Judicial Standards Update: Summer 2024

Judge Jeff Carpenter, Chair
Brittany Pinkham, Executive Director
Patricia Flood, Commission Counsel
North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission

CANON 3C: DISQUALIFICATION

➤ "A judge should disqualify himself/herself in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality may reasonably be questioned…"

➤ Objective **AND** Subjective Analysis

   ➤ Objective: see Canon 3C(1) for examples

      ➤ Reasonably educated person standard

   ➤ Subjective: ask yourself, "can I be fair/impartial?"

➤ Keep in mind – Balance ^ with what you were elected/appointed to do – hear cases!

   ➤ It is NOT appropriate for judges to recuse to please a party (e.g. get bullied off of a case) or "because it is easier"

   ➤ See FAO 14-02

   ➤ Think of the impact that this may have on others

CANON 3A(3): WEBEX IS HERE TO STAY

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

➢ Know how to use your technology and what is/is not an appropriate case to handle via this platform

   ➢ Breakout sessions, breaks, chat function

➢ Internal narrative ≠ Court narrative

   ➢ Pause, think, then speak

   ➢ These can and will be reviewed

CANONS 1 & 2A

➤ Duty to abide by the law and <u>at all times</u> promote the public's confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

   ➤ **On and off** of the bench

➤ Recent issues:

   ➤ Socializing with court staff and local Bar

   ➤ Getting along with others, handling disagreements, staying within your lane

   ➤ And…

CANON 7: POLITICAL CONDUCT

➤ For those of you running this year, please ensure that you are aware of your expectations under the Code

➤ See Political Conduct Memo on our website

➤ Call if you have questions or need something reviewed

Please don't hesitate to contact us!

Brittany Pinkham, bpm@coa.nccourts.org

(919) 831-3633

www.ncjsc.gov