

STATE OF WISCONSIN
WISCONSIN JUDICIAL COMMISSION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

I, Natalie Smith, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Judicial Commission and custodian of the official records do hereby certify that the annexed amendments of rules relating to jurisdiction, confidentiality, procedure following a determination of cause to proceed further and commission findings, were duly approved and adopted by this commission on October 16, 1981.

I further certify that this copy has been compared by me with the original on file with this commission and that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,
I have hereunto set my hand
at 302 Tenney Building,
110 East Main, Madison, WI
53703, this 29th day of
December, 1981.

Natalie Smith

Executive Director

- ORDER OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION ADOPTING, AMENDING OR REPEALING
- 2 RULES
- AN ORDER to repeal JC 3.06 and 4.07 (1) (f); to renumber JC
- 4 3.07; to renumber and amend JC 3.08 and 4.07 (1) (g); to amend JC 1.02 (2)
- 5 and (6), 3.01, 3.02, 3.04, 4.01, 4.02 (1), 4.03, 4.04 (2), 4.05, 4.06,
- 6 4.07 (1) (d), 5.01, 5.02 (1), 5.03 (1) and (3), 5.04 (2), 5.05, 5.06 and
- 7 5.07 (1) (c) and (d); to repeal and recreate JC 5.07 (1) (e); and to
- 8 create JC 4.07 (1) (d) 1 to 4 and (g), relating to jurisdiction,
- 9 confidentiality, procedure following a determination of cause to proceed
- 10 further and commission findings.
- 11 The commission proposes by this order:
- 12 (1) To make nonsubstantive changes in the rules identified above.
- 13 (2) To clarify its jurisdiction over reserve judges under s. JC
- 14 3.08, as renumbered by this order.
- 15 (3) To limit confidentiality of the identity of a person alleging
- 16 misconduct under ss. JC 4.01 and 5.01.
- 17 (4) To limit the material provided to a judge for a response under
- 18 ss. JC 4.05 and 5.05.

- 1 (5) To broaden the findings which the commission may make when it
- 2 does not find probable cause under ss. JC 4.07 and 5.07.
- 3 (6) To eliminate the distinction between temporary and permanent
- 4 when finding probable cause of disability under s. JC 5.07.
- 5 Pursuant to authority vested in the judicial commission by sections
- 6 757.81 to 757.99, Wis. Stats., the commission hereby repeals, amends, and
- 7 adopts rules as follows:
- 8 SECTION 1. JC 1.02 (2) and (6) are amended to read:
- 9 JC 1.02 (2) "Complaint" means a written document from filed by the
- 10 commission directed-to with the supreme court charging--misconduct--and
- 11 requesting-appropriate-discipline-or-a-formal-hearing after a finding of
- 12 probable cause, alleging misconduct.
- 13 (6) "Petition" means a written document from filed by the commission
- 14 directed-to with the supreme court after a finding of probable cause,
- 15 alleging that a judge has a temporary--or--permanent disability and
- 16 requesting-appropriate-action-or-a-formal-hearing.
- 17 SECTION 2. JC 3.01 is amended to read:
- 18 JC 3.01 CONFIDENTIALITY. The proceedings of the judicial commission
- 19 prior to the filing of a formal complaint concerning misconduct or a
- 20 petition concerning disability are confidential, unless a valid written
- 21 waiver of confidentiality has been made by the judge. If a person who
- 22 makes an allegation under section s. JC 4.01 or 5.01, Wis. Adm. Code,
- 23 breaches the confidentiality of the investigation, the commission may
- 24 dismiss the allegation, admonish the person or take other appropriate
- 25 action. If-a--judge--requests--that--any--elarifying--statement--be--made
- 26 Clarifying and other statements may be made by the commission regarding an
- 27 investigation; -the-commission-may-do-so as provided in s. 757.93 (2),
- 28 Stats.

