

Judicial Ethics Advisory Committees by State
 Links at www.ajs.org/ethics/eth_advis_comm_links.asp

Committee	Authority	Composition	Effect of Opinions	Website
Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission*	Commission Rule 17	9 members: 1 appellate judge; 2 circuit judges; 1 district judge; 2 members of the state bar; 3 non-lawyers	Admissible on behalf of judge to whom opinion is directed	www.alalinc.net/jic/
Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct*	Commission Rule 19	9 members: 3 judges; 3 lawyers; 3 non-lawyers	Reliance on formal opinion is an absolute defense to disciplinary proceedings concerning the identical facts; if there are distinguishing facts, reliance is viewed as good faith defense. Informal opinions have no legal effect	www.ajc.state.ak.us/conduct.htm#advisoryopinions
Arizona Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Supreme Court Rule 82	9 members: 7 judges; 1 attorney; 1 designee of administrative office of the court	Reliance on opinion may be raised as a defense in a disciplinary proceeding	www.supreme.state.az.us/ethics/Judicial_Ethics_Advisory_Committee.htm
Arkansas Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Created by Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission pursuant to section 5 of Act 791 of 1991 (a fiscal appropriations statute)	3 members: no more than 2 retired judges and 1 lawyer	Advisory only; not binding on Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission or Supreme Court. Compliance by requesting individual with written advisory opinion is evidence of good faith effort to comply with code of judicial Conduct. Oral opinion is not binding or evidence of good faith.	www.arkansas.gov/jec/
Colorado Judicial Ethics Advisory Board	Chief Justice Directive 94-01	7 members: 4 judges; 1 non-lawyer citizen; 1 lawyer; 1 law professor	Advisory only; not binding; compliance with written advisory opinion shall be considered to be evidence of good faith effort to comply with code of judicial conduct	www.courts.state.co.us/supct/committees/judicialethicsadvisoryboard/judethics.htm
Connecticut Committee on Judicial Ethics	Supreme court rule	5 members: 4 judges or judge trial referees, 1 law profession	Advisory only. No opinion shall be binding on the Judicial Review Council or the Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court in the exercise of their judicial discipline responsibilities.	
Delaware Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Court on the Judiciary Rule 18 and Rules of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	7 members: 1 judge from each of the courts of chancery; superior court; family court; court of common pleas; justice of the peace court	“A judge who has requested and relied upon an opinion shall be entitled to introduce that opinion as evidence that conduct conforming to the opinion is prima facie permissible pursuant to the Delaware Judges’ Code of Judicial Conduct.”	courts.state.de.us/jec/

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Florida Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Supreme court order published at 327 So. 2d 5 (1976); revised (September 4, 1997)	11 members: 3 district court of appeals judges; 4 circuit court judges; 3 county court judges; 1 lawyer	Not binding; Judicial Qualifications Commission may, in its discretion, consider actions in accordance with an opinion as evidence of a good faith effort to comply with code of judicial conduct; provided that no opinion issued to one judge shall be authority for conduct, or evidence of good faith, of another judge unless underlying facts are identical	www.jud6.org/LegalCommunity/LegalPractice/opinions/jecopinions/jec.html
Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission*	Commission Rule 22, adopted by the supreme court	7 members: 2 judges; 2 non-lawyers; 3 lawyers	“Compliance with advisory opinions is considered evidence of a good faith effort to comply with the Code of Judicial Conduct, but only to the extent that the underlying facts are identical.”	www.georgiacourts.org/agencies/jqc/Pages/opinions.html
Hawaii Commission on Judicial Conduct*	Supreme Court Rule 8.15	7 members: 3 lawyers; 4 non-lawyers	Complete defense for judge to whom opinion was issued; “It shall be a mitigating factor that the judge complained against acted reasonably in reliance on any formal or informal advisory opinion not directed at the judge.”	None
Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee	Illinois State Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, and Illinois Judges Association	12 members: 3 lawyers from ISBA; 3 lawyers from CBA; 6 judges from IJA	Not binding	www.ija.org/ethicsop/ethindex.htm
Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications*	Article 7, Section 9 of the Indiana Constitution	7 members: chief justice is chair ex officio; 3 non-lawyers; 3 lawyers	Not binding on supreme court; commission will consider compliance with opinion to be good faith effort to comply with code of judicial conduct	www.in.gov/judiciary/judqual/opinions.html
Kansas Judicial Ethics Advisory Panel	Supreme Court Rule 650	No more than 3 retired justices or judges	Not binding; request for and reliance upon an advisory opinion shall be taken into account by Commission on Judicial Qualifications	www.kscourts.org/appellate-clerk/general/judicial-ethics.asp
Ethics Committee of the Kentucky Judiciary	Supreme Court Rule 4.310	5 members: 1 court of appeals judge; 1 circuit court judge; 1 district court judge; 2 lawyers	Advisory only; Judicial Retirement and Removal Commission and supreme court “shall consider reliance by a justice, judge, or trial commissioner upon the Ethics Committee opinion.”	courts.ky.gov/jec/
Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics	Addendum to code of judicial conduct adopted by supreme court	11 members: chief justice and 1 other member of supreme court; chair of conference of court of appeals judges and 1 other court of appeals judge; president of district judges association and 2 other district judges; 1 juvenile or family court judge; president of city judges association; judicial administrator; president of bar association	Not binding	None

