

**STATEMENT FROM THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO REGARDING  
AMENDMENTS TO THE OHIO CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT  
APPLICABLE TO 2012 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES**

Following the General Assembly's decision to hold the 2012 primary election in March 2012, the Supreme Court of Ohio has amended the Code of Judicial Conduct to insert a reference to the March primary election. The amended version of Jud. Cond. Rule 4.4(F) is effective October 4, 2011 and applies to all judicial candidates running for office in 2012.

Rule 4.4 of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judicial candidate may begin campaign fundraising no earlier than 120 days prior to the date of the primary election. Under today's amendment, the Supreme Court inserted a reference to the March primary election in Jud. Cond. Rule 4.4(F) to conform its rules to the statute. As a result of the amendment to Jud. Cond. Rule 4.4(F), a judicial candidate who will be on the ballot in 2012 may deposit her or her own funds in a campaign account on or after October 5, 2011 and may begin soliciting and receiving campaign funds on or after November 7, 2011.

Because of the change in the date of the 2012 primary election and the corresponding deadline for candidates to file petitions to appear on the March 2012 primary ballot, the Supreme Court also adopted a temporary provision that extends the deadline for 2012 judicial candidates to complete the judicial campaign conduct course required by Jud. Cond. Rule 4.2(A)(4). The temporary provision adopted by the Court establishes a deadline of February 29, 2012 for judicial candidates to satisfy the judicial campaign course requirement.

The first judicial campaign conduct course for 2012 judicial candidates is scheduled for December 7, 2011 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin. Three additional courses will be scheduled for early 2012 in Northeast, Southwest, and Central Ohio. The 2012 course schedule will be announced prior to November 1.

Questions regarding these amendments or application of Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct may be directed to the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline at (614) 387-9370.