- 1 SECTION 3. JC 3.02 is amended to read:
- JC 3.02 (title) INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATORS. The commission may vote
- 3 to-have-an-independent--person--investigate--a--particular--allegation--of
- 4 misconduct-or-disability:--The-person-shall-have-the-authority;-duties-and
- 5 responsibilities--of--the--executive--director---with---respect---to---the
- 6 investigation authorize the executive director to hire independent persons
- 7 to investigate allegations of misconduct or disability, with authority and
- 8 duties specified by the executive director or commission.
- 9 SECTION 4. JC 3.04 is amended to read:
- 10 JC 3.04 DISQUALIFICATION. A member shall not participate in any
- 11 matter if a judge similarly situated would be disqualified in a court
- 12 proceeding. In cases other than mandatory disqualification if any
- 13 question-of the propriety of participation is raised--it challenged, the
- 14 question shall be decided by a majority of the commissioners present and
- 15 voting.
- SECTION 5. JC 3.06 is repealed.
- 17 SECTION 6. JC 3.07 is renumbered JC 3.06.
- SECTION 7. JC 3.08 is renumbered JC 3.07 and amended to read:
- JC 3.07 JURISDICTION. Allegations may be considered only if they
- 20 relate to actions taken-while-the-judge-holds-judicial-office-or-acts-as-a
- 21 reserve--judge----Conduct--by-the-person-occurring-as-an-attorney-prior-to
- 22 assuming-office-or-conduct-subsequent-to-leaving-judicial--office; -- unless
- 23 in-the-capacity-of-a-reserve-judge;-is-not-within-the-jurisdiction-of-the
- 24 commission or conduct occurring while the judge holds judicial office or
- 25 is eligible to serve as a reserve judge under s. 753.075, Stats., and
- 26 applicable supreme court rules\*. Actions or conduct of a person prior to
- 27 assuming judicial office or subsequent to leaving judicial office, unless
- 28 the person is eligible to serve as a reserve judge under s. 753.075,

- 1 Stats., and applicable supreme court rules, are not within the
- 2 jurisdiction of the commission.
  - \* "Applicable supreme court rules" include SCR 32.08, which requires a judge to earn annually 5 continuing education credits in order to be eligible for appointment as a reserve judge.
- 3 SECTION 8. JC 4.01 is amended to read:
- 4 JC 4.01 ALLEGATION. The commission shall consider any allegation of
- 5 misconduct from any source which reasonably indicates the existence of a
- 6 cause justifying inquiry and-direct-that-the-allegation-be-investigated
- 7 under-section-J6-4-03-Wis--Adm:-Gode. Any person may submit a statement
- 8 to the commission alleging misconduct by a judge. The person may request
- 9 that his or her identity or-information-or-both be kept confidential---The
- 10 executive--director--and--the--commission-shall-comply-with-such-requests,
- 11 which request shall be complied with prior to the filing of a formal
- 12 complaint with the supreme court under s. 757.85 (5), Stats. The
- 13 executive director may seek additional facts from-the-person-so--that--the
- 14 allegation--contains--as--much--information--as-possible to include in the
- 15 allegation. Allegations of misconduct shall be reduced to writing. The
- 16 executive director shall make preliminary evaluations of the allegations.
- SECTION 9. JC 4.02 (1) is amended to read:
- JC 4.02 (1) The If the chairperson requests, the screening committee
- 19 shall screen any allegation under section s. JC 4.01, Wis. Adm. Code,
- 20 which is not initiated by the commission. The committee shall either
- 21 recommend that the allegation be dismissed under sub. (2) or determine
- 22 that the allegation indicates possible misconduct warranting investigation
- 23 and refer the matter to the executive director for investigation under
- 24 section s. JC 4.03, Wis. Adm. Code.
- 25 SECTION 10. JC 4.03 is amended to read:

JC Kules/4
BF:tm

- 1 JC 4.03 INVESTIGATION. (1) If the commission or the screening 2 committee determines that an investigation is warranted, the matter shall 3 be referred to the executive director for investigation. The commission 4 executive director shall notify the person who made the allegation of the 5 investigation; -- and -- the -- commission. The executive director shall also 6 notify the judge of the investigation unless the commission determines 7 otherwise for good cause. The executive director shall conduct a full, 8 fair; and prompt and-complete investigation. The investigation shall be 9 conducted inconspicuously so as to avoid unnecessary embarrassment to and 10 publicity for the judge. Persons contacted for information shall be 11 directed not to disclose that the an investigation is being conducted or 12 the nature of any inquiries which--may--be--made. Any person giving 13 providing information may request that his or her identity or-information 14 or-both be kept confidential. The-executive-director-and--the--commission 15 shall-comply-with-such-requests. The request shall be complied with prior 16 to the filing of a formal complaint with the supreme court under s. 757.85 17 (5), Stats. A judge, if notified under this subsection, may present such 18 evidence to the executive director as the judge deems appropriate. (2) Upon--the--request-of-any-commissioner,-the-executive-director, the-person--making--the--allegation--or--the--judge;---the--commission The
- 19 (2) Upon-the-request-of-any-commissioner,-the-executive-director,
  20 the-person-making-the-allegation-or-the-judge,-the-commission The
  21 commission, by its chairperson or executive director, may issue subpoenas
  22 to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and to command the
  23 production of books, papers, documents or tangible things designated in
  24 the subpoena in connection with an investigation.
- 25 SECTION 11. JC 4.04 (2) is amended to read:
- JC 4.04 (2) When-an-investigation-is-completed, the <u>The</u> executive director shall prepare a report of the <u>each</u> investigation <u>made</u>, which shall be given or mailed to each commission member.

