

## JUVENILE ETHICS UPDATES

Nov. 1990 – I. A. It is permissible for a judge to appear with a police officer at a high school to talk about gangs and drugs to a gathering of teachers and parents. (Canon 4A)

Feb. 1994 – II. P. Newly awarded Eagle Scouts may be congratulated by a letter on court stationary signed by a judge. (Canon 2C and commentary)

Dec. 1995 – IV. S. A judge may not write “thank you” letters for cash contributions to a local organization which helps the juvenile court. (Canon 4C(3)(d)(i)(iv)).

Jan. 1997 – III. H – A juvenile law referee or commissioner may not refer to him/herself as a “judge” in a campaign for judicial office (Canon 5B).

Jan. 1997 – IV. B. – Judge may not serve on the board or be a member of (3) A children’s planning council established by the Board of Supervisors to plan, coordinate and evaluate the effectiveness of children’s programs where the county would be divided into districts and council would prioritize plans for each district. May attend meetings.

Jan. 1997 – IV. D. – A judge may not become involved in an anti-gang organization for which a prominent musical performer was ordered by the judge to perform community service during the time the performer is on probation, nor may the judge accept a t-shirt and cap from the organization. (Canon 2).

Jan. 1997 – IV. (Fundraising) I. Judge may not be involved in fund raising for a juvenile court facility which will partly be funded by private donations but may support a ballot proposition which will generate funds for the facility (Canon 4C).

Jan. 1998 – II. C. A judge may not serve as an informal mediator between school superintendent and school board. (Canon 4F).

Jan. 1998 – IV. (Membership) A. A judge may serve on the board of, or be a member of the following organizations, provided the judge does not engage in fundraising nor allow his or her name to be used in fundraising activities. (4) Member of the Boy Scouts as a Boy Scout Master.

Jan. 1998 – V. B. A judge may participate on a steering committee named by the DA to plan a seminar on teenage pregnancy and the victimization of women, for members of the community, attorneys, (Canon 4C(3)).

Feb. 1999 – II. (Gifts) A. 9. A judge may permit a public high school to pay the judge’s travel expenses to another city so that the judge may act as a judge in a mock trial competition in which the high school’s team is participating.

Feb. 1999 – IV B. A judge may not serve on the Board of, or be a member of, the following organizations: (1) A non-profit Police Athletic League sponsored by a local police agency to provide recreational opportunities for disadvantaged youth. (Canons 4A, 4C).

Apr. 2000 – IV. (Government Positions) A. A retired judge sitting on assignment may apply for a seat on a state board such as Youthful Offender Parole Board, Adult Parole Board or Board of Prison Terms (Canon 6D).

Apr. 2000 – VI. E. A judge may preside over practice sessions of mock trial competitions (e.g. Constitutional rights foundation, law school and high school moot courts) and may participate as a judge in actual competition. (Canons 4A, 4B).

Apr. 2000 – VII. A. A judge may wear a judicial robe to address a grade school class about the judicial branch of government. (Canons 2, 4A).

Mar. 2001 – V. B. A judge who is on the board of directors of a private high school, may attend and participate in a meeting to discuss a matter which may be referred to law enforcement for possible prosecution (Canon 2A)

Mar. 2001 – VI. 8 – A judge may serve on the board of an organization to rally local communities to provide opportunities for at risk high school students (America's Promise). The prestige of judge's office may not be used to further the goals of the organization and the judge may not participate in any fundraising. (Canons 4A, 4C).

Mar. 2001 – VIII. B. Letters of recommendation, based on personal knowledge, may be written on judicial stationery: (1) For a friend seeking to adopt a child; (2) For a law school applicant. (Canons 2B(4), 4C(3)(d)(ii)).

Feb. 2002 – II C. 2. – Judge may write a letter on behalf of a friend's son seeking a position with probation the department. (Canon 2B(4)).

Mar. 2003 – I. 2 – A judge may contact the Department of Family & Children's Services when the judge has learned through a probation report that a child may be the victim of child abuse (Canon 2A).

