) two shall be judges of the District Court;
- (4) one shall be a judge of an orphans' court;
- (5) one shall be a former judge who is approved for recall for temporary service under ~~Maryland Constitution, Article IV,~~
~~§3A~~ Code, Courts Article, §1-302;
- (6) one shall be a clerk of a circuit court;
- (7) one shall be a judicial appointee as defined in Rule ~~16-814~~ 18-200.3; and
- (8) two shall not be a judge or other ~~officer~~ official or employee of the Judicial Branch of the State government or ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney.

(c) Terms

(1) The term of a member is three years and begins on July 1, except that the former judge appointed pursuant to subsection

(b) (5) of this Rule shall not have a term and shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

(2) The terms of the members shall be staggered so that the terms of not more than four members expire each year.

(3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed.

(4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed.

(5) A member appointed on or after July 1, 2005, may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Source: This Rule is derived from sections (b), (c), and (d) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
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Rule 18-303. CHAIR; VICE CHAIR; STAFF

(a) Chair; Vice Chair

The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall designate one judicial member as the Chair of the Committee and one judicial member as the Vice Chair. In the absence or disability of the Chair or upon an express delegation of authority by the Chair, the Vice Chair shall have the authority and perform the duties of the Chair.

(b) Staff

The Committee shall have staff as the State Court Administrator directs.

Source: This Rule is derived from sections (e) and (h) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
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Rule 18-304. MEETINGS; QUORUM

(a) Meetings

The Committee shall meet at the times and places that the Chair directs.

(b) Quorum

The presence of a majority of the members then serving constitutes a quorum for the transaction of all business other than adjournment of a meeting for lack of a quorum.

Source: This Rule is derived from sections (f) and (g) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 300 - JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Rule 18-305. DUTIES

In addition to its other duties imposed by law, the Committee:

(a) shall give advice, as provided in this Rule, with respect to the application or interpretation of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct and the Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees;

(b) is designated as the body to give advice with respect to the application or interpretation of any provision of Code, General Provisions Article, §5-501 et seq. and §5-601 et seq., to a State official in the Judicial Branch;

(c) shall review timely appeals from the State Court Administrator's decision not to extend, under Rule ~~16-815~~ 18-703 or ~~16-816~~ 18-704, the period for filing a financial disclosure statement;

(d) shall determine, under Rule ~~16-815~~ (f) 18-703 (e) or Rule ~~16-816~~ (g) 18-704 (e), whether to allow a judge or judicial appointee to correct a deficiency as to a financial disclosure statement or to refer the matter, as to a judge, to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities or, as to a judicial appointee, to the State Ethics Commission; and

(e) shall submit to the ~~Court of Appeals~~ Rules Committee

Rule 18-305

recommendations for necessary or desirable changes in any ethics provision.

Source: This Rule is derived from section (i) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
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Rule 18-306. REQUEST FOR OPINION

(a) Who May Request

A request for the opinion of the Committee may be made only by:

(1) a State official in the Judicial Branch, as to the proper interpretation of an ethics provision as applied to that State official; or

(2) the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, as to the proper interpretation of an ethics provision.

(b) Form and Content

Each request for an opinion of the Committee shall:

(1) be in writing;

(2) describe the act or activity about which the opinion is requested;

(3) include all documentation or other information necessary for the Committee to perform its function, which may include citation to rules, statutes, and published opinions of the Committee that the requester believes to be relevant to the request; and

(4) include an address to which the Committee shall direct correspondence.

Rule 18-306

Source: This Rule is derived from subsections (j) (1) and (2) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016).

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 300 - JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Rule 18-307. OPINION; LETTER OF ADVICE

(a) Opinion

~~The~~ Except as provided in section (b) of this Rule, the
Committee ~~may~~ shall render ~~an a written~~ opinion, ~~in writing, with~~
~~regard~~ in response to each request properly made under Rule 18-
306 and shall decide whether ~~an the~~ opinion is to be published or
unpublished.

(b) Letter of Advice

If the Chair ~~decides~~ determines that the full Committee
cannot provide a timely ~~written~~ opinion or that prior published
opinions of the Committee render full Committee review
unnecessary, the Chair shall appoint a panel of not less than
three members of the Committee ~~appointed by the Chair may to~~
issue a written letter of advice, which shall not be published
and shall have no precedential effect.

Committee note: The Committee is not obliged to issue an opinion
or a letter of advice to an individual who is not qualified under
Rule 18-306 to request one, who does not seek an opinion limited
to an interpretation of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct or
the Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees, or whose
request does not state sufficient facts.

(c) Redaction of Opinions

~~The Chair shall cause to be prepared~~ Regardless of whether
an opinion is designated for publication, the Chair, on behalf of

~~the Committee, shall cause to be prepared an edited version of the opinion designated to be published in which the identity and specific court or geographic location of the requester and identity of~~ ensure that it includes no references to: (1) the individual who requested the opinion, (2) other persons individuals mentioned in the opinion shall not be disclosed and shall have the opinion published in the manner that the State Court Administrator deems proper request, and (3) the specific court and geographic location of the individual who requested the opinion.

(d) Filing With State Court Administrator

The Chair shall file with the State Court Administrator every opinion ~~of,~~ and letter of advice issued ~~for,~~ by the Committee, whether designated for publication or not. ~~A request and the letter of advice or the opinion, other than the edited version designated to be published, filed in response are confidential and, unless otherwise directed by the Court of Appeals or required by law, are not public information.~~

(e) Confidentiality

The following material is confidential and, unless ordered otherwise by the Court of Appeals or required by law, does not constitute public information:

- (1) a request for an opinion;
- (2) an opinion of the Committee not designated for publication;
- (3) preliminary drafts of any opinions considered by the

Committee and correspondence, whether written or electronic, to the individual who requested the opinion, or among the Committee's members; and

(4) a letter of advice issued by the Committee.

~~Cross reference: See Rule 16-813 (Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct) and Rule 16-814 (Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees).~~

Source: This Rule is derived in part from subsections (j)(3), (j)(4), and (j)(6) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016) and in part new.

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TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 300 - JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Rule 18-308. PROTECTION FROM CHARGE OF VIOLATION

(a) A State official in the Judicial Branch who requests an opinion as to application of an ethics provision and is in compliance with an opinion of, or letter of advice issued for, the Committee is protected from a charge of violation of that ethics provision.

(b) A State official of the Judicial Branch who is in compliance with a published opinion of the Committee as to application of an ethics provision is protected from a charge of violation of that ethics provision.

~~Committee note: The Judicial Ethics Committee noted that, given the binding effect of opinions, they generally should be issued only to a State official in the Judicial Branch requesting advice as to the official's own conduct. This practice would avoid comment either on hypothetical conduct or conduct incompletely or inaccurately described. However, there may be instances, such as those in which an opinion would affect numerous State officials in the Judicial Branch or the implementation of administrative duties, that make it appropriate to have a mechanism for requesting an interpretation of an ethics provision but not an opinion as to its application. Therefore, language in former Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct (1987), Canon 7 suggesting that persons other than a State official in the Judicial Branch could request an opinion has been omitted, but a provision for the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to request guidance on interpretation has been added. The addition is patterned on the practice for requesting an opinion from the Attorney General.~~

Source: Section (a) of this Rule is derived from subsection (j) (5) of former Rule 16-812.1 (2016). Section (b) is new.

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
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MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-401. ~~COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES~~ - DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply in ~~Rules 18-804 through 16-810~~ this Chapter except as otherwise expressly ~~otherwise~~ provided or as necessary implication requires:

(a) Address of Record

"Address of record" means a judge's current home address or another address designated by the judge.

Cross reference: See Rule ~~16-810 (a)(1)~~ 18-410 (a) concerning confidentiality of a judge's home address.

(b) Board

"Board" means the Judicial Inquiry Board appointed pursuant to Rule ~~16-804.1~~ 18-403.

(c) Charges

"Charges" means the charges filed with the Commission by Investigative Counsel pursuant to Rule ~~16-808~~ 18-408.

(d) Commission

"Commission" means the Commission on Judicial Disabilities created by Art. IV, §4A of the Maryland Constitution.

(e) Commission Record

"Commission record" means all documents pertaining to the judge who is the subject of charges that are filed with the Commission or made available to any member of the Commission.

(f) Complainant

"Complainant" means a person who has filed a complaint, and in Rule 18-404 (a) (1), (a) (3), and (a) (4), "complainant" also includes a person who has filed a written allegation of misconduct by or disability of a judge that is not under oath or supported by an affidavit.

(g) Complaint

"Complaint" means a written communication under oath or supported by an affidavit alleging that a judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct.

(h) Disability

"Disability" means a mental or physical disability that seriously interferes with the performance of a judge's duties and is, or is likely to become, permanent.

