

ARIZONA CODE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
Part 1: Judicial Branch Administration
Chapter 3: Judicial Officers and Employees
Section 1-303: Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees

A. through C. [No changes]

D. **Conduct Rules and Comments.**

CANON 1

**A JUDICIAL EMPLOYEE SHALL UPHOLD AND PROMOTE THE INDEPENDENCE,
INTEGRITY, AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE JUDICIARY AND SHALL AVOID
IMPROPRIETY AND THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY.**

RULE 1.1 [No changes]

RULE 1.2

Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary

A judicial employee shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

Comment

1. The fundamental attitudes and work habits of individual judicial employees reflect on the integrity and independence of the judiciary and are of vital importance in maintaining the confidence of the public in the judiciary. Honesty and truthfulness are paramount.

2. Public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by improper conduct and conduct that creates the appearance of impropriety. This principle applies to both professional conduct and personal conduct that affects the public perception of the court.

3. A judicial employee should expect to be the subject of public scrutiny that might be viewed as burdensome if applied to other citizens, and must accept the restrictions imposed by the code.

4. Conduct that compromises or appears to compromise the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary or of a judicial employee undermines public confidence in the judiciary. Because it is not practicable to list all such conduct, this rule is necessarily cast in general terms.

5. Actual improprieties include violations of law, court rules or provisions of this code. The test for appearance of impropriety is whether the conduct would create in reasonable

minds a perception that the judicial employee violated this code or engaged in other conduct that reflects adversely on the judicial employee's honesty, impartiality, temperament, or fitness. A judicial employee's personal and family circumstances are generally not appropriate considerations on which to presume an appearance of impropriety.

6. Consistent with other requirements and following consultation with a supervisor, an employee may address false, misleading, or unfair allegations or attacks on the employee's actions, character, or reputation in a manner that serves to restore or maintain public confidence in the judiciary. Judicial employees designated by judicial leadership to do so, may respond to or issue statements on behalf of a court or judicial officer, subject to Rule 81, Rules of the Supreme Court, Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2, Rule 2.10(E).

RULE 1.3 – End [No changes]