

Supreme Court Policy on Gifts and Ceremonies for Retiring Committee Members

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The Supreme Court asked me to canvass a number of its standing committees to ascertain the nature and extent of committee policies in respect of gifts for retiring members. The results of the survey disclosed that the approach to the subject varied a great deal. For example, some committees issue Certificates of Appreciation to retiring members. Other committees present retiring members with gifts that are out-of-pocket purchases by the remaining members of the committee. Still others have different arrangements for retiring members or no special provision for retiring members at all. Special luncheons or dinners are also sometimes used as a vehicle to award gifts or certificates.

After due consideration, the Court has concluded that effective January 1, 1996, all of its standing committees should operate under the following policy:

1. Standing Supreme Court committees may issue Certificates of Appreciation to retiring members. Such Certificates may be awarded at any regularly scheduled meeting of the committee. The Court encourages committees to recognize retiring members with an appropriate Certificate. Examples are the certificates currently issued by the Office of Attorney Ethics and the Board on Trial Attorney Certification.
2. Committee members may elect to purchase a gift for a retiring member. Certificates of Appreciation and gifts may be awarded at special functions such as dinners or luncheons. Gifts and special events, however, cannot be funded out of the committee's budget.

EDITOR-S NOTE

No change has been made to the original text.