

Statement of the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers on Proposed Amendments to ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct

The Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers (“APRL”) supports the proposed amendments to the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct. APRL applauds the ABA for refining the provisions regarding application of the Code to part-time judges and agrees with both the substance of the proposed amendments and with the explanations provided by the Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

APRL’s Interests

APRL is an independent national organization of lawyers whose practices concentrate upon professional licensing and discipline, professional responsibility and the law of lawyering. Its membership practices in every American jurisdiction and includes foreign lawyers. APRL conducts study and educational programs nationally and internationally. APRL members are particularly interested in matters relating to attorney licensing and discipline, risk management and multijurisdictional practice.

Reasons for APRL’s Position

The Report accompanying the proposed amendments indicates that various issues regarding application of the Code to part-time judges surfaced during state review of the code. This is not surprising, given the diversity of ways in which various states use lawyers as part-time judges. In light of these issues, the standing Committee has undertaken a comprehensive review of that topic and has proposed amendments persuasively justified in the Report.