

Committee on Judicial Ethics  
Teleconference  
Friday, December 16, 2011

Members present via teleconference: Justice Barry R. Schaller, Chair, Judge Edward R. Karazin, Jr., Vice Chair, Professor Jeffrey A. Meyer and Judge Maureen D. Dennis. Staff present: Attorney Martin R. Libbin, Secretary and Attorney Viviana L. Livesay, Assistant Secretary.

**MINUTES**

- I. With the above noted members present, Justice Schaller called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Although publicly noticed, no members of the public attended.
- II. The Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the November 23, 2011 meeting.
- III. The Committee briefly discussed Judicial Ethics Informal 2011-30 (Emergency Staff Opinion) and approved the staff recommendation as submitted.
- IV. The Committee discussed Judicial Ethics Informal 2011-31 concerning whether a Judicial Official may participate as a panel member at a law-related educational seminar that is sponsored by a private organization, whether a non-profit or a profit-making organization, which earns a profit from sponsoring the seminar and, if so, whether the Judicial Official may be compensated on either a flat fee or contingent fee basis (where the amount of the fee is dependent upon the number of people that attend the seminar).

Based on the information provided, the Committee unanimously declined to answer the inquiry because it seeks an opinion on a hypothetical question for a contemplated activity. See [Section 5 of the Policy & Rules of the Committee](#). The Committee noted that it would reconsider the question if the Judicial Official were to advise the Committee of a specific request to participate in such a seminar, presently or in the future.

- V. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.