

Committee on Judicial Ethics
Teleconference
Wednesday September 10, 2008

Members present via teleconference: Justice Barry R. Schaller, Chair; Judge Linda K. Lager, Vice-Chair, Judge Robert J. Devlin, Jr., Judge Socrates H. Mihalakos, and Associate Professor Jeffrey A. Meyer. Staff present: Martin R. Libbin, Esq., Secretary

MINUTES

- I. Justice Schaller called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., once all members had entered the conference call. Though publicly noticed, no members of the public attended.
- II. The Committee unanimously approved the draft Minutes of the September 2, 2008 meeting.
- III. The Committee considered Judicial Ethics Opinion 2008-03. Based upon the facts presented, the Committee unanimously agreed that the Judicial Official could complete a letter of reference form for a former legal research/law clerk applying for a position with the Attorney General's Office provided that the Judicial Official has personal knowledge of the person recommended and the person recommended is not a relative of the Judicial Official within the meaning of the Canon 3B or C.G.S. § 51-39a.
- IV. The Committee approved a procedure to address emergency requests for opinions when there is not sufficient time to hold a meeting before a response is needed. The framework of the process is that the Secretary shall, in accordance with existing procedures, forward the request to the Chairperson to confirm eligibility of the inquiry for a response and then forward the inquiry to the Committee. If the Chairperson determines a meeting cannot be scheduled prior to when a response is needed, Committee members will be asked to provide the Secretary with input and based upon research and the input received, the Secretary shall issue a staff opinion, noting that it is the Secretary's opinion and not a Committee opinion. In the event a response by a Judicial Official is needed immediately and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson or Committee cannot be reached prior to when a response is needed, the Secretary is authorized to provide a staff opinion, but shall promptly notify the Committee of the issue presented and of the staff opinion provided. The exact procedures to be followed are subject to review and approval by the Committee.
- V. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.