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Maine Judicial Ethics Committee	Administrative order of Supreme Judicial Court	7 members: currently, 1 district court judge; 1 superior court judge; 1 probate court judge; 1 lawyer from department of attorney general; 1 other lawyer; 2 non-lawyers	Request for and reliance on opinion does not confer immunity from disciplinary action; compliance a "factor properly to be taken into account" in any disciplinary proceedings	None
Maryland Judicial Ethics Committee	Rule 16-812.1	9 members: 1 judge of the court of special appeals; 2 circuit court judges; 2 judges of the district court; 1 judge of an orphans' court; 1 clerk of a circuit court; 1 judicial appointee as defined in Rule 16-814; 1 non judge or other officer or employee of the judicial branch	"A State official in the Judicial Branch who requests an opinion as to application of an ethics provision and is in compliance with an opinion of, or letter of advice issued for, the Committee is protected from a charge of violation of that ethics provision."	mdcourts.gov/ethics/opinions.html
Massachusetts Committee on Judicial Ethics	Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:11	5 members: at least 3 judges or former judges	"If the judge did not omit or misstate any material fact in his request for an opinion, the judge may rely on a written opinion until and unless revised or revoked. This court shall not subject a judge to discipline where the conduct of the judge at issue in a proceeding was undertaken in reasonable reliance on that opinion."	www.mass.gov/courts/sjc/cje/index.html
Michigan State Bar Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics		10 members: members nominated judges association, probate judges association, district judges association, referees association, and association of district court magistrates; 3 additional judge members, 1 commissioner liaison, 1 state bar liaison	"Opinions of the Committee do not have the force and effect of law and may not be relied upon as an absolute defense to a charge of ethical misconduct."	http://michbar.org/generalinfo/judicial_ethics.cfm
Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards*	Board created by statute; rules promulgated by supreme court	10 members: 1 court of appeals judge; 3 district court judges; 4 non-lawyers; 2 lawyers	Not binding; considered as having precedential weight	None
Missouri Commission on Retirement, Removal & Discipline*	Commission created by constitution	6 members: 1 appellate court judge; 1 circuit court judge; 2 lawyers; 2 non-lawyers	Not binding; compliance is evidence of good faith	None
Nebraska Ethics Advisory Committee	Appendix A to Nebraska's Code of Judicial Conduct adopted by Supreme Court	7 members: 2 district court judges; 2 county court judges; 1 court of appeals judge; 2 judges from courts other than supreme court	Not binding; judge who has requested and relied upon opinion may offer opinion in disciplinary proceeding	supremecourt.ne.gov/commissions/jecintro.shtml?sub16#Opinions
Nevada Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics and Election Practices	Nevada Supreme Court Order, revised June 15, 2006	30 members: 12 attorneys; 12 non-attorneys; 6 judges	Not binding	www.judicial.state.nv.us/contentsscej3new.htm

