



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT  
11 BEACON STREET, SUITE 525  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108-3006  
Phone: (617) 725-8050  
Fax: (617) 248-9938**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Howard V. Neff, III  
Executive Director  
617-725-8050

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 4, 2015**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

BOSTON, MA (March 4, 2015) – On January 29, 2015, the Supreme Judicial Court adopted amendments to the Rules 1 and 6 of the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct. The amendments became effective on March 1, 2015.

The amendment to Rule 1 permits the Commission to adopt a broader definition of the term “complainant,” for purposes of its rules. The amendments to Rule 6 reflect the replacement of the position of Chief Justice for Administration and Management with the position of Chief Justice of the Trial Court, pursuant to G.L. c. 93, sec. 137.

The amendments and the Supreme Judicial Court’s order on the amendments are attached.

###

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Notice is hereby given that the Supreme Judicial Court has approved and promulgated rules as further indicated below.

RALPH D. GANTS  
Chief Justice

- 
1. Court submitting Rules for Approval:  
Commission on Judicial Conduct
  2. Date Rules Submitted for Approval:  
December 12, 2014
  3. Date Approved & Promulgated by the Supreme Judicial Court:  
January 29, 2015
  4. Rule or Rules, or Amendments Thereto, Approved and Promulgated:  
Amendments to Rule 1 and Rule 6 of the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct, as attached.
  5. Effective Date:  
March 1, 2015
- 

(The original of this notice is to be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for the Commonwealth, and a copy to be sent by the Clerk to the court which requested approval of the rules.)

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct

Original Language = regular typeface

Strikethrough = removed

Bold = addition to rule

RULE 1. DEFINITIONS

RULE 1.D. "Complainant" means a person or entity who has communicated to the Commission a complaint against a judge. **The Commission may also, in its discretion, treat as a complainant, for purposes of notice and any other rights afforded to a complainant under these rules, a person or entity who has reported judicial conduct to a third party, although not directly to the Commission, provided that such person or entity is or was directly affected by the conduct.**

RULE 6. COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS: INITIAL STAGES; GENERAL PROVISIONS

RULE 6.R. Recommendation Concerning Assignment. At any time the Commission may recommend to the Supreme Judicial Court, or to the Chief Justice ~~of for Administration and Management~~ **the Trial Court** and the appropriate Chief Justice, the non-assignment or special assignment of a judge, pending the final disposition of a proceeding. The Commission shall state the reasons for its recommendation. A copy of any such recommendation shall be sent by the Commission to the judge.

RULE 6.S. Consultation. In the course of a proceeding, the Commission may consult with the Chief Justice ~~of for Administration and Management~~ **the Trial Court** and the appropriate Chief Justice about administrative matters.