~~(i) Formal Complaint~~

~~"Formal Complaint" means a written communication under affidavit signed by the complainant, alleging facts indicating that a judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct.~~

~~Committee note: The complainant may comply with the affidavit requirement of this section by signing a statement in the following form: "I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of the foregoing paper are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief." It is not required that the complainant appear before a notary public.~~

~~(j) (i) Judge~~

"Judge" means a judge of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, a circuit court, the District Court, or an

orphans' court, and a retired judge during any period that the retired judge has been approved ~~to sit~~ for recall.

Cross reference: See Md. Const., Art. 4, §3A and Code, Courts Article, §1-302.

~~(k)~~ (j) Sanctionable Conduct

(1) "Sanctionable conduct" means misconduct while in office, the persistent failure by a judge to perform the duties of the judge's office, or conduct prejudicial to the proper administration of justice. A judge's violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct promulgated by ~~Rule 16-813~~ Title 18, Chapter 100 may constitute sanctionable conduct.

(2) Unless the conduct is occasioned by fraud or corrupt motive or raises a substantial question as to the judge's fitness for office, "sanctionable conduct" does not include:

(A) making an erroneous finding of fact, reaching an incorrect legal conclusion, or misapplying the law; or

(B) failure to decide matters in a timely fashion unless such failure is habitual.

Committee note: Sanctionable conduct does not include a judge's simply making wrong decisions - even very wrong decisions - in particular cases.

Cross reference: Md. Const., Art. IV, §4B (b)(1).

For powers of the Commission in regard to any investigation or proceeding under §4B of Article IV of the Constitution, see Code, Courts Article, §§13-401 to 13-403.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-803 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-402. COMMISSION

(a) Chair and Vice Chair

The Commission shall select one of its members to serve as Chair and another to serve as Vice Chair for such terms as the Commission shall determine. The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair whenever the Chair is disqualified or otherwise unable to act.

(b) ~~Interested Member~~ Recusal

A member of the Commission shall not participate as a member in any proceeding in which (1) the member is a complainant, (2) the member's disability or sanctionable conduct is in issue, (3) the member's impartiality ~~might~~ reasonably might be questioned, (4) the member has personal knowledge of disputed material evidentiary facts involved in the proceeding, or (5) the recusal of a judicial member ~~would~~ otherwise would be required by the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct.

Cross reference: See Md. Const., Article IV, §4B (a), providing that the Governor shall appoint a substitute member of the Commission for the purpose of a proceeding against a member of the Commission.

(c) Executive Secretary

The Commission may select an attorney as Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall serve at the pleasure

of the Commission, advise and assist the Commission, have other administrative powers and duties assigned by the Commission, and receive the compensation set forth in the budget of the Commission.

(d) Investigative Counsel; Assistants

(1) Appointment; Compensation

The Commission shall appoint an attorney as Investigative Counsel. Before appointing Investigative Counsel, the Commission shall notify bar associations and the general public of the vacancy and shall consider any recommendations that are timely submitted. Investigative Counsel shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission and shall receive the compensation set forth in the budget of the Commission.

(2) Duties

Investigative Counsel shall have the powers and duties set forth in ~~these~~ the Rules in this Chapter and shall report and make recommendations to the Commission as directed by the Commission.

(3) Additional Attorneys and Staff

As the need arises and to the extent funds are available in the Commission's budget, the Commission may appoint additional attorneys or other persons to assist Investigative Counsel. Investigative Counsel shall keep an accurate record of the time and expenses of additional persons employed and ensure that the cost does not exceed the amount allocated by the Commission.

(e) Quorum

The presence of a majority of the members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that at least one judge, one ~~lawyer~~ attorney, and one public member are present. At a hearing on charges held pursuant to Rule ~~16-808~~ 18-408 (i), a Commission member is present only if the member is physically present ~~in person~~. Under all other circumstances, a member may be physically present ~~in person~~ or present by telephone or video conferencing. Other than adjournment of a meeting for lack of a quorum, no action may be taken by the Commission without the concurrence of a majority of members of the Commission.

(f) Record

The Commission shall keep a record of all proceedings concerning a judge.

(g) Annual Report

Not later than September 1 of each year, ~~The the~~ Commission shall submit an annual report to the Court of Appeals, ~~not later than September 1,~~ regarding its operations, and including The Report shall include statistical data with respect to complaints received and processed, ~~subject to the provisions of~~ but shall not include material declared confidential under Rule ~~16-810~~ 18-410.

(h) Request for Home Address

Upon request by the Commission or the Chair of the Commission, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall supply to the Commission the current home address of each judge.

Rule 18-402

Cross reference: See Rules ~~16-803~~ 18-401 (a) and ~~16-810~~ 18-410 (a).

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-804 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-403. JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD

(a) Creation and Composition

The Commission shall appoint a Judicial Inquiry Board consisting of two judges, two attorneys, and three public members who are not attorneys or judges. No member of the Commission may serve on the Board.

(b) Compensation

A member of the Board may not receive compensation for serving in that capacity but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of official duties in accordance with standard State travel regulations.

(c) Chair

The Chair of the Commission shall designate a member of the Board who is ~~a lawyer~~ an attorney or judge to serve as Chair of the Board.

(d) Removal

The Commission by majority vote may remove or replace members of the Board at any time.

(e) Quorum

The presence of a majority of the members of the Board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, so long as at least one judge, one ~~lawyer~~ attorney, and one public member

are present. A member of the Board may be physically present ~~in person~~ or present by telephone or video conferencing. Other than adjournment of a meeting for lack of a quorum, no action may be taken by the Board without the concurrence of a majority of members of the Board.

~~(f) Powers and Duties~~

~~The powers and duties of the Board are set forth in Rules 16-805 and 16-806.~~

~~(g)~~ (f) Record

The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall attend the Board meetings and keep a record in the form that the Commission requires.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-804.1 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-404. COMPLAINTS; ~~PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS;~~ INITIAL REVIEW BY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

(a) ~~Complaints~~ Procedure on Receipt of Complaint

(1) Referral to Investigative Counsel

The Commission shall refer ~~At~~ all complaints and other written allegations of misconduct or disability against a judge shall be sent to Investigative Counsel.

(2) Complaint that Fails to Allege Disability or Sanctionable Conduct

If Investigative Counsel concludes that a complaint which, liberally construed, fails to allege facts which, if true, would constitute a disability or sanctionable conduct, Investigative Counsel shall (A) dismiss the complaint, and (B) notify the Complainant and the Commission, in writing, that the complaint was filed and dismissed and the reasons for the dismissal.

Committee note: Subsection (a) (2) of this Rule does not preclude Investigative Counsel from communicating with the complainant or making an inquiry under Rule 18-405 in order to clarify general or ambiguous allegations that may suggest a disability or sanctionable conduct. Outright dismissal is warranted when the complaint, on its face, complains only of conduct that clearly does not constitute a disability or sanctionable conduct.

(3) Written Allegation of Disability or Sanctionable Conduct not Under Oath or Supported by Affidavit

~~Upon receiving a complaint that does not qualify as a formal complaint but indicates that a judge may have a disability or have committed sanctionable conduct, Investigative Counsel shall, if possible:~~

Except as provided by section (c) of this Rule, the Commission may not act upon a written allegation of misconduct or disability unless it is a complaint. If a written allegation, liberally construed, alleges facts indicating that a judge may have a disability or may have committed sanctionable conduct but is not under oath or supported by an affidavit, Investigative Counsel, if possible, shall ~~(1) inform the complainant of the right to file a formal complaint; (2) inform the complainant that a formal complaint must be supported by an affidavit and provide the complainant with the appropriate form of affidavit; and (3)~~ (A) inform the complainant that the Commission acts only upon complaints under oath or supported by an affidavit, (B) provide the complainant with an appropriate form of affidavit, and (C) inform the complainant that unless a formal complaint under oath or supported by an affidavit is filed within 30 days after the date of the notice, Investigative Counsel is not required to take action and the complaint matter may be dismissed.

(4) Failure to File Complaint Under Oath or Supported by Affidavit

If, after Investigative Counsel has given the notice provided for in subsection ~~(b)(3)~~ (a)(3) of this Rule or has been unable to do so, the complainant fails to file a timely ~~formal~~

complaint under oath or supported by an affidavit, Investigative Counsel may dismiss the ~~complaint~~ matter and notify the complainant and the Board, in writing, that ~~the complaint a~~ written allegation of misconduct or disability was filed and dismissed and the reasons for the dismissal.

(b) ~~Formal Complaints~~ Opening File on Receipt of Complaint

Investigative Counsel shall ~~number and~~ open a numbered file on each ~~formal~~ properly filed complaint ~~received~~ and promptly in writing (1) acknowledge receipt of the complaint and (2) explain to the complainant the procedure for investigating and processing the complaint.

