



THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

180 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105-1617



Commission on Judicial Performance

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14400
San Francisco, CA 94102-3660

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Dear Judicial Candidate:

This is to inform you of the regulations applicable to judicial campaigns and the agencies responsible for their enforcement. Canon 5 of the California Code of Judicial Ethics ("A judge or candidate for judicial office shall not engage in political or campaign activity that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity, or impartiality of the judiciary") governs judicial campaign activities. Incumbent judges are subject to canon 5, as well as other provisions of the code, including canon 3E(1), (2) & (3)(a), and Code of Civil Procedure section 170.1(a)(9), which relate to disqualification and disclosure obligations arising out of judicial campaigns. Rule 1-700 of the State Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct requires a member of the State Bar who is a candidate for judicial office in California to comply with canon 5. The Code of Judicial Ethics, including recent amendments, is available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/ca_code_judicial_ethics.pdf.

A recent amendment to canon 5 requires candidates for judicial office to complete a judicial campaign ethics course approved by the Supreme Court no earlier than one year before or no later than 60 days after either the filing of a declaration of intention by the candidate, the formation of a campaign committee or the receipt of any campaign contribution, whichever is earliest. The online judicial campaign ethics course can be accessed at www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/protem/courses/judcampeth.

Candidates for judicial office, like other elected officials, also are required to comply with various provisions of the Political Reform Act and may be subject to discipline by the Fair Political Practices Commission for violations of the Act. Incumbent judges and successful candidates for judicial office also may be subject to discipline by the Commission on Judicial Performance for violations of the Code of Judicial Ethics and for failure to comply with the Political Reform Act. Attorney candidates for judicial office who are not elected judges may be subject to discipline by the State Bar for violations of rule 1-700 of the Rules of Professional Conduct and canon 5 of the Code of Judicial Ethics.

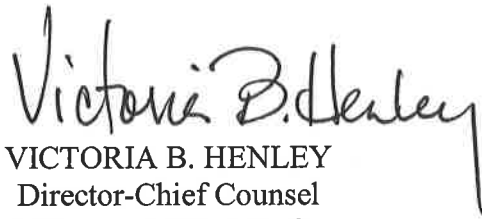
The Ethics Committee of the California Judges Association answers ethics questions from incumbent judge and attorney candidates for judicial office. Judicial candidates may telephone the California Judges Association office at 916-239-4068 or toll free at 866-432-1CJA (1252) for referral. You may obtain a copy of CJA's 2014 Judicial Elections Handbook by contacting CJA.

The Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions provides informal and formal written ethics opinions for judicial candidates. The Committee can be reached at Judicial.Ethics@jud.ca.gov or toll free at 855-854-5366. Opinion request forms and additional information about the committee's work and services is available on its website at www.JudicialEthicsOpinions.ca.gov. The Fair Political Practices Commission also provides technical assistance to candidates seeking to comply with the provisions of the Political Reform Act and related regulations. FPPC technical assistance can be reached at 866-ASK-FPPC (275-3772).

We hope that this information will assist you in conducting your campaign.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph L. Dunn".

JOSEPH L. DUNN
CEO
State Bar of California

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Victoria B. Henley".

VICTORIA B. HENLEY
Director-Chief Counsel
Commission on Judicial Performance