

Impropriety in All of the Judge's Activities.

A. A judge should respect and comply with the law and should conduct himself or herself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

B. A judge should not allow the judge's . . . social, or other relationships to influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment. A judge should not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of others; nor should a judge convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge.

Ill. Sup. Ct., R 62.

Rule 65. Canon 5. A Judge Should Regulate His or Her Extrajudicial Activities to Minimize the Risk of Conflict With the Judge's Judicial Duties.

A. Avocational Activities. A judge may . . . engage in . . . sports, and other social and recreational activities, if such avocational activities do not detract from the dignity of the judge's office or interfere with the performance of the judge's judicial duties. . . .

C. Financial Activities. . . .

(4) Neither a judge nor a member of the judge's family residing in the judge's household should accept a gift [or] favor . . . from anyone except as follows: . . .

(c) a judge or a member of the judge's family residing in the judge's household may accept any other gift [or] favor . . . only if the donor is not a party or other person whose interests have come or are likely to come before the judge, including lawyers who practice or have practiced before the judge.

Ill. Sup. Ct., R 65.

As emphasized by recent events, it is also important to remember the following Committee Comments on Canon 2:

Public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by irresponsible or improper conduct by judges. A judge must avoid all impropriety and appearance of impropriety. A judge must expect to be the subject of constant public scrutiny. A judge must therefore accept restrictions on his or her conduct that might be viewed as burdensome by the ordinary citizen and should do so freely and willingly.

Ill. Sup. Ct., R 65, Cmt.

While I have every confidence in your commitment to your judicial duties. I urge you to consider declining this invitation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.