

Bar Association Positions

Issued by: May 25, 1990
Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz

a) Committee Membership - Judges Serving on State Bar Association Committees

The Supreme Court has decided that Superior Court judges and full-time Municipal Court judges may become members of committees of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

The court has had this matter under consideration for quite some time. Many factors are involved, on both sides of the question. One of the factors of importance to the Court was our perception that a fair number of judges would like the opportunity to participate as members of such committees.

The State Bar Association has long sought this change. The Court wishes to maintain and, if possible, improve its cooperative relationship with the Bar. We believe this change has that effect, and, furthermore, that it is in the public interest.

Since the policy is new, I will keep myself advised on its progress from time to time. The Court hopes that it achieves the benefits that persuaded us to make the change.

EDITOR-S NOTE

The reference to the prohibition contained in the Commentary to Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct has been removed because it is no longer accurate. At its June 7, 1990 Administrative Conference, the Court amended the Commentary to Canon 4 to permit full-time judges to serve on committees, "subject to such conditions as determined by the Supreme Court."

The last paragraph of the memorandum, promising further details in a later memo, has been deleted.