

## **SUMMARY**

### **ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism**

**John Berry**

**August 29, 2005**

#### **Canon 1 Rule 1.02**

The Professionalism Committee commends the retention of the standard requiring that judges act at all times in a way designed to promote public confidence in the integrity, impartiality and independence of the judiciary.

#### **Canon 1 Rule 1.03**

The Committee supports retention of the “appearance of impropriety” standard. It notes that although the establishment of minimum standards for judicial conduct is mentioned in Scope note to the Code, this standard provides ongoing support for the highest standards of judicial conduct. It further notes that this provision is the only one in the proposed Code that calls for a certain standard of conduct for judges at all times, and provides that judges comport themselves with appropriate decorum at all times.

#### **Canon 2 Rule 2.05**

The Committee suggests that the word demeaning be added after the word harassment to the language specifying speech, conduct, and gestures from which judges must refrain.

#### **Canon 2 Rule 2.08**

The Professionalism Committee would add the requirement to be respectful to those of being patient, dignified and courteous as set out in this rule. They note that from a professionalism perspective, courtesy and respect are legitimately important in addition to fairness and impartiality.

#### **Canon 3**

The Committee recommends that Canon 3 be amended to add a specific provision that requires a judge to maintain the integrity and decorum of the office at all times.