

VIRGINIA:

*In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme Court Building in the
City of Richmond on* Friday *the* 27th *day of* February, 2015.

It is ordered that Section III of the Rules for Integration of the Virginia State Bar, Part Six of the Rules of Court, be amended, to become effective immediately, by adding the following commentary to Canon 3(B)(3) and Canon 4(B):

Amend Comments on Canon 3(B)(3) to read as follows:

Comment on subdivision (B)(3). - "Require." The rules prescribing that a judge "require" certain conduct of others are, like all of the rules in these Canons, rules of reason. The use of the term "require" in that context means a judge is to exercise reasonable direction and control over the conduct of those persons subject to the judge's direction and control.

- In performing the duties of his or her judicial office, a judge may explain the judicial process, while maintaining impartiality. A judge may also inform unrepresented persons of free legal aid and similar assistance that is available.

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Amend Comments on Canon 4(B) to read as follows:

Comment on subdivision B - A judge may promote broader access to justice by encouraging lawyers to participate in pro bono public or legal services, if in doing so the judge does not employ coercion, or abuse the prestige of judicial office. Such encouragement may take many forms, including providing a list of available programs,

training lawyers to do pro bono public service or legal work, and participating in events recognizing lawyers who have done pro bono public work.

-As a judicial officer and person specially learned in the law, a judge is in a unique position to contribute to the improvement of the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice. To the extent that time permits, a judge is encouraged to do so, either independently or through a bar association, judicial conference or other organization dedicated to the improvement of the law. Judges may participate in efforts to promote the fair administration of justice, the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of the legal profession.

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Teste:

Pat L Hamings

Clerk