

From: James S Sledge 02/09/2004 12:32 PM

To: Margaret_McKeown@ca9.uscourts.gov
Subject: Model Code

Dear Margaret,

It was good to see you in San Antonio. I know you stayed busy with the work of the joint commission. I appreciate you adding to your burden to call a meeting of the expanded judges advisory committee.

The following is the change I hope to see in Article 1. At the last annual meeting in San Francisco, the House of Delegates adopted as official ABA policy the recommendation of the Judicial Division, co-sponsored by Coalition for Justice, Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements and Standing Committee on Judicial Independence. The policy urges judges to incorporate as an integral function of their position, furtherance of the public's understanding of and confidence in the American system of justice and to develop, support and actively participate in public education programs about the law and the justice system, in order to promote the trust and confidence of the public. My summary of the recommendation stated it was to make it part of a judge's function to further the public's understanding of the American system of justice.

In order to be consistent with ABA policy, Article 1 must be expanded in paragraph 1.04, second sentence. "The judge's judicial duties include all the duties of the judge's office prescribed by law, along with the furtherance of the public's understanding of and confidence in the American system of justice through public education programs about the law and the justice system." To be consistent, paragraph 5.02 must be deleted as these activities are not extra-judicial activities.

This policy was adopted by the ABA after a year of preparation by Judicial Division and the other entities of the Justice Center. It reflects the findings of the day long summit involving many other ABA groups at the 2003 midyear meeting. The full report may be reviewed at Tab 13 of the Judicial Division council book for the 2003 annual meeting. You are familiar that judicial outreach is a major initiative of the Judicial Conference of the United States, along with the National Judicial College and State Justice Institute.

The model code must include judicial outreach as an official judicial function and not an extra-judicial activity to be consistent with ABA policy.

I:\USERS\LIBCPR\ETHICS\JUD-CODE\Code Revision 2003-2004\Comments\Code\Comm_Code_Sledge_020904.doc

Thank you for your unselfish services to Judicial Division and the joint commission.

Sincerely, Jamie Sledge

James Scott Sledge
United States Bankruptcy Judge
Northern District of Alabama
256.741.1500 ext. 61
James_S_Sledge@alnb.uscourts.gov