

**481—15.3(10A) Canon 3.** An administrative law judge shall conduct the administrative law judge's personal and extrajudicial activities to minimize the risk of conflict with administrative judicial obligations.

**15.3(1) *Extrajudicial activities in general.*** An administrative law judge may engage in extrajudicial activities, except as prohibited by law or this Code. However, when engaging in extrajudicial activities, an administrative law judge shall not:

- a.* Participate in activities that will interfere with the proper performance of the administrative law judge's administrative judicial duties;
- b.* Participate in activities that will lead to frequent disqualification of the administrative law judge;
- c.* Participate in activities that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the administrative law judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality;
- d.* Engage in conduct that would appear to a reasonable person to be coercive; or
- e.* Make use of agency premises, staff, stationery, equipment, or other resources, except for incidental use for activities that concern the law, the legal system, the provision of legal services, or the administration of justice, or unless such additional use is permitted by law.

**15.3(2)** Reserved.

**15.3(3) *Testifying as a character witness.*** An administrative law judge shall not testify as a character witness in a judicial, administrative, or other adjudicatory proceeding or otherwise vouch for the character of a person in a legal proceeding, except when duly subpoenaed.

**15.3(4) *Appointments to governmental positions.*** An administrative law judge shall not accept appointment to a governmental committee, board, commission, or other governmental position that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the administrative law judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality or would lead to frequent disqualification of the administrative law judge.

**15.3(5) *Use of nonpublic information.*** An administrative law judge shall not intentionally disclose or use nonpublic information acquired in an administrative judicial capacity for any purpose unrelated to the administrative law judge's administrative judicial or other duties.

**15.3(6) *Affiliation with discriminatory organizations.***

*a.* An administrative law judge shall not hold membership in any organization that practices invidious discrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. An administrative law judge's membership in a religious organization as a lawful exercise of the freedom of religion is not prohibited.

*b.* An administrative law judge shall not use the benefits or facilities of an organization if the administrative law judge knows or should know that the organization practices invidious discrimination on one or more of the bases identified in paragraph 15.3(6) "a." An administrative law judge's attendance at an event in a facility of an organization that the administrative law judge is not permitted to join is not a violation of this rule when the administrative law judge's attendance is an isolated event that could not reasonably be perceived as an endorsement of the organization's practices.

**15.3(7) *Participation in educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations and activities.***

*a.* Subject to the requirements of subrule 15.3(1), an administrative law judge may participate in activities sponsored by organizations or governmental entities concerned with the law, the legal system, the provision of legal services, or the administration of justice, and those sponsored by or on behalf of educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations not conducted for profit, including but not limited to the following activities:

(1) Assisting such an organization or entity in planning related to fund-raising, volunteering goods or services at fund-raising events, and participating in the management and investment of the organization's or entity's funds;

(2) Soliciting contributions for such an organization or entity, but only from members of the administrative law judge's family, or from other administrative law judges or coworkers in the administrative law judge's immediate office over whom the administrative law judge does not exercise supervisory authority;

(3) Appearing or speaking at, receiving an award or other recognition at, being featured on the program of, and permitting his or her title to be used in connection with an event of such an organization or

entity, but if the event serves a fund-raising purpose, the administrative law judge may participate only if the event concerns the law, the legal system, the provision of legal services, or the administration of justice;

(4) Making recommendations to such a public or private fund-granting organization or entity in connection with its programs and activities, but only if the organization or entity is concerned with the law, the legal system, the provision of legal services, or the administration of justice; and

(5) Serving as an officer, director, trustee, or nonlegal advisor of such an organization or entity, unless it is likely that the organization or entity:

1. Will be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come before the administrative law judge; or
2. Will frequently be engaged in adversary proceedings before the agency in which the administrative law judge serves.

*b.* An administrative law judge may encourage lawyers to provide pro bono publico legal services.

*c.* Subject to the requirements of subrule 15.3(1), an administrative law judge may:

(1) Provide leadership in identifying and addressing issues involving equal access to the justice system; developing public education programs; engaging in activities to promote the fair administration of justice and convening, participating or assisting in advisory committees and community collaborations devoted to the improvement of the law, the legal system, the provision of legal services, or the administration of justice.

