



Committee on Judicial Ethics
100 Washington Street
1st Floor-Public Room
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Thursday, August 17, 2017
9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to order
 - II. Approval of the Minutes of the July 20, 2017 Regular Meeting.
 - III. Consideration and action on Informal JE 2017-10
Facts & Issue: A judge is sitting as an observer (“observing judge”) during a pretrial being conducted by a second judge (“presiding judge”) in the presiding judge’s chambers. During the pretrial, an attorney for one of the parties exhibits conduct that calls into question the attorney’s mental fitness to practice law. Shortly before and after the pretrial, the presiding judge shared written communications and pleadings with the observing judge that the attorney had filed in the days before the pretrial, leading to discussions between the judges to the effect that the written documentation further supported the conclusion that the attorney was currently mentally unfit to practice law. The judges had further discussions over the next day or two and both judges concluded that the conduct necessitated the filing of a formal complaint regarding the attorney’s fitness to practice law. During the conversations, the observing judge indicated that he/she believed the presiding judge had “no choice” but to file a complaint, and in that sense, “supported” or “encouraged” the presiding judge to file a complaint. The observing judge was advised by the presiding judge that he/she in fact filed a complaint. The observing judge suspects, but does not know, that he/she is identified in the complaint as a witness. Is the observing judge obligated to recuse himself/herself from matters involving the attorney against whom the complaint was filed?
 - IV. Adjournment
-