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NJEP is a project of
Legal Momentum
in cooperation with
the National Association
of Women Judges

To the ABA Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at the Commission's hearings on February 11, 2006 respecting your "Final Draft" published in December 2005. Thank you also for the enormous labor of bringing the draft to this point.

Having submitted a written statement at that hearing and elaborated on the points made in that writing and on others in my testimony, I will not repeat my concerns and suggestions here. I was gratified that the Commission responded with such immediate understanding to the several witnesses who explained that the proposed language for Canon 4, Rule 4.04 would have several unintended consequences that would isolate judges, in contravention of the language in Rule 4.01 encouraging appropriate extra-judicial activities to promote public understanding of and respect for the courts and the judicial system.

The National Association of Women Judges has followed up on its written statement and testimony at the February 11, 2006 hearing with a letter to the Commission dated March 14, 2006 summarizing the suggestions for revised language made by Justice Fernance Duffly and Executive Director Drucilla Ramey at that hearing. The National Judicial Education Program endorses these proposals. We, too, look forward to reviewing the Commission's "Final Final Draft" when it is submitted to the House of Delegates at this summer's annual meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Lynn Hecht Schafran
Director
National Judicial Education Program