

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AMENDMENT TO
MAINE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

2024 Me. Rules 06

Effective: September 23, 2024

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendment to the Maine Code of Judicial Conduct is adopted to be effective on the date indicated above. The specific amendment is stated below. To aid in the understanding of the amendment, an Advisory Note appears after the text of the amendment. The Advisory Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but the Advisory Note is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. The definition of “judicial candidate” in the Terminology section of the Maine Code of Judicial Conduct is amended to read as follows:

“Judicial candidate” means any person, including a sitting judge, who is seeking selection for or retention in a judicial office by election or appointment. A person becomes a candidate for judicial office as soon as he or she makes a public announcement of candidacy; declares or files as a candidate with the election ~~or appointment~~ authority; authorizes or, where permitted, engages in solicitation or acceptance of contributions or support; or is nominated for election or appointment to office.

Advisory Note – September 2024

The Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct raised the concern that any lawyer who sends a letter of interest to the Governor's Judicial Selection Committee could be deemed to be declaring or filing as a candidate with the appointment authority, even if nothing else happens. This amendment makes clear that the Code applies to a lawyer seeking a judicial appointment when the lawyer is nominated. There is no change as to when the Code applies to a lawyer seeking election as a probate judge.

Dated: September 18, 2024

FOR THE COURT,*

/s/ _____
VALERIE STANFILL
Chief Justice

ANDREW M. MEAD
ANDREW M. HORTON
CATHERINE R. CONNORS
RICK E. LAWRENCE
WAYNE R. DOUGLAS
Associate Justices

* This Rule Amendment Order was approved after conference of the Court, all Justices concurring therein.