

## TERMINOLOGY

Terms below are noted with an asterisk (\*) in the Rules where they appear. In addition, the Sections where terms appear are referenced after the explanation of each term.

“Aggregate” in relation to contributions for a candidate denotes not only contributions in cash or in kind made directly to a candidate’s committee or treasurer, but also, except in retention elections, all contributions made indirectly with the understanding that they will be used to support the election of a candidate or to oppose the election of the candidate’s opponent. See Rules 2.12(E) and 5.06(B) and (D).

“Appropriate authority” denotes the authority having responsibility for initiation of disciplinary process with respect to the violation to be reported. See Rules 2.17 and 2.18.

“Candidate for judicial office” describes a person seeking selection for or retention in judicial office by election or appointment. A person becomes a candidate for judicial office as soon as he or she makes a public announcement of candidacy, declares or files as a candidate with the election or appointment authority, authorizes or, where permitted, engages in solicitation or acceptance of contributions or support, or is nominated for election or appointment to office. See Preamble and Rules 5.01 through 5.07.

“De minimis,” in the context of a judge’s interests, denotes an insignificant interest that could not raise a reasonable question as to the judge’s impartiality. See Rules 2.12(D)(1) and (2).

“Economic interest” denotes ownership of more than a de minimis legal or equitable interest, but does not extend to a judge’s holdings or interests in mutual or common investment funds, deposits a judge maintains in financial institutions, mutual savings associations or credit unions, or government securities owned by a judge, unless a proceeding pending or impending before the judge could substantially affect the value of such holdings or interests, or the judge is involved in the management of such entities’ holdings. The fact that securities might be held by an educational, charitable, fraternal or civic organization in whose service the judge or the judge’s spouse, parent or child may serve as a director, officer, advisor or other participant does not thereby give the judge an economic interest in such an organization for the purposes of this Code. See Rules 2.12A(2), (3) and (6).

“Fiduciary” includes such relationships as executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian. See Rules 2.12(D)(1) and (H).

“Gift” denotes any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, bequest, or anything of monetary value, but does not include:

- 1 (A) ordinary social hospitality common among people in the judge’s community,  
2 extended for a non-business purpose by an individual, not a corporation, and  
3 limited to the provision of modest items, such as food and refreshments.  
4 (B) items having little intrinsic value that are intended solely for presentation, such as  
5 plaques, certificates, trophies and greeting cards;  
6 (C) bank and other financial institution loans that are made available on the same  
7 terms and based on the same criteria applied to applicants who are not judges;  
8 (D) opportunities and benefits, including favorable rates and commercial discounts,  
9 made available on the same terms and based on the same criteria applied to  
10 applicants who are not judges;  
11 (E) rewards and prizes that are given to competitors in random drawings, contests or  
12 other events that are open to the public, awarded on the same terms and based on  
13 the same criteria applied to other competitors;  
14 (F) scholarships and fellowships awarded on the same terms and based on the same  
15 criteria applied to applicants who are not judges;  
16 (G) reimbursement or waiver of charges for travel-related expenses governed by Rule  
17 4.14; or  
18 (H) compensation for extra-judicial activities that is governed by Rule 4.14. See Rule  
19 4.13.

20 “Impartiality” or “impartial” denotes the condition of being without bias or prejudice in  
21 favor of, or against, particular parties or classes of parties, or their representatives, and of  
22 maintaining an open mind in considering issues that may come before the judge. See  
23 Canon 1 and Rule 1.02, Canon 2 and Rules 2.04, 2.11, 2.12, and Rules 4.01, 4.04, 4.14  
24 and 4.15, and Canon 5.

25 “Impropriety” denotes conduct that compromises the ability of a judge to carry out  
26 judicial responsibilities with integrity, impartiality, and independence, or otherwise  
27 demeans the judicial office. See Canon 1 and Rule 1.03.

28 “Independence” denotes a judge’s freedom from influence, guidance or controls other  
29 than those established by law. See Canon 1 and Rule 1.02, Rule 2.07 Comments.

30 “Integrity” denotes probity, fairness, honesty, uprightness and soundness of character.  
31 See Canon 1 and Rule 1.02.

32 “Knowingly,” “knowledge,” “known” and “knows” denote actual knowledge of the fact  
33 in question. A person’s knowledge may be inferred from circumstances. See Rule 5.01(J)  
34 and Comment [18].

35 “Law” encompasses court rules as well as statutes, constitutional provisions and  
36 decisional law. See Rules 1.04, 2.01, 2.04, 2.09, 2.10(A)(2) and (7), 4.02(A), 4.03,  
37 4.04(A) and (B), 4.06, 5.06(B) and (D), and 5.07(A).

1 “Member of the candidate’s family” denotes a spouse, child, grandchild, parent,  
2 grandparent or other relative or person with whom the candidate maintains a close  
3 familial relationship. See Rule 5.01, Comment [18].

4 “Member of the judge’s family” denotes a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent  
5 or other relative or person with whom the judge maintains a close familial relationship.  
6 See Rules 4.05(A), 4.08 and 4.13(B).

7 “Member of a judge’s family residing in the judge’s household” denotes any relative of a  
8 judge by blood or marriage or a person treated by a judge as a member of the judge’s  
9 family who resides in the judge’s household. See Rule 4.13.

10 “Nonpublic information” denotes information that is not available to the public.  
11 Nonpublic information may include, but is not limited to, information that is sealed by  
12 statute or court order, impounded or communicated *in camera*, and information offered in  
13 grand jury proceedings, pre-sentencing reports, dependency cases or psychiatric reports.  
14 See Rule 3.02.

15 “Political organization” denotes a political party or other group sponsored by or affiliated  
16 with a political party or candidate, the principal purpose of which is to further the election  
17 or appointment of candidates for political office. For purposes of this Code, the term does  
18 not include a judicial candidate’s campaign committee created as authorized by Rule  
19 5.06. See Rules 5.01 through 5.05.

20 “Public election” includes primary and general elections, partisan elections, nonpartisan  
21 elections and retention elections. See Rules 5.01, 5.02, 5.03 and 5.06

22 “Spouse” denotes an individual to whom a judge is married or a domestic partner. See  
23 Rules 2.12, 4.13, and 4.14.

24 “Third degree of relationship” includes the following individuals: great-grandparent,  
25 grandparent, parent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, child, grandchild, great-grandchild,  
26 nephew and niece. See Rule 2.12.

27 “Widely-attended event” denotes a convention, conference, symposium, forum, panel  
28 discussion, dinner, reception or similar event that more than [25] persons are expected to  
29 attend. See Rule 4.13.