

Rule 2.07(b)
Demeanor and Decorum
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Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board
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Based on the number of complaints to the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board about judges displaying improper demeanor toward court personnel or staff, Mr. Puskas recommends that the Commission consider including reference to “staff” and “court officials” in the first clause of proposed Canon 2.07(b), to bring this clause in line with the remaining provisions of Canon 2/07(b) and to eliminate any incongruity that arises from the Canon’s permitting a judge to demand proper demeanor *from* staff or court officials, but not explicitly requiring the judge to display the same demeanor *to* staff or court officials.

Because the honor and integrity of the judiciary are promoted by including staff and court officials in the class of persons to who judges should display proper demeanor, Mr. Puskas urges the Commission to consider the following alternative draft for proposed Canon 2.07(b). [Additions underlined; deletions struck through.]

A judge shall be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, staff, court officials, and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and shall require similar conduct of lawyers, ~~and of~~ staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge’s direction and control.