

## **SUMMARY**

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

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### **Canon 4 Rule 4.04**

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association finds the rule on a judge's participation in "civic or charitable organizations" to be problematic given their organization's role as a leader in addressing civil rights issues affecting the Asian Pacific American communities. Their annual convention has a fund-raising component and so they applaud the change that allows judges to participate in such events. However, they find the limitation in the final clause of Rule 4.04 (B)(3) prohibiting judicial participation at events where the organization's membership includes predominately lawyers who advocate a particular position or for a particular client will act to take away the permission granted by that language change. They find that the vague language employed by Comment 8, i.e. "specialty bar" and particular positions" will hinder participation of judges in bar associations serving persons of color or particular ethnicities. Because Asian Pacific American judges are few in the federal judiciary and low in number at state levels, any restriction would limit contact between Asian Pacific American lawyers and judges in the context of professional development, as well as chill the participation of the Asian Pacific American judges in the bar associations that reflect their ethnicity, and thus restrict the contributions of these valued members in these bar associations. This in turn would hamper the development of mentoring relationships and the availability of role models for potential Asian Pacific American judges

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association urges deletion of the limiting language described from Rule 4.04 and its Comment. .