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New Hampshire Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics	Supreme Court rule 38-A	5 members: at least 3 judges or retired judges	Not binding; “the judicial conduct committee and the supreme court, may, in their discretion, consider compliance with an advisory opinion by the requesting individual to be evidence of a good faith effort to comply with the Code of Judicial Conduct.”	www.courts.state.nh.us/committees/adviscommjudethics/opinions.htm
New Jersey Advisory Committee on Extrajudicial Activities	New Jersey Court Rule 1:18A	At least 9 members: composition is not set except that committee must include 1 lawyer and 1 non-lawyer	Not binding	None
New Mexico Judicial Advisory Committee, aka Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct	Supreme Court order	Not set	Not binding	jec.unm.edu/resources/advisoryopinions/index.htm
New York State Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics	New York State Judiciary Law §212 (2)(l); 22 New York Code, Rules and Regulations, Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, Part 101. Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics	26 judges or former judges, selected statewide	“Actions of any judge or justice of the unified court system taken in accordance with findings or recommendations contained in an advisory opinion issued by the panel shall be presumed proper for the purposes of any subsequent investigation by the state commission on judicial conduct.” To date, no judge who followed committee opinions has been disciplined by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.	www.nycourts.gov/search/ethicsopinions.asp
North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission*	Commission Rule 8	7 members: 1 court of appeals judge, 1 superior court judge, 1 district court judge, 2 attorneys, 2 citizen members	A judge shall be deemed to have acted in good faith if he or she acts in conformity with an informal advisory opinion. “Formal advisory opinions shall have precedential value in determining whether similar conduct conforms to the Code of Judicial Conduct, but shall not constitute controlling legal authority for the purposes of review of a disciplinary recommendation by a reviewing court. . . . Until a formal advisory opinion is modified or withdrawn by the Commission or overturned by a reviewing court, a judge shall be deemed to have acted in good faith if he or she acts in conformity therewith.”	None
North Dakota Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Resolution of judicial conference pursuant to legislative mandate	5 members: 2 district judges; 1 additional judge; 2 lawyers	Not binding; compliance is evidence of good faith	None
Ohio Supreme Court Board of Commissioner on Grievances and Discipline*	Supreme Court Governing Bar Rule 5, Section 2(c)	28 members: 7 active or retired judges; 17 lawyers; 4 non-lawyers; opinions prepared by subcommittee of 5 or more members	Not binding. The Board also has authority to issue advisory opinions on application of Ohio Ethics Law. Pursuant to Section 102.08 of the Ohio Revised Code, the requester of an opinion addressing Ohio Ethics Law may reasonably rely on the opinion as it applies to Ohio Ethics Law and	www.sconet.state.oh.us/BOC/Advisory_Opinions/default.asp

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			related statutes	
Oklahoma Judicial Ethics Advisory Panel	Code of judicial conduct, adopted by supreme court	No more than 3 retired justices and/or judges	“The fact that a judge or candidate for judicial office has requested and relies upon an advisory opinion may be taken into account by the Council on Judicial Complaints in its disposition of complaints and in determining whether to recommend to the statutorily authorized person or entity discipline of a judge or judicial candidate. The advisory opinion shall not be binding on the Council on Judicial Complaints or Court on the Judiciary in the exercise of their judicial discipline responsibilities.”	www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/index.asp?ftdb=STOKCSJE&level=1
Oregon Judicial Conference Judicial Conduct Committee	Judicial Conference	9 members: district and circuit court judges, geographically represented	Not binding	None
Judicial Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	16 judges: state divided into 12 zones; 3 judges from zone 1; 2 from zone 9; 2 from zone 12; 1 judge from each other zone	Not binding but action taken in reliance “shall be taken into account in determining whether discipline should be recommended or imposed.”	origin-www.courts.state.pa.us/ethics/
Rhode Island Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Addendum to code of judicial conduct adopted by supreme court	5 judges: no more than 2 may be from same court	“An opinion from the advisory committee that it is proper for the judge to participate in...event [to honor the judge] will give rise to a conclusive presumption that the judge has acted properly. Any judge who acts in accordance with an opinion given by the advisory committee shall be presumed to have abided by the Canons of Judicial Ethics.”	None
South Carolina Advisory Committee on Standards of Judicial Conduct	Appellate Court Rule 503	3 members: 1 circuit court judge; 1 family court judge; 1 lawyer	Advisory only; not binding; Commission on Judicial Conduct, in its discretion, may consider opinion as evidence of good faith effort to comply with code of judicial conduct.	www.judicial.state.sc.us/advisoryOpinions/index.cfm
South Dakota Judicial Ethics Committee	Supreme Court Rule 98-4	3 members: 2 circuit court judges; 1 magistrate judge	Advisory only; Judicial Qualifications Commission and supreme court shall consider reliance	www.sdjudicial.com/index.asp?category=judicial_elections&nav=113&trace=2:3
Tennessee Judicial Ethics Committee	Supreme Court Rule 10A	7 members: 1 judge from the court of appeals or court of criminal appeals; 1 trial judge from each grand division of the state; 1 general sessions judge licensed to practice law in this state; 1 juvenile court judge licensed to practice law in this state; 1 municipal court judge licensed to practice law in this state	Not binding; a “Formal Ethics Opinion shall constitute a body of principles and objectives upon which judges can rely for guidance.”	www.tsc.state.tn.us/opinions/ethics/Ethics.htm