~~(c) Dismissal by Investigative Counsel~~

~~If Investigative Counsel concludes that the complaint does not allege facts that, if true, would constitute a disability or sanctionable conduct and that there are no reasonable grounds for a preliminary investigation, Investigative Counsel shall dismiss the complaint. If a complainant does not file a formal complaint within the time stated in section (a) of this Rule, Investigative Counsel may dismiss the complaint. Upon dismissing a complaint, Investigative Counsel shall notify the complainant and the Commission that the complaint has been dismissed. If the judge has learned of the complaint and has requested notification, Investigative Counsel shall also notify the judge that the complaint has been dismissed.~~

~~(d)~~ (c) Inquiry

Upon receiving information from any source indicating that a

judge may have a disability or may have committed sanctionable conduct, Investigative Counsel may open a file and make an inquiry. An inquiry may include obtaining additional information from ~~the~~ a complainant and any potential witnesses, reviewing public records, obtaining transcripts of court proceedings, and communicating informally with the judge. Following the inquiry, Investigative Counsel shall (1) close the file and dismiss any complaint in conformity with ~~section (c)~~ subsection (a) (2) of this Rule or (2) proceed as if a ~~formal~~ complaint had been properly filed and undertake a preliminary investigation in accordance with ~~section (e) of this~~ (a) of Rule 18-405.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-805 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-405. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

(a) Conduct of Investigation

(1) Duty to Conduct; Notice to Board or Commission

If a complaint is not dismissed in accordance with ~~section (c) or (d) of this Rule 18-404,~~ Investigative Counsel shall conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the judge may have a disability or may have committed sanctionable conduct. Investigative Counsel shall promptly inform the Board or Commission that the preliminary investigation is being undertaken.

(2) Subpoena

Upon application by Investigative Counsel and for good cause, the Chair of the Commission may authorize Investigative Counsel to issue a subpoena to obtain evidence during a preliminary investigation.

(3) Dismissal Prior to Conclusion of Preliminary Investigation

During a preliminary investigation, Investigative Counsel may recommend to the Board or Commission that the complaint be dismissed without notifying the judge that a preliminary investigation has been undertaken. If the Board or Commission

accepts the recommendation, no notice need be given to the judge that a preliminary investigation had been undertaken.

(4) Notice to Judge

Except as provided in subsection (a) (3) of this Rule or unless ~~Unless directed otherwise by~~ the Board or Commission otherwise directs for good cause, Investigative Counsel, ~~shall~~ notify the judge before the conclusion of the preliminary investigation, shall provide the following information to the judge: (A) that Investigative Counsel has undertaken a preliminary investigation into whether the judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct; (B) whether the preliminary investigation was undertaken on Investigative Counsel's initiative or on a complaint; (C) if the investigation was undertaken on a complaint, ~~of~~ the name of the person who filed the complaint and the contents of the complaint; (D) ~~of~~ the nature of the disability or sanctionable conduct under investigation; and (E) ~~of~~ the judge's rights under subsection ~~(e) (5)~~ (a) (5) of this Rule. The notice information shall be given by first class mail or by certified mail requesting "Restricted Delivery - show to whom, date, address of delivery" and shall be addressed to the judge at the judge's address of record.

(5) Opportunity of Judge to Respond

Except when Investigative Counsel has recommended that the complaint be dismissed without notifying the judge and the Board or Commission has accepted the recommendation, before the

conclusion of the preliminary investigation, Investigative Counsel shall afford the judge a reasonable opportunity to present, ~~in person or in writing,~~ such information as the judge chooses.

(6) Time for Completion

Investigative Counsel shall complete a preliminary investigation within 90 days after the investigation is commenced. Upon application by Investigative Counsel within the 90-day period and for good cause, the Board shall extend the time for completing the preliminary investigation for an additional 30-day period. For failure to comply with the time requirements of this section, the Commission may dismiss any complaint and terminate the investigation.

(b) Report and Recommendation by Investigative Counsel

Upon completion of a preliminary investigation, Investigative Counsel shall report to the Board the results of the investigation in the form that the Commission requires. The report shall include one of the following recommendations: (1) dismissal of any complaint and termination of the investigation, with or without a warning, (2) entering into a private reprimand or a deferred discipline agreement, (3) authorization of a further investigation, or (4) the filing of charges.

(c) Monitoring and Review by Board

The Board shall monitor investigations by, and review the reports and recommendations of, Investigative Counsel.

(d) Authorization of Further Investigation

The Board may authorize a further investigation to be conducted pursuant to Rule ~~16-806~~ 18-406.

(e) Informal Meeting with Judge

The Board may meet informally with the judge ~~for the purpose of discussing~~ to discuss an appropriate disposition.

(f) Board's Report to Commission

(1) Contents

~~Upon receiving~~ After considering Investigative Counsel's final report and recommendation ~~concerning a further investigation or a preliminary investigation if not further investigation was conducted~~ and subject to subsection ~~(j)(2)~~ (f)(2) of this Rule, the Board shall submit a report to the Commission ~~a report~~ that includes one of the following recommendations:

(A) dismissal of ~~any~~ the complaint and termination of any investigation, with or without a warning;

(B) entering into a private reprimand or deferred discipline agreement; or

(C) unless the Board determines that there is a basis for a private disposition under the standards of Rule 18-407 and upon a determination of probable cause, the filing of charges ~~unless the Board determines that there is a basis for a private disposition under the standards of Rule 16-807~~ under Rule 18-408 (a).

(2) Condition and Limitation on Contents of Report

(A) The Board may not recommend a dismissal with a warning, a private reprimand, or a deferred discipline agreement unless

the ~~respondent judge~~ judge has consented to ~~this~~ that remedy.

(B) The information transmitted by the Board to the Commission shall be limited to a proffer of evidence that the Board has determined would ~~be~~ likely ~~to~~ be admitted at a plenary hearing before the Commission. The Chair of the Board may consult with the Chair of the Commission in ~~making the determination as to~~ determining what the information to be ~~is~~ transmitted to the Commission.

(3) Time for Submission of Report

(A) Generally

Unless the time is extended by the Chair of the Commission, the Board shall transmit the report within 45 days after the date the Board ~~receives~~ received Investigative Counsel's report and recommendation.

(B) Extension

Upon a written request by the Chair of the Board, the Chair of the Commission may grant one 30-day extension of time for transmission of the report.

(C) Failure to File Timely Report

If the Board ~~does not~~ fails to issue its report within the time allowed, the Chair of the Commission and Investigative Counsel shall conform the report and recommendation of Investigative Counsel to the requirements of ~~subsection (j)(2)~~ subsections (f)(1) and (2) of this Rule and refer the matter to the Commission, which may proceed, using the report and recommendation of Investigative Counsel.

(4) Copy to Investigative Counsel and Judge

Upon receiving the report and recommendation, the Commission promptly shall transmit a copy of it to Investigative Counsel and the judge.

(g) Filing of Objections

Investigative Counsel and the judge ~~shall~~ may file with the Commission ~~any~~ objections to the report and recommendation. Unless the Chair of the Commission, Investigative Counsel, and the judge agree to an extension, the objection shall be filed within 15 days of after the date the Commission transmitted copies of the report and recommendation unless Investigative Counsel, the judge, and the Chair of the Commission agree to an extension of the time for filing an objection to Investigative Counsel and the judge.

(h) Action by Commission

(1) Review

The Commission shall review the report and recommendation and any timely filed objections.

(2) Appearance by Judge

Upon written request by the judge, with a copy to Investigative Counsel, the Commission may permit the judge to appear before the Commission on terms and conditions established by the Commission.

(3) Disposition

~~Unless the Commission authorizes further investigation in accordance with Rule 16-806, disposition by the Commission shall~~

Rule 18-405

~~be in accordance with Rule 16-807 or 16-808 (a), as appropriate.~~
Upon its review of the report and recommendation and any timely
filed objections and consideration of any evidence or statement
by the judge pursuant to subsection (h) (2) of this Rule, the
Commission shall (A) authorize a further investigation pursuant
to Rule 18-406, (B) enter a disposition pursuant to Rule 18-407,
or (C) direct Investigative Counsel to file charges pursuant to
Rule 18-408 (a).

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-805 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-406. FURTHER INVESTIGATION

(a) Notice to Judge of Investigation

(1) Content

Upon approval of a further investigation by the Board pursuant to Rule 18-405 (d) or by the Commission pursuant to Rule 18-405 (h) (3), Investigative Counsel shall promptly notify the judge ~~(1)~~ (A) that the Board or Commission has authorized ~~the a~~ further investigation, ~~(2)~~ (B) of the specific nature of the alleged disability or sanctionable conduct under investigation, and ~~(3)~~ (C) that the judge may file a written response within 30 days ~~of~~ after the date on the notice.

(2) Method

The notice shall be given ~~(1)~~ by first class mail to the judge's address of record, or ~~(2)~~ if previously authorized by the judge, by first class mail to an attorney designated by the judge.

(3) Deferral of Notice

For good cause, ~~¶~~ the Board or Commission, ~~for good cause~~, may defer the giving of notice, but notice must be given not less than 30 days before Investigative Counsel makes a recommendation as to disposition, other than dismissal.

