

COURT NOTICES

AMENDMENT OF RULE

Rules of the Chief Judge

Pursuant to Article VI, § 28(c) of the State Constitution and section 211 of the Judiciary Law, upon consultation with the Administrative Board of the Courts, and with the approval of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, I hereby amend, effective immediately, section 50.1(II)(C) of the Rules of the Chief Judge, by adding the underlined material, relating to Rules governing conduct of non-judicial court employees to read as follows:

§ 50.1 Code of Ethics for Non-judicial Employees of the Unified Court System

(II)(C) Court employees shall not discriminate, and shall not manifest by words or conduct bias or prejudice, on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, *gender identity*, *gender expression*, religion, creed, national origin, marital status, age or disability.

AMENDMENT OF RULE

Rules of the Chief Administrator Governing Judicial Conduct

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and upon consultation with the Administrative Board of the Courts, and with the approval of the Court of Appeals, I hereby confirm the amendment, effective May 6, 2014, of section 100.3(C)(3) of the Rules of the Chief Administrator Governing Judicial Conduct (addressing administrative responsibilities of judges), to read as follows (new matter italied); deleted matter [stricken in brackets]:

PART 100. JUDICIAL CONDUCT

* * *

Section 100.3 A judge shall perform the duties of judicial office impartially and diligently.

* * *

(C) Administrative Responsibilities.

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(3) A judge shall not make unnecessary appointments. A judge shall exercise the power of appointment impartially and on the basis of merit. A judge shall avoid nepotism and favoritism. A judge shall not approve compensation of appointees beyond the fair value of services rendered. A judge shall not appoint or vote for the appointment of any person as a member of the judge's staff or that of the court of which the judge is a member, or as an appointee in a judicial proceeding, who is a relative within the fourth degree of relationship of either the judge or the judge's spouse or the spouse of such a person. A judge shall refrain from recommending a relative within the fourth degree of relationship of either the judge or the judge's spouse or the spouse of such person for appointment or employment to another judge serving in the same court. A judge also shall comply with the requirements of Part 8 of the Rules of the Chief Judge (22 NYCRR Part 8) relating to the appointment of relatives of judges. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit appointment of the spouse, *domestic partner*, or *unrelated household member* of the town or village justice, or other *relative* [member of such justice's household,] as clerk of the town or village court in which such justice sits, provided that the justice obtains the prior approval of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, which may be given upon a showing of good cause.

AMENDMENT OF RULE

Uniform Rules for the Supreme and County Courts

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend Rule 3(a) of section 202.70(g) of the Uniform Rules for the Supreme and County Courts (Rules of Practice for the Commercial Division), effective January 1, 2019, to read as follows (new material italied):

Rule 3. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); Settlement Conference Before a Justice Other Than the Justice Assigned to the Case.

(a) At any stage of the matter, the court may direct or counsel may seek the appointment of an uncompensated mediator for the purpose of mediating a resolution of all or some of the issues presented in the litigation. *Counsel are encouraged to work together to select a mediator that is mutually acceptable and may wish to consult any list of approved neutrals in the county where the case is pending.* Additionally, counsel for all parties may stipulate to having the case determined by a summary jury trial pursuant to any applicable local rules or, in the absence of a controlling local rule, with permission of the court.