1 SECTION 12. JC 4.05 is amended to read:

2 COMMISSION CONSIDERATION. When-the-commission-determines 3 that After considering the report of the investigation under section s. JC 4.03, Wis. Adm. Code is -- complete, and the facts furnished to it, the 4 5 commission shall dismiss the allegation or find that there is cause to 6 proceed further. In--making--this-decision; -the-commission-may-consider only-information-which-at-this-stage-of-the-proceedings-is-not-subject--to 7 8 a--request--for--confidentiality-If the allegation is dismissed, the commission shall notify the person who made the allegation and shall 9 10 notify the judge if he or she has been notified of the investigation or 11 may notify the judge if he or she has not been previously notified of the 12 If the commission determines that there is a cause to investigation. 13 proceed further, the judge shall then be notified and be given an 14 opportunity to respond. The judge shall be provided -- a - copy - of - all 15 information-considered-by-the-commission-in-making-its-decision-to-proceed 16 further:----Material---received---from---a---person--with--a--request--for 17 confidentiality-shall-not-be-considered-by-the-commission-or-be--given--to 18 the--judge--unless--a-waiver-of-confidentiality-has-been-obtained-from-the 19 person given the substance of the allegation and may be given such further 20 information concerning the allegation as the commission deems proper under 21 the circumstances.

- SECTION 13. JC 4.06 is amended to read:
- JC 4.06 RESPONSE BY THE JUDGE. The judge may present a response to the commission. The commission shall determine the method of presentation of the response and so advise the judge. The judge may appear in person and or by counsel, or both, before the commission.
- 27 SECTION 14. JC 4.07 (1) (d) is amended to read:

- JC 4.07 (1) (d) Find that the judge-committed-a-minor-violation-of-a
- 2 rule-of-the-code-of-judicial-ethics-or-a-minor-failure-to-perform-an
- 3 official--duty--and-dismiss-the-allegation-with-an-admonition-to-the-judge
- 4 that-the-conduct-constituted-a-violation-or-a-failure-to-properly--perform
- 5 and-the-conduct-shall-be-corrected-in-the-future: alleged misconduct
- 6 involves any of the following and dismiss the allegation with such
- 7 admonition as the commission deems appropriate:
- 8 SECTION 15. JC 4.07 (1) (d) 1 to 4 of the statutes are created to
- 9 read:
- JC 4.07 (1) (d) 1. The violation of only one standard of the code
- 11 of judicial ethics.
- 12 2. The violation of a rule of the code of judicial ethics which is
- 13 not wilful.
- 14 3. The failure to perform official duties which is not wilful or
- 15 persistent.
- 16 4. The alleged misconduct does not warrant prosecution because of
- 17 its minor nature or other circumstances.
- 18 SECTION 16. JC 4.07 (1) (f) is repealed.
- 19 SECTION 17. JC 4.07 (1) (g) is renumbered JC 4.07 (1) (f) and amended
- 20 to read:
- 21 JC 4.07 (1) (f) Find that probable cause exists that a judge has
- 22 engaged or is engaging in misconduct, that--the--judge--does--dispute--the
- 23 allegation--of--misconduct and file a formal complaint for-a-hearing with
- 24 the supreme court under s. 757.87 757.85 (5), Stats.7--with--the--supreme
- 25 court:
- SECTION 18. JC 4.07 (1) (g) is created to read:
- 27 JC 4.07 (1) (g) Make such other disposition of the matter as is
- 28 appropriate under the circumstances.

