

JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JEAC)

JEAC Contact Information

Inquiries from judges and judicial candidates may be referred to Patricia E. Lowry, Attorney at Law, Chair, Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 1900 Phillips Point West, 777 S. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33401-6161, (561) 650-7214. All questions must be in writing.

Enforcement of the code is a function of the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC). For more information and access to the JQC's online complaint form, see www.floridajqc.com.

JEAC History

In an order dated February 3, 1976, the Florida Supreme Court formally recognized the Committee on Standards of Conduct Governing Judges (now the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee). The court authorized the committee to render written advisory opinions concerning the propriety of contemplated judicial and non-judicial conduct. *Petition of the Committee on Standards of Conduct for Judges*, 327 So. 2d 5 (Fla. 1976). The supreme court subsequently authorized the committee to recommend changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct.

JEAC Opinions

The committee's advisory opinions addressing judicial questions about each of the canons in the Code of Judicial Conduct may be viewed online in a searchable database at www.flcourts.org (under "Legal Community" tab, heading "Circuit Courts and County Courts") or at www.jud6.org/LegalCommunity/LegalPractice/opinions/jeacopinions/jeac.html. The database contains advisory opinions from 1972 through the present.

JEAC Campaign Conduct Forums

The committee also presents campaign conduct forums for judicial candidates. These forums educate candidates about Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, provide candidates with sources of guidance for campaign conduct, and inform candidates of possible sanctions for violating Canon 7. The forums aid in maintaining a high level of integrity and professionalism among candidates for judicial office and in increasing public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

JEAC Members

Patricia E. Lowry, Chair
Attorney at Law, West Palm Beach

The Honorable Jonathan D. Gerber, Vice-Chair
Appellate Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Roberto Arias
County Judge, Duval County

The Honorable Robert T. Benton, II
Appellate Judge, First District Court of Appeal

Dean Bunch
Attorney at Law, Tallahassee

The Honorable Lisa Davidson
Circuit Judge, Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable T. Michael Jones
Circuit Judge, First Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Barbara Lagoa
Appellate Judge, Third District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Jose M. Rodriguez
Circuit Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable C. McFerrin Smith
Circuit Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Richard R. Townsend
County Judge, Clay County

The Honorable Dorothy L. Vaccaro
County Judge, Pinellas County