

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

CANON 1

A JUDGE SHALL UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY, IMPARTIALITY, AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY¹ AND SHALL AVOID IMPROPRIETY AND THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY IN ALL THE JUDGE’S ACTIVITIES²

RULE 1.01: COMPLIANCE WITH THIS CODE

A judge shall observe the standards of conduct embodied in these Rules.³

COMMENT

[1] An independent judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society.⁴ Judicial compliance with high standards of judicial conduct promotes the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the judiciary and fosters public confidence in the administration of justice.

[2] Judges should also participate in activities that promote ethical conduct generally among judges and lawyers. Judges are encouraged to study, develop, maintain, implement and enforce codes of conduct, support professionalism within the judiciary and the legal profession, and promote access to justice for all.

RULE 1.02: PROMOTING CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the judiciary.⁵

COMMENT

[1] Deference to the judgments and rulings of courts depends upon public confidence in the integrity, impartiality, and independence of judges. The integrity, impartiality, and independence of judges depends in turn upon their acting without fear or favor in a manner free from favoritism, self-interest, or bias. Violations of this Code diminish public

¹ Canon 1A
² Canon 1A
³ Canon 2A (partial)
⁴ Canon 1A Comment
⁵ Canon 2A (partial)

1 confidence in the judiciary and thereby do injury to the system of
2 government under law.⁶

3 **RULE 1.03: IMPROPRIETY AND ITS APPEARANCE**

4 **A judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of**
5 **impropriety.**⁷

6 **COMMENT**

7 [1] Public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by improper conduct
8 by judges. The prohibition against acting with impropriety or the
9 appearance of impropriety applies to both the professional and personal
10 conduct of a judge. A judge must expect to be the subject of public
11 scrutiny. A judge must therefore accept restrictions on the judge's conduct
12 that might be viewed as burdensome by the ordinary citizen and should do
13 so freely and willingly.⁸

14 [2] The test for impropriety is whether the conduct compromises the
15 ability of the judge to carry out judicial responsibilities with integrity,
16 impartiality, independence and competence. Examples of actual
17 improprieties under this Rule include violations of law, court rules, or
18 other specific provisions of this Code. The test for an appearance of
19 impropriety is whether the conduct would create, in reasonable minds, a
20 perception that the judge's ability to carry out judicial responsibilities with
21 integrity, impartiality, independence and competence is impaired.⁹

22 **RULE 1.04: COMPLYING WITH THE LAW**

23 **A judge shall respect and comply with the law.**¹⁰

24 **COMMENT**

25 [1] The provisions of this Code focus primarily on judicial compliance
26 with an established set of ethical norms, which, when officially adopted by
27 an entity having regulatory power over the judiciary, are only one of the
28 many types of laws that judges must obey. Judges are no less obligated to
29 observe all valid forms of law than are those who come before them. Thus,
30 a judge's obligation to respect and comply with all law extends as well to
31 require compliance with statutes and court rules.

⁶ Canon 1A Commentary (note some statements appear in a different order)

⁷ Canon 2 Commentary

⁸ Canon 2A Commentary (note some statements appear in a different order)

⁹ Canon 2A Commentary

¹⁰ Canon 2A (partial)