

Committee on Judicial Ethics
Teleconference
Wednesday, November 26, 2008

Members present via teleconference: Justice Barry R. Schaller, Chair; Judge Linda K. Lager, Vice-Chair, Judge Robert J. Devlin, Jr., Judge Socrates H. Mihalakos and Associate Professor Jeffrey A. Meyer. Staff present: Martin R. Libbin, Esq., Secretary.

MINUTES

- I. With a quorum present, Justice Schaller called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Though publicly noticed, no members of the public attended.
- II. The Committee unanimously approved the draft Minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting after correcting the draft to reflect Associate Professor Meyer's attendance.
- III. The Committee considered Judicial Ethics Opinion 2008-17 concerning the propriety of a judicial official recommending an attorney to an individual for a specific legal matter. The Committee unanimously agreed that a judicial official may recommend an attorney to an individual provided that the individual given the recommendation has a sufficiently close relationship to the judicial official that the judicial official would automatically recuse himself or herself from a case involving that person independent of whether the judicial official made a recommendation of counsel. In addition, the judicial official should recommend multiple names of counsel.
- IV. The Committee considered Judicial Ethics Opinion 2008-18 concerning the propriety of a judicial official financially contributing to a legal aid society whose attorneys may appear before the judicial official. The Committee unanimously agreed that contributions to a legal aid organization are permissible and that disclosure of such contributions generally is not required unless the amount of the contribution is such that the judicial official's impartiality might reasonably be questioned.
- V. The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.