

THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DISTRICT JUDICIARY SINDH

Following Code of conduct do not intend to exclude anything which is considered as 'Ground Norm' for exercise and discharge of Judicial Function.

- 1) Judicial power is a sacred trust and must be exercised with utmost efficiency, integrity, and to the best of one's ability and capacity. While deciding a matter, only judicial considerations should prevail, and in the exercise of discretion, a Judicial Officer must be guided solely by the principles of justice, equity, and good conscience, rather than by whims or caprice.
- 2) A Judicial Officer should be well-versed in law and must maintain effective command and control over court proceedings. At all times, a Judicial Officer should remain conscious of the onerous nature of one's duties and uphold the highest standards of integrity.
- 3) The behavior of a Judicial Officer, both inside and outside the Court, should be courteous and dignified. The decorum of the Court must be maintained at all times and held in the highest esteem.
- 4) A Judicial Officer should never publicize one's honesty or any other merit and leave it to others to recognize their merits. One should not be misled by praises showered by flattery or cajolery.
- 5) A Judicial Officer should be respectful, courteous and obedient to their superiors, helpful and sympathetic to subordinates.
- 6) Judicial Officer should live within honest means and believe in "Rizq-e-Halal".
- 7) Judicial officer must believe in self-accountability. Evaluating their conduct and work is the responsibility of their superiors; when the senior hierarchy highlights shortcomings, these should be accepted with grace and efforts should be made to address them.

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- 8) Should always be keen to learn and try to gain knowledge throughout his career. Up-dating and acquaintance with latest techniques and knowledge should help in resolving intricate controversies coming up before him. A judicial decision given in violation of principles of natural justice, which cannot be handed down by a Judicial Officer having bare minimum legal acumen or where circumstances surrounding passing of such decision suggest mala fide, bias or favoritism on part of the Judicial Officer would amount to inefficiency, negligence or misconduct, accordingly as per circumstances.
- 9) During the performance of judicial duties and functions, Judicial Officers are expected to maintain independence and never allow themselves to be swayed by abrupt or intense reactions of litigants and the legal fraternity.
- 10) Proceedings to be conducted in open Court in presence of parties/their counsel and not in chamber/retiring room. However, ex-parte proceeding can be done, where it is justified, as per law, but, in the Court.

11) **Conflict of interest**

Judicial officers must resolutely decline to act in a case involving their own interests, including those of individuals they regard or treat as close relatives or friends. They should rigidly refrain from entering into or continuing any business dealing, howsoever unimportant it may be, with any party to a case before them. Judicial Officers must refuse to deal with any case in which they have a personal connection with a party or litigants and must avoid all possibility of their opinion or action in any case being swayed by any consideration of personal advantage, either direct or indirect.

Cardinal principle that “justice should not only be done but also seen to be done”, is the foremost rule which must be adhered to during Court proceedings and otherwise.

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- 12) A Judicial Officer should not engage in any public controversy, whether by speech, writing, debate or comment at any forum, and least of all on political questions, even if such questions involve a question of law. A Judicial Officer shall not have any interaction with the media, especially in relation to issues which may give rise to public debate or adversely affect institutional collegiality and discipline. Where, however, an allegation is

made public against them, one may place the matter in writing before the Authority for an appropriate institutional response. A Judicial Officer shall not cause any judicial or administrative matter to be discussed publicly, nor shall make public any communication relating to their personal or official matters. Should not accept an invitation to be hosted in his honour from an individual member of the Bar or litigants.

- 13) Un-necessary and un-official visits of High Court of Sindh, seeking audience with the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Hon'ble Judges without observance of proper channel or prior permission is not permissible. In hardship cases, prior permission through Registrar of this Court shall be a condition precedent.


12/8/2022

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