(b) Subpoenas

(1) Issuance

Upon application by Investigative Counsel and for good cause, the Chair of the Commission may authorize Investigative Counsel to issue a subpoena to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents or other tangible things at a time and place specified in the subpoena.

(2) Notice to Judge

Promptly after service of the subpoena and in addition to any other notice required by law, Investigative Counsel shall provide to the judge under investigation notice of the service of the subpoena. The notice to the judge shall be sent by first class mail to the judge's address of record or, if previously authorized by the judge, by first class mail to an attorney designated by the judge.

~~(2)~~ (3) Motion for Protective Order

The judge, a person named in ~~or the person served with~~ the subpoena, or a person named or depicted in an item specified in the subpoena may file a motion for a protective order pursuant to Rule 2-510 (e). The motion shall be filed in the circuit court for the county in which the subpoena was served or, if the judge under investigation ~~is a judge serving~~ serves on that ~~circuit~~ court, another circuit court designated by the Commission. The court may enter any order permitted by Rule 2-510 (e).

~~(3)~~ (4) Failure to Comply

Upon a failure to comply with a subpoena issued pursuant

to this Rule, the court, on motion of Investigative Counsel, may compel compliance with the subpoena.

(5) Confidentiality

(A) Subpoena

To the extent practicable, a subpoena shall not divulge the name of the judge under investigation.

(B) Court Files and Records

Files and records of the court pertaining to any motion filed with respect to a subpoena shall be sealed and shall be open to inspection only upon order of the Court of Appeals.

(C) Hearings

Hearings before the circuit court on any motion filed with respect to a subpoena shall be on the record and shall be conducted out of the presence of all ~~persons~~ individuals except those whose presence is necessary.

Cross reference: See Code, Courts Article, §§13-401 - 403.

(c) Time for Completion of Investigation

Investigative Counsel shall complete a further investigation within 60 days after it is authorized by the Board or Commission. Upon application by Investigative Counsel made within the 60-day period and served by first class mail upon the judge or ~~counsel~~ the judge's attorney of record, the Commission, for good cause, may extend the time for completing the further investigation for a specified reasonable time. The Commission may dismiss the complaint and terminate the investigation for failure to ~~comply with the time requirements of this section~~

complete the investigation within the time allowed.

(d) Report and Recommendation by Investigative Counsel

Within the time allowed for completing ~~a~~ the further investigation, Investigative Counsel shall report the results of the investigation to the Board or Commission in the form the Commission requires. The report shall include one of the following recommendations: (1) dismissal of any complaint and termination of the investigation, with or without a warning, (2) entering into a private reprimand or a deferred discipline agreement, or (3) the filing of charges.

Cross reference: As to recommended dispositions, see Rule 18-407.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-806 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-407. DISPOSITION WITHOUT PROCEEDINGS ON CHARGES

(a) Dismissal of Complaint

(1) ~~Evidence Fails to Show Disability or Sanctionable Conduct~~
Without Warning

The Commission shall dismiss a complaint if, after an investigation, it concludes that the evidence fails to show that the judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct. The Commission shall notify the judge and each complainant of the dismissal.

(2) ~~Sanctionable Conduct Not Likely to be Repeated~~ With Warning

(A) When Appropriate

If the Commission determines that any sanctionable conduct that may have been committed by the judge will be sufficiently addressed by the issuance of a warning, the Commission may accompany a dismissal with a warning against future sanctionable conduct.

(B) Notice to Judge

At least 30 days before a dismissal with a warning is issued, the Commission shall mail to the judge a notice that states (i) the date on which it intends to issue the warning, (ii) the content of the warning, and (iii) whether the

complainant is to be notified of the warning.

(C) Rejection by Judge

Before the intended date of issuance of the warning, the judge may reject the warning by filing a written rejection with the Commission. If the warning is not rejected, the Commission shall issue ~~it~~ the dismissal with a warning on or after the date stated in the initial notice to the judge. If the warning is rejected, it shall not be issued, the proceeding shall resume as if no dismissal with a warning had been proposed, and the fact that a dismissal with a warning was proposed or rejected may not be admitted into evidence.

(D) Confidentiality of Content of Warning

The contents of the warning are private and confidential, ~~but~~ except that the Commission ~~has the option of notifying~~ may notify the complainant ~~of the fact~~ that a warning was given to the judge.

Committee note: A warning by the Commission under this subsection is not a reprimand and does not constitute discipline.

(b) Private Reprimand

(1) When Appropriate

The Commission may issue a private reprimand to the judge if, after an investigation:

(A) the Commission concludes that the judge has committed sanctionable conduct that warrants some form of discipline;

(B) the Commission further concludes that the sanctionable conduct was not so serious, offensive, or repeated as to warrant

formal proceedings and that a private reprimand is the appropriate disposition under the circumstances; and

(C) the judge, in writing on a copy of the reprimand retained by the Commission, (i) waives the right to a hearing before the Commission and subsequent proceedings before the Court of Appeals and the right to challenge the findings that serve as the basis for the private reprimand, and (ii) agrees that the reprimand may be admitted in any subsequent disciplinary proceeding against the judge to the extent that it is relevant to the charges at issue or the sanction to be imposed.

(2) Notice to Complainant

Upon the issuance of a private reprimand, the Commission shall notify the complainant of that disposition.

(c) Deferred Discipline Agreement

(1) The Commission and the judge may enter into a deferred discipline agreement if, after an investigation:

(A) The Commission concludes that the alleged sanctionable conduct was not so serious, offensive, or repeated as to warrant formal proceedings and that the appropriate disposition is for the judge to undergo specific treatment, participate in one or more specified educational programs, issue an apology to the complainant, or take other specific corrective or remedial action; and

(B) The judge, in the agreement, (i) agrees to the specified conditions, (ii) waives the right to a hearing before the Commission and subsequent proceedings before the Court of

Appeals, and (iii) agrees that the deferred discipline agreement may be revoked for noncompliance in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c)(2) of this Rule.

(2) The Commission shall direct Investigative Counsel to monitor compliance with the conditions of the agreement and may direct the judge to document compliance. Investigative Counsel shall give written notice to the judge of the nature of any alleged failure to comply with a condition of the agreement. If after affording the judge at least 15 days to respond to the notice, the Commission finds that the judge has failed to satisfy a material condition of the agreement, the Commission may revoke the agreement and proceed with any other disposition authorized by these rules.

(3) The Commission shall notify the complainant that the complaint has resulted in an agreement with the judge for corrective or remedial action. Unless the judge consents in writing, the terms of the agreement shall remain confidential and not be disclosed to the complainant or any other person. An agreement under this section does not constitute discipline or a finding that sanctionable conduct was committed.

(4) Upon notification by Investigative Counsel that the judge has satisfied all conditions of the agreement, the Commission shall terminate the proceedings.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-807 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-408. FILING OF CHARGES; PROCEEDINGS BEFORE COMMISSION

(a) Filing of Charges

(1) Direction by Commission

After considering the report and recommendation of the Board or Investigative Counsel submitted pursuant to Rule ~~16-805~~ ~~(j)~~ 18-405 (f), and upon a finding by the Commission of probable cause to believe that a judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct, the Commission may direct Investigative Counsel to initiate proceedings against the judge by filing with the Commission charges that the judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct.

(2) Content of Charges

The charges shall ~~(1)~~ (A) state the nature of the alleged disability or sanctionable conduct, including each Rule of the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct allegedly violated by the judge, ~~(2)~~ (B) allege the specific facts upon which the charges are based, and ~~(3)~~ (C) state that the judge has the right to file a written response to the charges within 30 days after service of the charges.

(b) Service; Notice

The charges may be served upon the judge by any means reasonably calculated to give actual notice. A return of service

of the charges shall be filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 2-126. Upon service, the Commission shall notify any complainant that charges have been filed against the judge.

Cross reference: See Md. Const., Article IV, §4B (a).

(c) Response

Within 30 days after service of the charges, the judge may file with the Commission an original and 11 copies of a response.

(d) Notice of Hearing

Upon the filing of a response or, if no response is filed, upon expiration of the time for filing it, the Commission shall notify the judge of the date, time, and place of a hearing. Unless the judge has agreed to an earlier hearing date, the notice shall be mailed at least 60 days before the date set for the hearing. If the hearing is on a charge of sanctionable conduct, the Commission shall also notify the complainant and ~~publish a notice in the Maryland Register~~ post a notice on the Judiciary website that is limited to (1) the name of the judge, (2) the date, time, and place of the hearing, and (3) a statement that the charges and any response by the judge are available for inspection at the office of the Commission.

Cross reference: See Rule ~~16-810 (a) (3)~~ 18-410.

(e) Extension of Time

The Commission may extend the time for filing a response and for the commencement of a hearing.

