

PREAMBLE

[1]The ~~American~~ legal system of the United States is based on the principle that an independent, impartial, and competent judiciary, composed of men and women of integrity, will interpret and apply the law that governs our society. Thus, the judiciary plays a central role in defining and establishing the ~~American~~ concepts of justice and the rule of law in the United States. Inherent in all of the Rules contained in this Code are the precepts that judges, individually and collectively, must respect and honor the judicial office as a public trust and strive to maintain and enhance confidence in our legal system.

[2]As highly visible symbols of government under the rule of law, judges ~~should~~ can expect to be the subject of public scrutiny, and should freely and willingly accept certain restrictions on their conduct that might be viewed as burdensome by ordinary citizens. In particular, judges ~~should~~ shall maintain the dignity of judicial office at all times, and avoid both impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in their professional and personal lives.

[3]~~This~~ Model Code of Judicial Conduct is intended to establish standards for the ethical conduct of judges and judicial candidates. It consists of broad statements called Canons that are brief captions. ~~§~~Specific Rules that are intended to be enforceable are set forth under each Canon. ~~and~~ The Code also includes Comments to the Rules that illustrate the meaning and purpose of each Rule and provide guidance for complying with them. The Scope, Terminology, and Application ~~§~~Sections provide additional interpretive guidance.

[4]This Code is not intended as an exhaustive guide for the conduct of judges and judicial candidates, who are also governed in their judicial and personal conduct by general ethical standards.(Consider Section [7] in the Preamble of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct for guidance how to better draft this.) The Code is intended, however, to provide guidance to assist them in maintaining the highest standards of judicial and personal conduct.