Mar. 2003 – II. B. 1. A judge may participate in a panel discussion to address the effects of violence on children. (Canons 4A, 4B).

Mar. 2003 – IV. A. 4. – A juvenile court judge may be a member of a nonprofit group to "mobilize the community against substance abuse." (Canon 4C(3)(b)).

Mar. 2003 – IV. A. 7 – A judge may serve on a committee that promotes program for at risk youth.

Mar. 2003 – V. 1. A judge may not be personally involved in fundraising activities at children's school. (Canon 4C(3)(d)(iv)).

Mar. 2003 – V. 2. A judge may not sign a letter requesting local dentists to donate their time to free dental care clinics for children. (Canon 4C(3)(d)(i) & (iv)).

Mar. 2003 – V. 4. A judge may not write a letter on behalf of school attended by judge's children to obtain grants. (Canon 4C(3)(d)(ii)).

Mar. 2004 – I. B. 2. Judge should disclose fact that deputy district attorney's children attend local private school in classroom being taught by judge's spouse in each case where those deputy district attorneys appear in judge's court. (Canon 3E).

Mar. 2004 – II E. 6. – Commissioner who sits in dependency court may attend Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) fundraiser luncheon but may not accept the luncheon as a gift from CASA. (Canon 4D(5)).

Mar. 2004 – IV. A. 3 – Judge may not participate as board member of “Friends of Child Advocates” which serves the needs of abused and neglected children because the organization frequently appears in court on such matters.

Mar. 2004 - IV. B. 5. – Judge may participate in luncheon promoted by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to educate business and community leaders regarding CASA and to encourage volunteers to participate. (Canon 4).

Mar. 2004 – V. 3. Judge may use county email to solicit other judges for donations to assist county mock trial team with expenses to attend national mock trial competition. (Canon 4C(3)(d)(i)).

Mar. 2004 – V. 6. – Commissioner may not allow courtroom to be used as collection site for a toy fundraiser for juveniles who appear in Commissioner’s courtroom. (Canons 2A,4C(3)(d)(i)).

Mar. 2005 – I. C. 1. – Juvenile judicial officer may not meet with wards on a one-on-one basis without appropriate waivers. (Canon 3B(7)).

Mar. 2005 – IV. B. 1. – Judges may not sit on Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) boards, since CASA is engaged in adversary proceedings in the judge’s court. (Canon 4C(3)(c)(ii); IR #332)

Jun. 2007 – II. A. 1. - Judge may serve as chair of a committee devoted to juvenile justice issues where committee membership includes representatives from law enforcement, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation and the Court. (Canon 4A).

Apr. 2008 – IV. A. 2. – Judge may have his/her name and title on the letterhead as an advisor to a non-profit youth organization where others listed on the letterhead all have their positions listed. (Canon 4C(3)(d) and Commentary).

Apr. 2008 – VI. 1. – Judge may give a keynote speech at a conference of group home providers and foster care parents who care for sexually exploited children, to educate attendees on services for their wards and the court’s involvement in providing, referring, and monitoring services. (Canon 4B).

Feb. 2010 – II. A. 3. Judge, who has been working with a teen court program affiliated with a local high school and whose contact has been through a school counselor, may not write a letter to the school board to oppose budget cuts which would have the effect of cutting the counselor’s position, but may write a letter expressing Judge’s opinion and observations about the counselor’s efficacy. (Canons 2B, 2B(2)(e), 4C(1)).

Nov. 2010 – P. 5. Civic and Charitable Activities #2 -Judge may not join the advisory board of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) as CASA engages in adversary proceedings in the court. (Canon 4C(3)(c)(ii)).

Jan. 2012 – I. B. 5. – Judge, who presides over a truancy court, is not required to recuse where Judge, after learning that one of the wards made threats about Judge, reported threat to the Sheriff’s Office, and where Judge believes that Judge can remain fair and has made disclosure to all parties. (Canon 3E(1)).