(f) Procedural Rights of Judge

The judge has the right (1) to inspect and copy the

Commission Record, (2) to a prompt hearing on the charges, (3) to be represented by an attorney, (4) to the issuance of subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and for the production of designated non-privileged documents and other tangible things, (5) to present evidence and argument, and (6) to examine and cross-examine witnesses.

(g) Exchange of Information

(1) Generally

Upon request of the judge at any time after service of charges upon the judge, Investigative Counsel shall promptly (A) allow the judge to inspect the Commission Record and to copy all evidence accumulated during the investigation and all statements as defined in Rule 2-402 (f) and (B) provide to the judge summaries or reports of all oral statements for which contemporaneously recorded substantially verbatim recitals do not exist, and

(2) List of Witnesses; Documents

Not later than 30 days before the date set for the hearing, Investigative Counsel and the judge shall ~~each~~ provide ~~to the~~ each other with a list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the witnesses that each intends to call and copies of the documents that each intends to introduce in evidence at the hearing.

(3) Scope of Discovery

Discovery is governed by the Rules in Title 2, Chapter 400 ~~of these Rules~~, except that the Chair of the Commission,

rather than the court, may limit the scope of discovery, enter protective orders permitted by Rule 2-403, and resolve other discovery issues.

(4) Mental or Physical Examination

When disability of the judge is an issue, on ~~its own~~ the initiative of the Commission or its Chair or on motion for good cause, the Chair of the Commission may order the judge to submit to a mental or physical examination ~~pursuant to~~ in accordance with Rule 2-423.

(h) Amendments

At any time before the hearing, the Commission on motion may allow amendments to the charges or the response. If an amendment to the charges is made less than 30 days before the hearing, the judge, upon request, shall be given a reasonable time to respond to the amendment and to prepare and present any defense.

(i) Hearing on Charges

The hearing on charges shall be conducted in the following manner:

(1) ~~At a hearing on charges, the applicable provisions of Rule 16-806 (b) shall govern subpoenas.~~ Upon application by Investigative Counsel or the judge, the Commission shall issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents or other tangible things at the hearing. To the extent otherwise relevant, the provisions of Rule 2-510 (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) shall apply.

(2) The Commission may proceed with the hearing whether or not the judge has filed a response or appears at the hearing.

(3) Except for good cause shown, a motion for recusal of a member of the Commission shall be filed ~~not less than~~ at least 30 days before the hearing.

(4) At the hearing, Investigative Counsel shall present evidence in support of the charges.

(5) ~~The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of evidence in Title 5 of these rules.~~ Title 5 of the Maryland Rules shall apply.

(6) ~~The proceedings at the hearing~~ proceeding shall be ~~stenographically~~ recorded verbatim, either by electronic means or stenographically, as directed by the Chair of the Commission. Except as provided in section (k) of this Rule, the Commission is not required to have a transcript prepared. The judge may, at the judge's expense, have the record of the proceeding transcribed.

(7) with the approval of the Chair of the Commission, the judge and Investigative Counsel may each submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law within the time period set by the Chair.

(j) Commission Findings and Action

~~If the Commission finds by clear and convincing evidence that the judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct, it shall either issue a public reprimand for the sanctionable conduct or refer the matter to the Court of Appeals~~

~~pursuant to section (k) of this Rule. Otherwise, the Commission shall dismiss the charges filed by Investigative Counsel and terminate the proceeding.~~

(1) Finding of Disability

If the Commission finds by clear and convincing evidence that the judge has a disability, it shall refer the matter to the Court of Appeals.

(2) Finding of Sanctionable Conduct

If the Commission finds by clear and convincing evidence that the judge has committed sanctionable conduct, it shall either issue a public reprimand to the judge or refer the matter to the Court of Appeals.

(3) Finding of No Disability or Sanctionable Conduct

If the Commission does not find that the judge has a disability and does not find that the judge committed sanctionable conduct, it shall dismiss the charges and terminate the proceeding.

(k) Record

If the Commission refers the case to the Court of Appeals, the Commission shall:

(1) make written findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the issues of fact and law in the proceeding, state its recommendations, and enter those findings and recommendations in the record ~~in the name of the Commission;~~

(2) cause a transcript of all proceedings at the hearing to be prepared and included in the record;

(3) make the transcript available for review by the judge and the judge's attorney ~~in connection with the proceedings~~ or, at the judge's request, provide a copy to the judge at the judge's expense;

(4) file with the Court of Appeals the entire hearing record, which shall be certified by the Chair of the Commission and shall include the transcript of the proceedings, all exhibits and other papers filed or marked for identification in the proceeding, and all dissenting or concurring statements by Commission members; and

(5) promptly mail to the judge at the judge's address of record notice of the filing of the record and a copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations and all dissenting or concurring statements by Commission members.

(1) Discipline by Consent

(1) Agreement

After the filing of charges alleging sanctionable conduct and before a decision by the Commission, the judge and Investigative Counsel may enter into an agreement in which the judge ~~(1)~~ (A) admits to all or part of the charges; ~~(2)~~ (B) as to the charges admitted, admits the truth of all facts constituting sanctionable conduct as set forth in the agreement; ~~(3)~~ (C) agrees to take any corrective or remedial action provided for in the agreement; ~~(4)~~ (D) consents to the stated sanction; ~~(5)~~ (E) states that the consent is freely and voluntarily given; and ~~(6)~~ (F) waives the right to further proceedings before the Commission

and subsequent proceedings before the Court of Appeals.

(2) Submission to Court of Appeals

The agreement shall be submitted to the Court of Appeals, which shall either approve or reject the agreement. Until approved by the Court of Appeals, the agreement is confidential and privileged. If the Court approves the agreement and imposes the stated sanction, the agreement shall be made public. If the Court rejects the stated sanction, the proceeding shall resume as if no consent had been given, and all admissions and waivers contained in the agreement are withdrawn and may not be admitted into evidence.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-808 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-409. PROCEEDINGS IN COURT OF APPEALS

(a) Expedited Consideration

Upon receiving the hearing record file pursuant to Rule ~~16-808 (k)~~ 18-408 (k), the Clerk of the Court of Appeals shall docket the case for expedited consideration.

(b) Exceptions

The judge may except to the findings, conclusions, or recommendation of the Commission by filing with the Court of Appeals eight copies of exceptions within 30 days after service of the notice of filing of the record. The exceptions shall set forth with particularity all errors allegedly committed by the Commission and the disposition sought. A copy of the exceptions shall be served on the Commission in accordance with Rules 1-321 and 1-323.

(c) Response

The Commission shall file eight copies of a response within 15 days after service of the exceptions. The Commission shall be represented in the Court of Appeals by its Executive Secretary or such other ~~counsel~~ attorney as the Commission may appoint. A copy of the response shall be served on the judge in accordance with Rules 1-321 and 1-323.

(d) Hearing

If exceptions are filed, upon the filing of a response or, if no response is filed, upon the expiration of the time for filing it, the Court shall set a schedule for filing memoranda in support of the exceptions and response and a date for a hearing. The hearing on exceptions shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 8-522. If no exceptions are filed or if the judge files with the Court a written waiver of the judge's right to a hearing, the Court may decide the matter without a hearing.

(e) Disposition

The Court of Appeals may (1) impose the sanction recommended by the Commission or any other sanction permitted by law; (2) dismiss the proceeding; or (3) remand for further proceedings as specified in the order of remand.

Cross reference: For rights and privileges of the judge after disposition, see Md. Const., Article IV, §4B (b).

(f) Decision

The decision shall be evidenced by the order of the Court of Appeals, which shall be certified under the seal of the Court by the Clerk and shall be accompanied by an opinion. Unless the case is remanded to the Commission, the record shall be retained by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-809 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 400 - JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

Rule 18-410. PUBLIC ACCESS

(a) Generally

Except as otherwise expressly provided by these rules, proceedings and information relating to a complaint or charges shall be either open to the public or confidential and not open to the public, as follows:

(1) Address of Record

The judge's current home address shall remain confidential at all stages of proceedings under these rules. Any other address of record shall be open to the public if the charges and proceedings are open to the public.

(2) Complaints; and Investigations; Disposition Without Charges

~~All~~ Except as otherwise required by Rule 18-407, all proceedings under Rules ~~16-805 and 16-806~~ 18-404, 18-405, 18-406, and 18-407 shall be confidential.

(3) Upon Filing of a Response or Expiration of the Time for Filing a Response

After the filing of a response to charges alleging sanctionable conduct, whether or not joined with charges of disability, or, if no response is filed, upon expiration of the time for filing a response, the charges and all subsequent

proceedings before the Commission on them shall be open to the public. If the charges allege only that the judge has a disability, the charges and all proceedings before the Commission on them shall be confidential.

(4) Work Product and Deliberations

Investigative Counsel's work product and records not admitted into evidence before the Commission, the Commission's deliberations, and records of the Commission's deliberations shall be confidential.

