



Committee on Judicial Ethics

Annual Report for January 1 - December 31, 2024

Membership and Terms. The Committee on Judicial Ethics, which began operating on August 1, 2008, continued its work throughout the 2024 calendar year. The membership from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 consisted of the following members:

Hon. Kimberly A. Knox (Chair until July 31, 2025)	August 3, 2023 to July 31, 2025
Hon. Robert B. Shapiro	November 14, 2022 to July 31, 2025
Prof. Carolyn W. Kaas	November 14, 2022 to July 31, 2025
Hon. Karen A. Goodrow	November 14, 2022 to July 31, 2025
Hon. Daniel J. Klau	August 3, 2023 to July 31, 2025
Hon. Wendy A. Grispin (Alternate)	November 14, 2022 to July 31, 2025

Staff to the Committee. Attorney Viviana L. Livesay continued to serve as Secretary and Attorneys Cynthia A. Theran, Steven Bidwell, Kevin J. DiAdamo, and Martin R. Libbin continued to serve as Assistant Secretaries to the Committee. Ms. Carolina Marin, Administrative Services Coordinator, continued to provide staff with administrative support.

Policy and Rules. No policy or rule changes took place during 2024.

Committee Webpage. No substantial changes were made to the webpage during 2024. Notice of all meetings, agendas and minutes continued to be made available on the Committee's website, as well as on the "State Agency Public Meeting Calendar" website portal found at: <https://egov.ct.gov/pmc>.

New Judge Training. On March 26, 2024, Judge Daniel J. Klau and Attorneys Viviana L. Livesay, Cynthia A. Theran, and Kevin J. DiAdamo conducted ethics training for new judges during the pre-bench orientation.

Activity. During 2024, the Committee met via *Microsoft Teams* two (2) times to discuss pending inquiries. Members of the public who were interested in observing meetings were given access via *Microsoft Teams*. Staff to the Committee assisted several Judicial Officials by providing them with copies of relevant prior advisory opinions, thereby eliminating the need to seek an informal advisory opinion. The Committee received one (1) request for an informal advisory opinion. The following is a brief description of the issue presented:

- [2024-01](#): May a Judicial Official sell their paintings on an occasional basis - for profit or for the cost of supplies - to friends, family, and the general public?

The Committee, which has now completed sixteen and a half years of service, is encouraged that Judicial Officials appear to be actively using our services and benefitting from access to the summaries of Informal and Formal opinions and the cross-referenced Subject Matter Index, as well as the minutes of Committee meetings. While encouraging Judicial Officials to consult the webpage regularly, the Committee continues to urge that Judicial Officials should not hesitate to present inquiries whenever they have concerns, regardless of the subject matter or the complexity of the issue or whether the subject may have been addressed in some respects previously. Ethics inquiries are highly fact-specific and even issues that have been addressed before may present new concerns.

All Committee members continue to receive monthly updates from Cynthia Gray, the ethics director of the National Center for State Courts, Center for Judicial Ethics.

The members of the Committee join in thanking and commending its Secretary and Assistant Secretaries for their excellent and prompt professional assistance in the work of the Committee.

Future Meeting Schedule. Regular meetings of the Committee are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. via *Microsoft Teams*. The schedule for 2025 is as follows: January 16, 2025, February 20, 2025, March 20, 2025, April 24, 2025, May 15, 2025, June 26, July 17, 2025, August 21, 2025, September 18, 2025, October 16, 2026, November 20, 2025, and December 18, 2025.

Recommendations. The Committee again recommends that ethics components be included on a regular basis in the CJI program. The Committee also welcomes suggestions as to how it can further improve its website to insure effective access to the growing body of ethical opinions.

Conclusion. The Committee is dedicated to providing accurate, timely, and effective ethics opinions for the guidance of Judicial Officials while also maximizing the privacy of Judicial Officials who submit requests.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Knox, Chair
January 30, 2025