- 1 SECTION 19. JC 5.01 is amended to read:
- 2 JC 5.01 ALLEGATION. The commission shall consider any allegation
- 3 that a judge has a disability from any source which reasonably indicates
- 4 the existence of a cause justifying inquiry and-direct-that-the-allegation
- 5 be-investigated-under-section-J6-5-03-Wis---Adm---Gode. Any person may
- 6 submit a statement to the commission alleging that a judge has a
- 7 disability. The person may request that his or her identity or
- 8 information--or-both be kept confidential:--The-executive-director-and-the
- 9 commission-shall--comply--with--such--requests, which request shall be
- 10 complied with prior to the filing of a petition with the supreme court
- 11 under s. 757.85 (5), Stats. The executive director may seek additional
- 12 facts from-the-person-so-that-the-allegation-contains-as-much-information
- 13 as-possible to include in the allegation. Allegations of disability shall
- 14 be reduced to writing. The executive director shall make preliminary
- 15 evaluations of the allegations.
- SECTION 20. JC 5.02 (1) is amended to read:
- JC 5.02 (1) The If the chairperson requests, the screening committee
- 18 shall screen any allegation under section s. JC 5.01, Wis. Adm. Code,
- 19 which is not initiated by the commission. The committee shall either
- 20 recommend that the allegation be dismissed under sub. (2) or determine
- 21 that the allegation indicates possible disability warranting investigation
- 22 and refer the matter to the executive director for investigation under
- 23 section s. JC 5.03, Wis. Adm. Code.
- SECTION 21. JC 5.03 (1) and (3) are amended to read:
- JC 5.03 (1) If the commission or the screening committee determines
- 26 that an investigation is warranted, the matter shall be referred to the
- 27 executive director for investigation. The commission executive director
- 28 shall notify the person who made the allegation of the investigation; -- and

- 1 the-commission. The executive director shall also notify the judge of the
- 2 investigation unless the commission determines otherwise for good cause.
- 3 The executive director shall conduct a full, fair; and prompt and-complete
- 4 investigation. The investigation shall be conducted inconspicuously; so
- 5 as to avoid unnecessary embarrassment to and publicity for the judge.
- 6 Persons contacted for information shall be directed not to disclose that
- 7 the an investigation is being conducted or the nature of any inquiries
- 8 which-may-be-made. Any person giving providing information may request
- 9 that his or her identity or-information-or-both be kept confidential. The
- 10 executive-director-and-the-commission-shall--comply--with--such--requests:
- 11 The request shall be complied with prior to the filing of a petition with
- 12 the supreme court under s. 757.85 (5), Stats. A judge, if notified under
- 13 this subsection, may present such evidence to the executive director as
- 14 the judge deems appropriate.
- 15 (3) Upon-the-request-of-any-commissioner,-the-executive-director,
- 16 the-person--making--the--allegation--or--the--judge;--the--commission The
- 17 commission, by its chairperson or executive director, may issue subpoenas
- 18 to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and to command the
- 19 production of books, papers, documents or tangible things designated in
- 20 the subpoena in connection with an investigation.
- 21 SECTION 22. JC 5.04 (2) is amended to read:
- JC 5.04 (2) When-an-investigation-is-completed; the The executive
- 23 director shall prepare a report of the each investigation made, which
- 24 shall be given or mailed to each commission member.
- 25 SECTION 23. JC 5.05 is amended to read:
- JC 5.05 COMMISSION CONSIDERATION. When-the-commission-determines
- 27 that After considering the report of the investigation under section s. JC
- 28 5.03, Wis. Adm. Code is--complete, and the facts furnished to it, the

commission shall dismiss the allegation or find that there is cause to 1 2 proceed further. In-making--this-decision; -the-commission-may-consider 3 only-information-which-at-this-stage-of-the-proceedings-is-not-subject--to 4 a--request--for--confidentiality-If the allegation is dismissed, the 5 commission shall notify the person who made the allegation and shall 6 notify the judge if he or she has been notified of the investigation or 7 may notify the judge if he or she has not been previously notified of the 8 investigation. If the commission determines that there is cause to 9 proceed further, the judge shall then be notified and be given an The judge shall be provided--a-copy-of-all 10 opportunity to respond. 11 information-considered-by-the-commission-in-making-its-decision-to-proceed 12 further:---Naterial---received---from---a--person---with--a--request--for 13 confidentiality-shall-not-be-considered-by-the-commission-or-be--given--to 14 the -- judge -- unless -- a-waiver-of-confidentiality-has-been-obtained-from-the 15 person given the substance of the allegation and may be given such further 16 information concerning the allegation as the commission deems proper under 17 the circumstances.