(5) Proceedings in the Court of Appeals

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court of Appeals, the record of Commission proceedings filed with that Court and any proceedings before that Court shall be open to the public.

(b) Permitted Release of Information by Commission

(1) Written Waiver

The Commission may release confidential information upon a written waiver by the judge.

(2) Explanatory Statement

The Commission may issue a brief explanatory statement necessary to correct any public misperception about actual or possible proceedings before the Commission.

(3) Court of Appeals

Upon request by the Court of Appeals or a judge of that Court, the Commission shall disclose to the Court or judge who made the request:

(A) information about any completed proceedings that did

not result in dismissal, including reprimands and deferred discipline agreements; and

(B) the fact that a complaint is pending.

~~(3)~~ (4) Nominations; Appointments; Approvals

(A) Permitted Disclosures

Upon a written application made by a judicial nominating commission, a Bar Admission authority, the President of the United States, the Governor of a state, territory, district, or possession of the United States, or a committee of the General Assembly of Maryland or of the United States Senate which asserts that the applicant is considering the nomination, appointment, confirmation, or approval of a judge or former judge, the Commission shall disclose to the applicant:

(i) Information about any completed proceedings that did not result in dismissal, including reprimands and deferred discipline agreements; and

(ii) The ~~mere~~ fact that a ~~formal~~ complaint is pending.

(B) Restrictions

Unless the judge waives the restrictions set forth in this subsection, ~~When~~ when the Commission furnishes information to an applicant under this section, the Commission shall furnish only one copy of the material, ~~and it~~ which shall be furnished under seal. As a condition to receiving the material, the applicant shall agree that (i) the applicant will not ~~to~~ copy the material or permit it to be copied; (ii) ~~that~~ when inspection of the material has been completed, the applicant shall seal and

return the material to the Commission; and (iii) ~~not to the~~ applicant will not disclose the contents of the material or any information contained in it to anyone other than another member of the applicant.

(C) Copy to Judge

The Commission shall send the judge a copy of all documents disclosed under this subsection.

Cross reference: For the powers of the Commission in an investigation or proceeding under Md. Const., Article IV, §4B, see Code, Courts Article, §§13-401, 402, and 403.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-810 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
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MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 500 - MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

Rule 18-501. ~~PERFORMANCE OF MARRIAGE CEREMONIES BY JUDGES~~
~~APPLICABILITY OF RULES~~ SCOPE OF CHAPTER

~~Rules 16-821 through 16-824~~ The Rules in this Chapter apply
to:

(a) ~~all Maryland~~ judges of the District Court, a circuit court,
the Court of Special Appeals, and the Court of Appeals ~~including;~~
and

(b) retired judges approved for recall pursuant to ~~Maryland~~
~~Constitution, Article IV, §3A and Code, Courts Article, §1-302,~~
~~who wish to perform marriage ceremonies.~~

Cross reference: See Code, Family Law Article, §2-406, which also
contains a list of other officials authorized to perform marriage
ceremonies.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-821 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 500 - MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

Rule 18-502. SCHEDULING

(a) Notice to Clerk; Clerk's Responsibilities of Clerk and Parties

A judge who has agreed to perform a marriage ceremony shall notify the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the ceremony is to take place. The clerk is responsible for recording and reporting the marriage. The parties are responsible for making all other arrangements.

Committee note: Except for communications necessary to determine a judge's willingness and availability to perform the ceremony, a judge's staff should not be used to make arrangements for a marriage ceremony.

(b) Non-interference with Court Functions

Ceremonies shall be scheduled so as not to interfere with the prompt disposition of cases and other judicial and administrative duties of the judge ~~and the~~. The use of public resources shall be reasonable and consistent with the security of the courthouse.

(c) Place of Ceremony

A judge may perform a marriage ceremony at a location other than ~~in~~ a courthouse.

(d) Time of Ceremony

A judge may perform a marriage ceremony at any time,

Rule 18-502

including on a court holiday or after regular court hours.

Without the approval of the administrative judge, the ceremony may not be performed in the courthouse on a court holiday or when the courthouse is otherwise closed.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-822 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 500 - MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

Rule 18-503. ~~JUDICIAL ACTION~~ CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

(a) Performance of Ceremony

(1) Use of Clerk's Form

A judge who performs a marriage ceremony shall include substantially the form of ceremony used by the clerk of the circuit court for the county where the ~~marriage ceremony~~ ceremony is ~~to be~~ performed. If the parties request and the judge agrees, the ceremony may include reference to matters not typically found in the clerk's ceremony.

(2) Joint Conduct of Ceremony

A judge may participate in performing a marriage ceremony with another ~~person~~ individual authorized under Maryland law to perform marriage ceremonies.

(b) License

(1) Required

A judge may not perform a marriage ceremony unless a marriage license has been issued by the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the ceremony is ~~to be~~ performed.

(2) Duty of Judge

A judge who performs a marriage ceremony shall ~~(1)~~ (A) complete the certificate of marriage, ~~(2)~~ (B) provide a copy of the certificate to the parties, and ~~(3)~~ (C) return the completed

certificate to the issuing clerk of court for recordation and reporting of the marriage ~~as required by law~~.

(3) Judge Not Disqualified

A judge who ~~grants~~ granted a request for the issuance of a marriage license under Code, Family Law Article, §2-405 (d) may ~~also~~ perform the ~~marriage~~ ceremony.

(c) Refusal to Perform Ceremony

A judge may decline to perform a marriage ceremony.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-823 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
CHAPTER 500 - MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

Rule 18-504. RESTRICTIONS

(a) Judge's Own Ceremony

A judge may not perform his or her own marriage ceremony.

(b) Compensation

A judge may receive no compensation, remuneration, or gift for performing a marriage ceremony.

Committee note: See Code, Family Law Article, §2-410, as to the fees a clerk or deputy clerk shall collect for performing a marriage ceremony.

(c) Advertising; Other Solicitations

A judge may not give or offer to give any reward to any person as an inducement to have the judge perform a marriage ceremony. A judge may not advertise or otherwise solicit individuals contemplating marriage to choose the judge to perform the ceremony.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-824 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE
TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES
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MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 600 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Rule 18-601. JUDICIAL LEAVE

(a) ~~Definition of "Judge"~~ Scope of Rule

~~In this Rule, "judge" means a judge~~ This Rule applies to
judges of the Court of Appeals ~~of Maryland~~, the Court of Special
Appeals, a circuit court ~~or~~ and the District Court ~~of Maryland~~.

(b) Annual Leave

~~1. (1) In General~~ Generally

~~Subject to the provisions of subsection b 2 and section f~~
Subject to sections (g) and (h) of this Rule, a judge is entitled
to annual leave of not more than 27 working days. The leave
accrues as of the first day of the calendar year, except that:

~~(1) (A)~~ (A) during the first year of a judge's initial term of
office, annual leave accrues at the rate of 2.25 days per month
accounting from the date the judge qualifies for office, and

~~(2) (B)~~ (B) during the calendar year in which the judge
retires, annual leave accrues at the rate of 2.25 days per month
to the date the judge retires.

~~2. Calendar Year 2010.~~

~~A. Subject to the provisions of subsection b 2 B and~~
~~section f of this Rule, in calendar year 2010 a judge is entitled~~
~~to annual leave of not more than 17 working days. The leave~~
~~accrues as of the first day of the calendar year except that (1)~~

~~during the first year of a judge's initial term of office, annual leave accrues at the rate of 1.42 days per month accounting from the date the judge qualifies for office, and (2) during calendar year 2010, if the judge retires in that year, annual leave accrues at the rate of 1.42 days per month to the date the judge retires.~~

~~B. For each day, up to ten days, that a judge contributes to the State of Maryland an amount equal to the average daily compensation, after federal and state tax and FICA withholdings, of a judge serving on the court or level of court on which the judge serves, based on a 22-day work month, as calculated by the State Court Administrator, the judge shall be entitled to one additional day of annual leave. The judge shall make the contribution prior to taking the additional day of annual leave in the manner determined by the State Court Administrator.~~

~~3. (2) Accumulation~~

~~(A) Generally~~

~~Subject to subsection (b)(2)(B) and sections (g) and (h) of this Rule, if, in any calendar year, a judge takes less than the full amount of annual leave the judge has accrued in that year, the judge may accumulate, within any consecutive three-year period, the difference between the leave accrued and the annual leave actually taken by the judge in any year during the period.~~

~~(B) Limitation~~

~~However, no A judge may not accumulate more than ten~~

working days of unused annual leave ~~may be accumulated~~ in any one calendar year, and no judge may accumulate or more than 20 working days of unused annual leave in the aggregate.

~~4. Consecutive Appointment - Leave Status.~~

~~A judge who is appointed or elected as a judge of another court, and whose term on the second court begins immediately following service on the first court has the same leave status as though the judge had remained on the first court.~~

~~e. (c) Personal Leave~~

~~1. In General. (1) Generally~~

In addition to the annual leave ~~as provided above~~ provided in section (b) of this Rule, and ~~except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of this section~~, a judge is entitled to six days of personal leave in each calendar year and. Personal leave accrues on the first day of each calendar year. Any personal leave unused at the end of the calendar year is forfeited.