(2) Endorse projects and programs directly related to the law, the legal system, the provision of legal services, and the administration of justice to those coming before the courts or the administrative judiciary.

(3) Participate in programs concerning the law or which promote the administration of justice.

**15.3(8)** *Appointments to fiduciary positions.*

*a.* An administrative law judge shall not accept appointment to serve in a fiduciary position, such as executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, attorney in fact, or other personal representative, except for the estate, trust, or person of a member of the administrative law judge's family, and then only if such service will not interfere with the proper performance of administrative judicial duties.

*b.* An administrative law judge shall not serve in a fiduciary position if the administrative law judge as fiduciary will likely be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come before the administrative law judge, or if the estate, trust, or ward becomes involved in adversary proceedings before the agency in which the administrative law judge serves.

*c.* An administrative law judge acting in a fiduciary capacity shall be subject to the same restrictions on engaging in financial activities that apply to an administrative law judge personally.

*d.* If a person who is serving in a fiduciary position becomes an administrative law judge, he or she must comply with this subrule as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event later than six months after becoming an administrative law judge.

**15.3(9)** *Services as arbitrator or mediator.* An administrative law judge shall not act as an arbitrator or a mediator or perform other judicial functions apart from the administrative law judge's official duties unless expressly authorized by law.

**15.3(10)** *Practice of law.* An administrative law judge shall not engage in the private practice of law. An administrative law judge may act pro se and may, without compensation, give legal advice to and draft or review documents for a member of the administrative law judge's family, but is prohibited from serving as the family member's lawyer before the agency in which the administrative law judge serves. An administrative law judge serving in the administrative hearings division of the department of inspections and appeals is prohibited from serving as the family member's lawyer in any proceeding in which another administrative law judge serving in the division is the presiding officer, regardless of whether the proceeding is being conducted on behalf of the department of inspections and appeals or another state agency.

**15.3(11)** *Financial, business, or remunerative activities.*

*a.* An administrative law judge may hold and manage investments of the administrative law judge and members of the administrative law judge's family.

*b.* An administrative law judge shall not serve as an officer, director, manager, general partner, advisor, or employee of any business entity except that an administrative law judge may manage or participate in:

(1) A business closely held by the administrative law judge or members of the administrative law judge's family; or

(2) A business entity primarily engaged in investment of the financial resources of the administrative law judge or members of the administrative law judge's family.

c. An administrative law judge shall not engage in financial activities permitted under paragraphs 15.3(11) "a" and "b" if they will:

(1) Interfere with the proper performance of administrative judicial duties;

(2) Lead to frequent disqualification of the administrative law judge;

(3) Involve the administrative law judge in frequent transactions or continuing business relationships with lawyers or other persons likely to come before the agency in which the administrative law judge serves; or

(4) Result in violation of other provisions of this Code.

**15.3(12)** *Compensation for extrajudicial activities.* An administrative law judge may accept reasonable compensation for extrajudicial activities permitted by this Code and other law unless such acceptance would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the administrative law judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality.

**15.3(13)** *Acceptance of gifts, loans, bequests, benefits, or other things of value.* An administrative law judge, an administrative law judge's spouse, and an administrative law judge's dependent child shall not accept or receive any gift, loan, bequest, benefit, or other thing of value, if acceptance or receipt is prohibited by Iowa Code chapter 68B or any other law or if acceptance or receipt would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the administrative law judge's independence, integrity, or impartiality.

**15.3(14)** *Reimbursement of expenses and waivers of fees or charges.*

a. Unless otherwise prohibited by subrules 15.3(1) and 15.3(13), Iowa Code chapter 68B, or other law, an administrative law judge may accept reimbursement of necessary and reasonable expenses for travel, food, lodging, or other incidental expenses, or a waiver or partial waiver of fees or charges for registration, tuition, and similar items, from sources other than the administrative law judge's employing entity, if the expenses or charges are associated with the administrative law judge's participation in extrajudicial activities permitted by this Code.

b. Reimbursement of expenses for necessary travel, food, lodging, or other incidental expenses shall be limited to the actual costs reasonably incurred by the administrative law judge and, when appropriate to the occasion, by the administrative law judge's spouse, domestic partner, or guest.

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