- 18 SECTION 24. JC 5.06 is amended to read:
- JC 5.06 RESPONSE BY THE JUDGE. The judge may present a response to
- $20\,$   $\,$  the commission. The commission shall determine the method of presentation
- 21 of the response and so advise the judge. The judge may appear in person
- 22 and or by counsel, or both, before the commission.
- 23 SECTION 25. JC 5.07 (1) (c) and (d) are amended to read:
- JC 5.07 (1) (c) Find that any disability specified in the allegation
- 25 is caused by a mental or physical condition for which treatment is
- 26 appropriate and, with the agreement of the judge, hold open the allegation
- 27 for a reasonable time until the judge completes an appropriate treatment
- 28 program. Upon successful completion of the program and demonstration that

- 1 the disability is removed, the allegation shall be dismissed. Otherwise,
- 2 a finding shall be made under par.  $(d)_{7}-(e)_{7}-(f)$  or  $(g)_{6}$ .
- 3 (d) Find that probable cause exists that a judge has a temporary
- 4 disability, that-the-judge-does-not-dispute-the-fact-that-he-or-she-has--a
- 5 temporary--disability and file a petition for appropriate action with the
- 6 supreme court under s. 757.85 (5), Stats.
- 7 SECTION 26. JC 5.07 (1) (e) is repealed and recreated to read:
- 8 JC 5.07 (1) (e) Make such other disposition of the matter as is
- 9 appropriate under the circumstances.
- 10 The rules contained herein take effect on the first day of the month
- 11 following publication of the rules in the Wisconsin Administrative
- 12 Register.

13 (End)

Dated: <u>December 29,1981</u>

Executive Director

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM -

Date: December 29, 1981

File Ref:

To: Gary Poulson, Assistant Revisor Office of Revisor of Statutes 411 West Capitol

From: Natalie Smith, Executive Director Judicial Commission

Subject: RE: Order Adopting Rules

Enclosed is a Certificate and two copies of rules ordered by the Judicial Commission.

Thirty days have elapsed, and neither standing committee has objected to these rules in whole or in part or directed the agency to attend a meeting.

Please have these rules published in the End-of-the-Month Register for January 1982, and make the necessary arrangements for printing.

If you need further information or documentation from this office, please contact me.

NS/nj

enc.

- 1 the disability is removed, the allegation shall be dismissed. Otherwise,
- 2 a finding shall be made under par.  $(d)_{\overline{z}-(e)_{\overline{z}-(f)}}$  or (g) (e).
- 3 (d) Find that probable cause exists that a judge has a temporary
- 4 disability, that-the-judge-does-not-dispute-the-fact-that-he-or-she-has--a
- 5 temporary--disability and file a petition for appropriate action with the
- 6 supreme court under s. 757.85 (5), Stats.
- 7 SECTION 26. JC 5.07 (1) (e) is repealed and recreated to read:
- 8 JC 5.07 (1) (e) Make such other disposition of the matter as is
- 9 appropriate under the circumstances.
- 10 SECTION 27. JC 5.07 (1) (f) of the statutes is repealed.
- SECTION 28. JC 5.07 (1) (g) of the statutes is repealed.
- 12 The rules contained herein take effect on the first day of the month
- 13 following publication of the rules in the Wisconsin Administrative
- 14 Register.

15 (End)

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

Date: January 18, 1982

To: Gary Poulson
Assistant Revisor
Office of Revisor of Statutes

From: Natalie Smith Executive Director
Judicial Commission

Subject: Re: Administrative Rules



Enclosed is a corrected page 11 to the Judicial Commission's proposed order to amend its rules. A correction page has also been sent to the Secretary of State's office.

The intent to eliminate the distinction between temporary and permanent disability is clearly stated on page 2 of the proposed order and partially implemented by the amendments on lines 2 - 6 on page 11. Sections 27 and 28 were inadvertently omitted on the 11th page previously submitted. Sections 27 and 28 are essential in order to complete the elimination of the distinction of temporary and permanent disability, and they are included on the corrected page enclosed.

NS/nj enc.