~~2. (2) First Calendar Year of Initial Term~~

During the first calendar year of a judge's initial term, the judge is entitled to:

(A) six days of personal leave if the judge qualified for office in January or February;

(B) five days of personal leave if the judge qualified for office in March or April;

(C) four days of personal leave if the judge qualified for office in May or June; or

(D) three days of personal leave if the judge qualified for

office on or after July 1.

~~d.~~ (d) Sick Leave

(1) Generally

In addition to the annual leave and personal leave as provided for in this Rule, a judge:

~~(1)~~ (A) is entitled to unlimited sick leave for any period of the judge's illness or disability that precludes the judge from performing judicial duties; and

~~(2)~~ (B) may take a reasonable amount of sick leave ~~(A)~~ (i) for the judge's medical appointments; ~~(B)~~ (ii) due to the illness or disability of family members; or ~~(C)~~ (iii) due to the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child with the judge, all subject to the ~~definitions, conditions, limitations, and procedures, in an Administrative Order issued by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals~~ conditions, and limitations in policies on judicial absences adopted and approved in accordance with section (e) of this Rule.

(2) Limitation

Sick leave used for the purposes allowed by subsection ~~(2)~~ (d) (1) (B) of this ~~section~~ Rule, together with annual leave and personal leave taken for ~~these~~ purposes of subsection (d) (1) (B) of this Rule may not exceed an aggregate total of 12 weeks for the calendar year. ~~The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall issue an Administrative Order implementing this section. The Order shall be posted on the Judiciary's website and otherwise made publicly available.~~

Committee note: The authority of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities with respect to a disability as defined in Rule ~~16-803~~ 18-401 (h) is not affected by this Rule.

(e) Other Excused Absences

A judge's entitlement to any other excused absence, including administrative leave, shall be as prescribed in the Policies on Judicial Absence adopted by the State Court Administrator and approved by the Court of Appeals and shall be subject to the procedures, conditions, and limitations set forth in that document. Upon its approval by the Court of Appeals, the Policies on Judicial Absence shall be posted on the Judiciary website.

(f) Consecutive Appointment

A judge who is appointed or elected as a judge of another Maryland court and whose term on the second court begins immediately following service on the first court has the same leave status as though the judge had remained on the first court.

~~e.~~ (g) Termination of Judicial Service

A judge whose judicial service is terminated for any reason~~7~~, and who is not ~~elected or appointed~~ appointed or elected to another Maryland court without a break in service~~7~~, loses any annual or personal leave unused as of the date of termination of service.

~~f.~~ (h) When Annual or Personal Leave May be Taken; Exercise of Discretion of Chief Judge or Administrative Judge

(1) Generally

A judge's annual leave and personal leave shall be taken

at the time or times prescribed or permitted:

(A) if the judge is a judge of an appellate court, by the chief judge of ~~the judge's appellate~~ that court, ~~if the judge is a judge of an appellate court~~;

(B) if the judge is a judge of a circuit court, by the Circuit Administrative Judge ~~of the judge's judicial circuit~~, ~~if the judge is a judge of a circuit court~~; or

(C) if the judge is a judge of the District Court, by the Chief Judge of ~~the District Court~~ that court, ~~if the judge is a judge of that court~~.

(2) Exercise of Discretion

In determining when a judge may take annual leave and for what period of time, the judge exercising ~~supervisory~~ administrative authority under this Rule shall be mindful of the necessity of retention of sufficient judicial staffing in the court or courts under the judge's ~~supervision~~ administrative authority to permit at all times the prompt and effective disposition of the business that court or those courts. A request for leave at a certain time or for a certain period of time may be rejected by the judge exercising ~~supervision under this Rule~~ administrative authority if the granting of the requested leave would prevent the prompt and effective disposition of business of that court or those courts, ~~except that~~ but personal leave requested for observance of a religious holiday may not be denied.

(i) Reports to State Court Administrator

Each judge shall report to the State Court Administrator in the manner and form and at the times specified by the State Court Administrator the leave taken by the judge.

~~g.~~ (j) Supervision by Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals

The operation of this Rule is at all times subject to the supervision and control of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-104 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 600 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Rule 18-602. ~~REPORTS TO BE FILED~~ BY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

(a) ~~Report by Judge~~ Reports to County Administrative Judge

~~Every~~ Each judge of ~~the Circuit Court~~ a circuit court shall submit to the County Administrative Judge of that judge's court such reports as the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may require, on forms prescribed and supplied by the State Court Administrator and approved by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

(b) Reports by County Administrative Judge

Each Circuit ~~or~~ and County Administrative Judge shall furnish such other reports ~~as may from time to time be~~ required by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-105 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 600 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Rule 18-603. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY JUDGES

~~a.~~ (a) Definitions

In this Rule, the following definitions apply:

(1) Former Judge

~~For the purpose of this Rule, former judge~~ "Former judge" means ~~a former judge~~ an individual who previously served as a judge and has been approved for recall for temporary service under Maryland Constitution, Article IV, §3A Code, Courts Article, §1-302.

(2) Judge

"Judge" means (A) an incumbent judge of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, a circuit court, the District Court, or an orphans' court and (B) an individual who, in the preceding calendar year, served as an incumbent judge of one of those courts or was a former judge.

~~b.~~ (b) Requirement

Each judge and each former judge shall file with the State Court Administrator ~~an annual~~ a financial disclosure statement ~~on~~ in the form prescribed by the Court of Appeals. When filed, a financial disclosure statement is a public record.

~~c. Except as provided in paragraph d. of this Rule:~~

~~1. The initial financial disclosure statement shall be filed~~

~~on or before April 15, 1987 and shall cover the period beginning January 1, 1986 and ending December 31, 1986.~~

~~2. A subsequent~~

(c) When Due; Period Covered

(1) Generally

Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this Rule, the statement shall be filed annually on or before April 15 30 of each year and shall cover the preceding calendar year or that portion of the preceding calendar year during which the judge held office individual was a judge or a former judge, except that a newly appointed or elected judge or a judge who leaves office shall file a statement within the time set forth in the instructions to the financial disclosure statement from.

~~d.~~ (2) Exception

If a judge or other ~~person~~ individual who files a certificate of candidacy for nomination for an election to an elected judgeship has filed a statement pursuant to Code, General Provisions Article, §5-610, the ~~person~~ individual need not file a financial disclosure statement under this Rule for the same period of time ~~the statement required by paragraph c of this Rule.~~ ~~e.~~ The State Court Administrator is designated as the ~~person~~ individual to receive statements from the State Administrative Board of Election Laws pursuant to Code, General Provisions Article, §5-610.

~~3.~~ (3) Presumption of Filing

A judge's or former judge's financial disclosure

statement is presumed to have been filed unless the State Court Administrator, on ~~April 16~~ the day after the statement was due, notifies ~~a~~ the judge or former judge that the ~~judge's~~ statement for the preceding calendar year or portion thereof ~~has not been~~ was not received.

~~f.~~ (d) Extension of Time for Filing

~~1.~~ (1) Application

Except when ~~the judge or former judge is~~ required to file a statement pursuant to Code, General Provisions Article, §5-610, a judge or former judge may apply to the State Court Administrator for an extension of time for filing the statement. The application shall be submitted prior to the deadline for filing the statement and shall set forth in detail the reasons an extension is requested and the date ~~upon which~~ when a completed statement will be filed.

~~2.~~ (2) Decision

For good cause ~~shown~~, the State Court Administrator may grant a reasonable extension of time for filing the statement. Whether ~~the State Court Administrator grants or denies~~ the request is granted or denied, the State Court Administrator shall furnish the judge or former judge and the Judicial Ethics Committee with a written statement of the ~~State Court Administrator's~~ reasons for the decision and the facts upon which the decision was based.

~~3.~~ (3) Review by Judicial Ethics Committee

A judge or former judge ~~who is dissatisfied with the~~

~~State Court Administrator's decision~~ may seek review of the State Court Administrator's decision by the Judicial Ethics Committee by filing with the Committee, within ten days after the date of the decision a statement of reasons for the judge's or former judge's dissatisfaction with the decision ~~within ten days from the date of the State Court Administrator's decision~~. The Committee may take the action it deems appropriate with or without a hearing or the consideration of additional documents.

~~g.~~ (e) Failure to File Statement; Incomplete Statement

(1) Notice; Referral to Judicial Ethics Committee

~~1. A judge or former judge who fails to file a timely statement, or who files an incomplete statement, shall be notified in writing by the State Court Administrator, and given a reasonable time, not to exceed ten days, within which to correct the deficiency. If the deficiency has not been corrected within the time allowed, the State Court Administrator shall report the matter to the Judicial Ethics Committee.~~

The State Court Administrator shall (A) give written notice to each judge or former judge who fails to file a timely statement or who files an incomplete statement and (B) in the notice set a reasonable time, not to exceed ten days, for the judge or former judge to file or supplement the statement. If the judge or former judge fails to correct the deficiency within the time allowed, the State Court Administrator shall report the deficiency to the Judicial Ethics Committee.

