

Contact:

**SUPREME COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SOLICITS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT
CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

For Immediate Release

ST. PAUL, MN -- The Minnesota Supreme Court has established an Advisory Committee to review the standards governing the ethical conduct of judges in Minnesota. This review will focus on the standards recommended by the American Bar Association in its 1990 Model Code of Judicial Conduct. The advisory committee also will review the procedures for handling ethical complaints made against judges that are filed with the Board on Judicial Standards.

"In its ongoing effort to continually improve itself, the judiciary is inviting comments from the public about the code of conduct that governs the behavior of judges," said Chief Justice A. M. Keith. "The meetings and the soon-to-be-scheduled public hearing provide an opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to give the court system the benefit of their thoughts on the ethical standards to which judges should be held."

The advisory committee is composed of five judges, five lawyers, and five non-lawyer citizens. Members are: Hon. Thomas R. Butler, chair, Albert Lea; Richard Beens, attorney, Coon Rapids; Jerry Blackwell, attorney, Minneapolis; Harriet Burkhalter, Hopkins; Hon. Paulette K. Flynn, St. Paul; Gene Halverson, attorney, Duluth; Joseph R. Kingman, St. Paul; Hon. Roberta K. Levy, Minneapolis; Hon. Stephen L. Muehlberg, Anoka; Vivian Jenkins Nelson, Minneapolis; Kathy Newman, attorney, Bloomington; Hon. Edward Parker, St. Paul; Lawrence M. Redmond, Minneapolis; Jackie Regis, attorney, St. Paul; Robert W. Terry, Mendota Heights. Also serving as an ex officio member is DePaul Willette, Executive Secretary of the Board on Judicial Standards, St. Paul.

Interested individuals are encouraged to forward relevant comments to advisory committee staff person Michael B. Johnson, 120 Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Constitution Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55155, FAX (612) 297-5636. A comparison of the ABA 1990 Model Code of Judicial Conduct and the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct may be obtained from Johnson.

The advisory committee meets at 1 p.m. on the second Friday of the month in the Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Constitution Avenue, St. Paul. The public is welcome to attend the meetings. A sign indicating the location of the meeting room will be posted at the first floor reception desk on the day of the meeting. The advisory committee also plans to hold a public hearing to receive testimony from interested parties. Notice of the hearing date and location will be published at a later time. The advisory committee is scheduled to complete its review by Dec. 31, 1993.

#