

Committees and Task Forces

Directive #1-77

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Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

A problem involves court (trials, motions, etc.) conflicts with the following meetings and hearings where attorneys render important unpaid service in the interest of the public:

1. Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
2. Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics
3. New Jersey Lawyers Fund for Client Protection
4. District Ethics Committees
5. New Jersey State Bar Association Meetings
(General Council Semi-Annually, and Trustees Monthly)
6. Special Committees and Task Forces appointed by the Chief Justice
7. Supreme Court Committees appointed pursuant to Rules Governing the Courts of New Jersey

To the maximum extent possible, such meetings and hearings should be scheduled outside of court hours. If this is impossible, scheduling after 12:30 p.m. on Motion Fridays is preferred to reduce court conflicts insofar as possible. Judges should schedule such attorneys' matters for Friday morning.

In all cases, attorneys should advise Assignment Judges and Trial Judges in writing and immediately upon scheduling of such matters during court hours, where a conflict appears. Chairs should schedule meetings and hearings, conflicting with court hours, at least 30 days in advance, to permit appropriate calendar adjustments.

In addition, trial judges should excuse lawyer-legislators to attend legislative sessions and committee hearings.

The foregoing guidelines are applicable in all courts in New Jersey, including the municipal courts. In exceptional cases the Presiding Judge for Administration of the Appellate Division, and Assignment Judges, are authorized to deviate from the guidelines where justice so requires.

EDITOR-S NOTE

The introductory paragraph referring to an anticipated computerized Master Attorney - Case Conflict System and to the 1981 Compilation of Directives has been deleted.

The only other changes have updated nomenclature, making the directive gender neutral, and substituting the New Jersey Lawyers Fund for Client Protection for the Clients' Security Fund and the District Ethics Committees for County Ethics Committees.