



**NCSC**  
National Center for State Courts  
*Center for Judicial Ethics*

## Ethics Awareness Month – March 2022

### Weekly Tip #2

Given that the code of judicial conduct applies “at all times,” judges may frequently face ethical questions not only in their adjudicative and administrative duties but in their personal lives, community activities, political and campaign conduct, and financial affairs. Fortunately, most judges can turn to a judicial ethics advisory committee to get expertise and a “reasonable person” perspective for assistance in interpreting the code. Approximately 44 states, D.C., and the federal judiciary have established judicial ethics advisory committees. Over 250 written advisory opinions were issued in 2021.

Judges should be sure to take advantage of this valuable resource by studying new opinions from their committees and researching previous opinions and asking the committee for personal advice when an ethical issue arises. Because the code does not vary substantially from state to state, judges can also increase their ethical acumen by reviewing opinions from other jurisdictions. There are links to advisory committee websites on the [Center for Judicial Ethics website](#). (Unfortunately, some committees appear to be inactive and have not issued an opinion in years or do not share their opinions on-line.)

**Samplings of recent judicial ethics advisory opinions from the  
[blog of the Center for Judicial Ethics.](#)**

[February 2022](#)  
[December 2021](#)  
[October 2021](#)

[July 2021](#)  
[May 2021](#)  
[March 2021](#)