Jan. 2012 – II. A. 2. – Judges in Dependency Court may compile and provide a list of neutral *pro bono* attorneys whom self-represented foster and adoptive parents may contact for information purposes only about the process of court required post-adoptive contact mediations. (Canons 2A, 2B(2), 3C(4)).

Jan. 2012 – IV. A. 2. – Judge, who has recently begun a juvenile assignment, may not continue on board of directors of nonprofit that operates programs for families and juveniles, including counseling and advice regarding dependency court, and which issues progress reports to the dependency court on the families and juveniles. (Canon 4C(3)(c)(i)).

Jan. 2012 – IV. C. 1. – Judge, who has a juvenile assignment, may not serve on CASA board, as CASA is engaged in adversary proceedings before Judge. (Canon 4C(3)(c)(ii)).

Nov. 2012 – I. D. 2. – A juvenile judge may issue a protective custody warrant *ex parte* as this is an *ex parte* communication permitted by law. (Canons 2A, 3B(7), 3B(7)(e)).

Nov. 2012 – II. E. 2. – A juvenile judge may not accept an invitation to attend a CASA fundraiser as the guest of CASA. (Canon 4D(6)).

Nov. 2012 – VII. 1. – A juvenile judge may attend community programs for juveniles appearing in the juvenile court unless the judge is likely to receive information that would affect the judge's future decisions involving the juveniles attending the program. If the judge inadvertently receives material *ex parte*, the judge must disclose that information or disqualify from further decisions involving the juvenile involved. (Canons 3B(7), 4A(1)).

Nov. 2012 – VII. 2 – A judge may wear the judicial robe at an elementary school show-and-tell rally where the intention of the program is to educate the children about the job of being a judge. (Canons 2A, 4A, 4B).

Mar. 2014 – IV. E. 5. – A judge may attend a fundraising event to raise money to pay for therapy for children involved in Family Court. (Canon 4C(d)(iv)).

Dec. 2014 – II. C. 2. – A judge sitting in juvenile dependency court may not make a public statement supporting the benefits of a particular program which is to be used on the program's web site. (Canons 1, 2, 2B(2), 4A, 4C(3)(d)(iv)).

Dec. 2014 – IV. D. 2. – A retired judge sitting on assignment may not be a member of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Board of Directors. (Canons 2, 4A, 4C(3)(c) and Advisory Committee Comment to Canon 4C(3)(a) & (b)).

Dec. 2014 – VI. 4. – A judge may participate in a program developed to address juvenile justice reform and accept reimbursement for the reasonable expenses for travel, lodging and subsistence for the day before, the day of, and the day immediately after the activities related to the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. (Canons 2A, 3A, 4A(3); 4B, 4C(3)(a), 4D(6)(e), 4H).

Jan. 2016 – II. F. 1. – A juvenile court judge may write on court stationary urging employees of a local school district to consider serving as foster parents. (Canons 2A, 4A).

Jan. 2016. – III. 2. – A juvenile court presiding judge may sign a letter to the legislature supporting a bill to enable foster youth to receive educational benefits they do not currently receive. (Canons 1, 2A, 2B(2), 4A(1), 4C(3)(c)(i), 4C(3)(c)(ii), 4D(1)(b), 6.)

Jan. 2017 – VII. 5. – Judge assigned to juvenile court may appear in a film asking members of the community to volunteer for a program where the trained volunteers provide support to minors who have cases in the juvenile justice system. (Canons 2A, 4A(1), 4A(2), 4C(3)(d)(ii) & Advisory Committee Commentary to Canon 4C(3)(e).)

Jan. 2018 – I. B. 8. – Judge, who is handling a Juvenile Court assignment, need not disclose judge's prior representation of other members of a lawyer's firm on estate planning when lawyer files a Pitchess motion on behalf of a minor in a matter pending in judge's court. (Canon 3E(2)).

Jan. 2018 – VII. 2. – Dependency judge may accept an invitation to make a presentation about dependency proceedings to a local law firm that does not practice in dependency court and may accept a free lunch and free parking while making the presentation. (Canons 2A, 4A(3), 4D(6)(e).)