

**VIRGINIA:**

*In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme Court Building in the City of Richmond on Wednesday, the 1st day of June, 2022.*

It is ordered that the Rules heretofore adopted and promulgated by this Court and now in effect are hereby amended, effective immediately.

Amend Part Six, Section III, Canons of Judicial Conduct as follows:

**SECTION III. CANONS OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT FOR  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

**I. PREAMBLE**

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**III. CANONS:**

**CANON 1. A JUDGE MUST BE IMPARTIAL**

The standards that follow this Canon are binding and authoritative in interpreting the Canon. Some standards will include illustrations. Such illustrations are intended to be applied to achieve the purposes of the Canon.

**A. Relationships with parties or counsel (including family relationships)**

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**H. Bias or prejudice**

A judge must perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice. A judge must not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, including but not limited to bias or prejudice toward any member of a protected class, and must not permit staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge’s direction and control to do so in the performance of their official duties. This does not preclude proper judicial consideration when characteristics related to membership in a protected class are at issue in the proceeding.

**I. Providing information to unrepresented litigants**

In performing the duties of his or her judicial office, a judge may explain the judicial process, while maintaining impartiality. A judge may also inform unrepresented persons of free legal aid and similar assistance that is available.

**J. Ex parte communications**

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**K. Consultation with law clerks and administrative personnel**

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**L. Avoidance of independent investigations beyond evidence presented**

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**M. Providing education, advice, and mentoring**

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**N. Avoiding favoritism**

\* \* \*

**O. Acceptance of gifts, recognitions, and invitations**

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**P. Influence by the public**

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**CANON 3. A JUDGE MUST PROMOTE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF JUSTICE**

\* \* \*

**A. Judicial duties as priority**

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**E. Patient, dignified, and courteous behavior**

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

**F. Efficient discharge of administrative duties**

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A Copy,

Teste:

  
Clerk