



Administrative Office of the Courts

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DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tennessee Judicial Conference
Tennessee General Sessions Judges (full time)
Tennessee Juvenile & Family Court Judges (full time)
Child Support Magistrates (full time)
Municipal Court Judges (full time)
Senior Judges

FROM: Anne-Louise Wirthlin

DATE: January 3, 2020

RE: Annual Public Reports of Compensation and Statement of Disclosure of Interests – **PLEASE RETURN BY JANUARY 31, 2020**



As the new year begins, please remember your compensation reporting obligations.

I. Compensation for Extra-Judicial Activities and Gifts Received

Pursuant to Canon 3.15 of Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 10, a judge shall publicly report the amount or value of:

(A) Compensation received for extrajudicial activities as permitted by RJC 3.12. The comments to RJC 3.12 state that:

[1] A judge may be permitted to accept honoraria, stipends, fees, wages, salaries, royalties, or other compensation for speaking, teaching, writing, and other extrajudicial activities, provided the compensation is reasonable and commensurate with the task performed. The judge should be mindful, however, that judicial duties must take precedence over other activities. See RJC 2.1. Other law

may prohibit the accepting of such compensation. See, e.g., Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-10-116.

[2] Gifts and other things of value accepted by the judge as permitted by RJC 3.13(b)(1)(c).

For your convenience, the rule is linked [here](#).

If you received any compensation for extra-judicial activity in 2019, you must provide the name of the payor, date of compensation, and amount and nature of compensation or gift received and file that information as a public document in the Office of the Clerk of the Court in which you serve. It should also be filed with the Administrative Office of the Courts (“AOC”). If you serve in more than one county, you should file in each county. You may attach additional sheets if necessary. **Please return the form by January 31, 2020.**

If you received no compensation for extra-judicial activities, please write “none” and return your report to our office. This will verify reports have been made and are on file. We periodically receive public and media requests for production of these reports.

Continuing part-time judges are not required to comply with 3.15 reporting requirements. Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 10, Section III(A).

If, after consulting the applicable rule, you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact either Anne-Louise Wirthlin or Zachary Polen at the AOC.

II Statement of Disclosure of Interests

The Tennessee Ethics Commission (“Commission”) interprets T.C.A. §8-50-501 *et. seq.* as requiring state officials to file a Statement of Disclosure of Interests annually. This includes Supreme Court justices, appellate court judges, trial court judges, full-time municipal judges, general sessions judges and all other “candidate[s] or appointee[s] to a local public office.” T.C.A. §8-50-501(a)(19). Further, T.C.A. §8-50-501(d)(3) mandates that any disclosure filed by a state official be posted on the Commission’s website.

You should have received correspondence from the Commission regarding this requirement and instructions and links to file electronically. For step by step instructions or paper form please see: <https://www.tn.gov/tec/tec-statement-of-interest.html>. If you are unable to access this form, please contact the Commission directly at 615-741-7959.

Although the AOC is not responsible for generating or collecting this form, this is a courtesy reminder that it must be filed each year. Should you have any questions regarding this form or you do not receive a letter from the Commission, please contact the Commission directly as soon as possible.

Enclosure