

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AMENDMENT TO
THE MAINE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

2013 Me. Rules 03

Effective: June 1, 2013

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendment to the Maine Code of Judicial Conduct is adopted to be effective on the date indicated above. The specific amendment is stated below. To aid in understanding of the amendment, an Advisory Note appears after the text of the amendment. The Advisory Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but the Advisory Note is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. Canon 3(B) of the Maine Code of Judicial Conduct is amended to read as follows:

CANON 3 A Judge Shall Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently.

.....

B. Adjudicative Responsibilities.

.....

(12) A Judge may explain the requirements of applicable rules and statutes so that a person appearing before the judge understands the process to be employed. A judge may also inform unrepresented persons of free legal aid and similar assistance that is available in the courthouse or otherwise.

Advisory Note – May 2013

This amendment adds subdivision (12) to Canon 3(B). The new provision expressly permits but does not require a judge to take steps, consistent with the law, to enable persons to understand the applicable process and to inform unrepresented persons of free legal aid and similar assistance that is available in the courthouse or otherwise. Although the current Canons do not restrict or prohibit these judicial

actions, the clarification is needed to assure a uniform understanding of the judicial role.

2. This amendment shall be effective June 1, 2013.

Dated: May 14, 2013

FOR THE COURT¹

 /s/

LEIGH I. SAUFLEY
Chief Justice

DONALD G. ALEXANDER
JON D. LEVY
WARREN M. SILVER
ANDREW M. MEAD
ELLEN A. GORMAN
JOSEPH M. JABAR
Associate Justices

¹ This Rules Amendment Order is approved after conference of the Court, all Justices concurring therein.