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Texas Committee on Judicial Ethics	Judicial Section of State Bar of Texas	9 judges	Not binding	www.courts.state.tx.us/judethics/ethicsop.asp
Utah Ethics Advisory Committee	Code of Judicial Administration Rules 1-205 and 3-109	6 member: 1 judge from the court of appeals, 1 district court judge from judicial districts 2, 3, or 4, 1 district court judge from judicial districts 1, 5, 6, 7, or 8, 1 juvenile court judge, 1 justice court judge, 1 attorney from either the bar or a college of law	“Compliance with an informal opinion shall be considered evidence of good faith compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct. Formal opinions shall constitute a binding interpretation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.”	www.utcourts.gov/resources/ethadv/
Vermont Judicial Ethics Committee	Administrative Order 35 of Supreme Court	5 members: 3 judges; 2 other members	Compliance with advisory opinion is a factor to be taken into account in any disciplinary proceeding	www.vermontjudiciary.org/Committees/judicialethics.htm
Virginia Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Supreme Court Order	9 members: 5 active or retired judges; 2 lawyers; 2 non-lawyers	Advisory only but compliance by the requesting individual may be considered to be evidence of good faith: compliance with an opinion issued to one judge shall not be considered evidence of good faith of another judge unless the underlying facts are substantially the same	www.courts.state.va.us/jirc/opinions.html
Washington Ethics Advisory Committee	Supreme Court Rule 10	7 members: 1 court of appeals judge; 2 superior court judges; 2 courts of limited jurisdiction judges; 1 lawyers; administrator of courts	“Compliance with an opinion issued by the committee shall be considered as evidence of good faith by the Supreme Court.”	www.courts.wa.gov/programs/_orgs/pos_ethics/
West Virginia Judicial Investigation Commission*	Rule 2.13 of rules of judicial disciplinary procedure adopted by supreme court of appeals	9 members: 3 circuit judges; 1 magistrate; 1 family law master; 1 mental hygiene commissioner; 3 non-lawyers	Not binding: admissible in any disciplinary proceeding involving requesting judge	www.state.wv.us/wvsca/JIC/advop.htm
Wisconsin Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee	Code of judicial conduct, adopted by supreme court	9 members: 6 judges; 1 lawyer; 1 court commissioner; 1 non-lawyer	Formal advisory opinions are not binding. Compliance with a formal opinion by the judge who requested the opinion shall constitute evidence of good faith. Reliance on informal advice may not constitute evidence of good faith	www.wicourts.gov/supreme/sc_judcond.jsp
Wyoming Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee	Order of supreme court	5 members: 3 judges, retired judges, or retired justices; 2 attorneys. No current justice	Advisory only; not binding on Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics. Commission may consider compliance by requesting individual evidence of good faith effort to comply with code of judicial conduct; compliance with an opinion issued to one judge shall not be considered evidence of good faith of another judge unless the underlying facts are substantially the same and the other judge had actual knowledge of and acted in reliance upon the opinion.	www.courts.state.wy.us/JEAC.aspx

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District of Columbia Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct	Order of Joint Committee on Judicial Administration	5 members: 3 appellate court judges; 2 superior court judges	Action in accordance with an advisory opinion may be considered evidence of good faith in proceeding or investigation	www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/about/code.jsp

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