(2) Duties of Committee

~~2. If the Committee finds, after inquiry, that the failure to file or the omission of information was either inadvertent or in a good faith belief that the omitted information was not required to be disclosed, the Committee shall give the judge or former judge a reasonable period, not to exceed 15 days, within which to correct the deficiency. Otherwise, the Committee shall refer the matter to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities.~~

(A) After an inquiry, the Committee shall determine whether (i) the judge or former judge was required to file the statement or the omitted information was required to be disclosed, and (ii) if so, whether the failure to file or the omission of the required information was inadvertent or in a good faith belief that the judge or former judge was not required to file the statement or to disclose the omitted information.

(B) If the Committee determines that the judge or former judge was not required to file the statement or disclose the omitted information, it shall notify the State Court Administrator and the judge or former judge and terminate the inquiry.

(C) If the Committee determines that the statement was required to be filed or that the omitted information was required to be disclosed but that the failure to do so was inadvertent or in a good faith belief that the filing or disclosure was not required, the Committee shall send notice of that determination to the State Court Administrator and the judge or former judge

and, in the notice, set a reasonable time, not to exceed 15 days, within which the judge or former judge shall correct the deficiency.

(D) If the Committee (i) finds that the statement was required to be filed or that the omitted information was required to be disclosed and that failure to file or disclose the omitted information was not inadvertent or in a good faith belief, or (ii) after notice was given pursuant to subsection (e) (2) (C) of this Rule, the judge or former judge failed to correct the deficiency within the time allowed, the Committee shall report the matter to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and notify the State Court Administrator and the judge or former judge that it has done so.

~~h. This rule applies to each judge of a court names in Rule 16-813, Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct, A-109 (General Provisions) who has resigned or retired in any calendar year, with respect to the portion of that calendar year prior to the judge's resignation or retirement and to each former judge with respect to the previous calendar year.~~

(f) Public Record

When filed, a financial disclosure statement is a public record.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-815 (2016).

MARYLAND RULES OF PROCEDURE

TITLE 18 - JUDGES AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

CHAPTER 600 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Rule 18-604. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

~~a.~~ (a) Definition

~~For purposes of~~ In this Rule, "judicial appointee"

means:

(1) a ~~full-time~~ or part-time magistrate;

(2) a commissioner appointed by a District Administrative Judge with the approval of the Chief Judge of the District Court ~~of Maryland~~, and

(3) an auditor or examiner who is full-time or who earns in any calendar year, by reason of the judicial appointee's official position, compensation at least equal to the pay provided for the base step of State Pay Grade 16, as in effect on July 1 of that calendar year. If an auditor or examiner has served as such for only a portion of a calendar year, a pro rate determination of compensation shall be applied.

Cross reference: For the definition of judicial appointee for purposes of applying the Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees, see ~~the Terminology section of Rule 16-814~~ Rule 18-200.3.

~~b.~~ (b) Requirement

~~Every~~ Each judicial appointee shall file with the State Court Administrator ~~an annual~~ a financial statement ~~on~~ in the

form prescribed by the Court of Appeals.

~~c. Except as provided in paragraph d. of this Rule:~~

~~(i) The initial financial disclosure statement shall be filed on or before April 1, 1989, and shall cover the period beginning on January 1, 1988, and ending on December 31, 1988.~~

~~(ii) A subsequent~~

(c) When Due; Period Covered

(1) Generally

Except as provided in subsection (d) (2) of this Rule, the statement shall be filed annually on or before April 15 of each year, and shall cover the preceding calendar year or that portion of the preceding calendar year during which the ~~judicial appointee held office~~ individual was a judicial appointee, except that a newly appointed judicial appointee or a judicial appointee who leaves office shall file a statement within the time set forth in the instructions to the financial disclosure statement form.

~~d.~~ (2) Exception

If a judicial appointee who files a certificate of candidacy for nomination for an election to an elected ~~office~~ judgeship has filed a statement pursuant to Code, General Provisions Article, §5-605 or §5-610 (b), the judicial appointee need not file for the same period of time the statement required by ~~paragraph c. of this Rule.~~ ~~e.~~ The State Court Administrator is designated as the person individual to receive statements from the State Administrative Board of Election Laws pursuant to Code,

General Provisions Article, §5-610 (b).

~~(iii)~~ (3) Presumption of Filing

A judicial appointee's financial disclosure statement is presumed to have been filed unless the State Court Administrator, on ~~April 16~~ the day after the statement was due, notifies ~~a~~ the judicial appointee, that the ~~judicial appointee's~~ statement for the preceding calendar year or portion thereof ~~has not been~~ was not received.

~~f.~~ (d) Extension of Time for Filing

~~(i)~~ (1) Application

Except when the judicial appointee is required to file a statement pursuant to Code, General Provisions Article, §5-605 or §5-610 (b), a judicial appointee may apply to the State Court Administrator for an extension of time for filing the ~~judicial appointee's~~ statement. The application shall be submitted prior to the deadline for filing the statement and shall set forth in detail the reasons an extension is requested and the date ~~upon which~~ when a completed statement will be filed.

~~(ii)~~ (2) Decision

For good cause ~~shown~~, the State Court Administrator may grant a reasonable extension of time for filing the statement. Whether the request is denied or approved, the State Court Administrator shall furnish the judicial appointee and the Judicial Ethics Committee with a written statement of the ~~State Court Administrator's~~ reasons for the decision and the facts upon which ~~this~~ the decision was based.

~~(iii)~~ (3) Review by Judicial Ethics Committee

A judicial appointee ~~who is dissatisfied with the State Court Administrator's decision~~ may seek review of the State Court Administrator's decision by the Judicial Ethics Committee by filing with the Committee, within ten days after the date of the decision, a statement of reasons for the judicial appointee's dissatisfaction with the decision. The Committee may take the action it deems appropriate with or without a hearing or consideration of additional documents.

~~g. (i) A judicial appointee who fails to file a timely statement, or who files any incomplete statement, shall be notified in writing by the State Court Administrator, and given a reasonable time, not to exceed ten days, within which to correct the deficiency. If the deficiency has not been corrected within the time allowed, the State Court Administrator shall report the matter to the Judicial Ethics Committee.~~

(e) Failure to File Statement; Incomplete Statement

(1) Notice Referral to Judicial Ethics Committee

The State Court Administrator shall (A) give written notice to each judicial appointee who fails to file a timely statement or who files an incomplete statement, and (B) in the notice set a reasonable time, not to exceed ten days, for the judicial appointee to file or supplement the statement. If the judicial appointee fails to correct the deficiency within the time allowed, the State Court Administrator shall report the deficiency to the Judicial Ethics Committee.

(2) Duties of Committee

~~(ii) If the Committee finds, after inquiry, that failing to file or the omission of information was either inadvertent or in good faith belief that the omitted information was not required to be disclosed, the Committee shall give the judicial appointee a reasonable period, not to exceed 15 days, within which to correct the deficiency. Otherwise, the Committee shall refer the matter to the State Ethics Commission. If a judicial appointee who has been allowed additional time within which to correct a deficiency fails to do so within that time, the matter shall also be referred to the State Ethics Commission.~~

(A) After an inquiry, the Committee shall determine whether (i) the judicial appointee was required to file the statement or the omitted information was required to be disclosed, and (ii) if so, whether the failure to file or the omission of the required information was inadvertent or in a good faith belief that the judicial appointee was not required to file the statement or disclose the omitted information.

(B) If the Committee determines that the judicial appointee was not required to file the statement or disclose the omitted information, it shall notify the State Court Administrator and the judicial appointee and terminate the inquiry.

(C) If the Committee determines that the statement was required to be filed or that the omitted information was required to be disclosed but that their failure to do so was inadvertent or in a good faith belief that the filing or disclosure was not

required, the Committee shall send notice of that fact to the State Court Administrator and the judicial appointee and, in the notice, set a reasonable time, not to exceed 15 days, within which to correct the deficiency.

(D) If the Committee (i) finds that the statement was required to be filed or that the omitted information was required to be disclosed and that failure to file or disclose the omitted information was not inadvertent or in a good faith belief, or (ii) after notice was given pursuant to subsection (e) (2) (C) of this Rule, the judicial appointee fails to correct the deficiency within the time allowed, the Committee shall report the matter to the State Ethics Commission and notify the State Court Administrator and the judicial appointee that it has done so.

h. (3) Disciplinary Action

A violation of this Rule is grounds for disciplinary action, including removal, by the appointing authority.

(f) Public Record

When filed, a financial disclosure statement is a public record.

Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 16-816 (2016).