

## **Retired Judges Portraits**

Directive #11-97  
(Supersedes Directive #6-76)  
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Administrative Director

At its June 30, 1997 Administrative Conference, the Supreme Court revised its policy regarding the display of certain retired judges' portraits in courthouses and courtrooms. Former Directive #6-76, provided that:

[t]o avoid favoritism or its appearance, and for the fair and even-handed administration of justice, portraits or photographs of retired judges who, subsequent to retirement, establish a professional association with an attorney or a law firm, should not be displayed in a courtroom or courthouse corridor frequented by jurors . . . .

Upon reconsideration, the Supreme Court has determined that because retired judges are not permitted to appear in court, the risk that jurors or litigants will be aware of a judge's affiliation with a particular law firm and be influenced by the display of his or her portrait is remote and does not justify the blanket prohibition embodied in Directive #6-76. Accordingly, the display of a retired judge's portrait or photograph in any part of the courthouse is now presumptively permissible.

Assignment Judges may, however, exercise their discretion to prohibit the display of a portrait in a courtroom or public corridor when it appears from the facts and circumstances that such display would create an appearance of favoritism or undermine the public's confidence in the impartiality of the judicial system.

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

This directive supersedes Directive #6-76.