



## *Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission*

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 26, 2019

The Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission will be offering free judicial candidate campaign training to all judicial candidates, their campaign committee members, and the media on the following dates: Monday, August 26, 2019 and Friday, September 6, 2019. All training will be provided at the JDDC offices beginning at 10:30 a.m. and continuing until 12:00 p.m.

Please see the accompanying memo for additional information.

Contact Deputy Director, Emily Abbott at the above number or at the email address provided for registration: [emily.abbott@arkansas.gov](mailto:emily.abbott@arkansas.gov).

TO: 2020 Arkansas Judicial Candidates

FROM: Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission

DATE: 6/25/2019

RE: Campaign Training

## **TRAINING**

The Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission, in conjunction with the Arkansas Ethics Commission, will host a free training session for 2020 Arkansas Judicial Candidates. The dates for the training are set out in the press release above. As noted, registration is required.

JDDC Deputy Director Emily Abbott and Commissioner's Judge Tommy Fowler or Cindy Thyer will present information regarding the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct, Arkansas Code in relation to nonpartisan judicial offices, dates and deadlines for filings, and common campaign mistakes.

Jill Barham or another representative of the Arkansas Ethics Commission will cover election law provisions. Specifically, the AEC will discuss the Rules on Campaign Finance & Disclosure.

Candidates are reminded that campaign expense reporting and matters subject to the "paid for by" law apply to judicial candidates upon announcement for judicial office.

Candidates and/or their campaign committee members will have the opportunity to ask questions on the Code of Judicial Conduct, as well as, the various statutory provisions that are the purview of the AEC.

## **SUGGESTED READING:**

Noting that there are many races for open judicial seats in the 2020 cycle, the JDDC staff recommends the following reading list for candidates and their committees:

- Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 4.1 and the commentary (Political and Campaign Activities of Judges, Judicial Candidates and a Judge-Elect in General).
- Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 4.2 and the commentary (Political and Campaign Activities of Judicial Candidates in Public Elections).
- Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 4.4 and the commentary (Campaign Committees)
- Code of Judicial Conduct Terminology sections. Particularly as it defines contribution, judicial candidate, personally solicit, and political organization.
- Judicial Ethics Advisory Opinion 2014-02, 2005-08 (Use of the term “judge” on ballots and while campaigning).
- JDDC #14-215, #14-216, Letter of Admonishment (Using misleading terms and qualifications during judicial elections).

The Code of Judicial Conduct and Letter of Admonishment are easily accessible online at <https://www.jddc.arkansas.gov/>.

Helpful advisory opinions may be found at <http://www.arkansas.gov/jeac/index.html>.

By way of example only:

- Judicial candidates SHALL NOT seek, accept, or use endorsements from a political organization or from a partisan elected official;
- Judicial candidates SHALL NOT solicit funds or accept charitable contributions before September 5, 2019;
- Judicial candidates SHALL review the content of all campaign statements and materials produced by the candidate or his or her campaign commission before its dissemination;
- Judicial candidates MAY attend or purchase tickets for dinners or events sponsored by a political organization.

**The JDDC will not review campaign material before it is released.**