

Opportunity to Test Judges' Unaccountability for Judicial and Non-Judicial Acts at the September and March meetings of the Judicial Conference of the United States

The article below deals with the meetings in Washington, D.C., of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts and the other top 26 federal judges who are members of the Judicial Conference of the U.S., the highest court administration policy-making body of the Federal Judiciary.

The Conference committees normally meet first at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle NE, in Washington, D.C. That building also houses the Conference secretariat, which is maintained by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, (202) 502-2400; <http://www.uscourts.gov/>.

The Conference meetings afford reporters, investigative journalists, and bloggers the opportunity to confront the judges of the Judiciary's governing body with, in general, the facts discussed above of their unaccountability for the totality of their conduct of judicial and non-judicial acts and, in particular, the referenced evidence of bankruptcy, district, and circuit judges who are abusing such unaccountability to support and cover up a bankruptcy fraud scheme driven by a most insidious corruptor: *Money!*

In addition, given the enormous power that judges wield over people's property, liberty, and even lives, and the fact that however they exercise it, they can get away with it, they have turned their judicial power into absolute power. Such is the power that corrupts absolutely.

For those media people who seize the opportunity of the Conference to set in motion an investigation into how unaccountable judges have used the Money and Power corruptors to operate a scheme and who ultimately bring judges down from their "Above the law" position to account for their coordination of wrongdoing, the rewards can be high:

- 1) to win a Pulitzer Prize, as Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward of the Washington Post did for their exposé of Watergate;
- 2) to be portrayed in a movie, as they were in "All the President's Men", starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman; and
- 3) to earn the higher moral reward of the recognition of a grateful nation for their contribution to bringing our judicial system closer to the lofty goal of "Equal Justice Under Law" in a nation where nobody is supposed to be above the law.

Reporters are encouraged to cover the Conference and interview its members, whose names, court addresses, and phone numbers are listed in the Service List at http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/JNinfo/DrCordero_JNinfo_6jun8.pdf.

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Judges' unaccountability for judicial and non-judicial acts is fostered at the behind-closed-doors meetings of the Judicial Conference of the United States

The Judicial Conference of the U.S. is the highest court administration policy-making body of the Federal Judiciary. (28 U.S.C.§331) It holds its secretive annual meeting in September and its semi-annual meeting in March: First Chief Justice John Roberts presides over its plenary session at the Supreme Court, (202)479-3011 and -3211. Then the 12 representative district judges and the 14 chief circuit and national court judges hold separate meetings at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle NE, in Washington, D.C. Before the plenary session, the committees of the Conference meet in that Building at its secretariat, which is maintained by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, (202) 502-2400; <http://www.uscourts.gov/>.

The Federal Judiciary was created in 1789 when the Constitution of "We, the People" became effective. (U.S. Art. III) The People provided for a Judicial Power, just as they established a Congress and a Presidency. These three branches form the government of a democratic society that is founded on the openness of access and transparency of its activity to the governed. The aspect of government entrusted to the Judiciary, namely, justice, demands that it be administered in public so that the people can ascertain whether it satisfies its essential requirements of equality, reasonableness, and predictability. Those requirements are not limited to a courtroom open to everybody. The public administration of justice demands that they also be satisfied during the formulation of policy and procedural rules by the judges, who subsequently apply them in their courtrooms.

However, the judges' input in their formulation before and at the behind-closed-door Conference is secret. About six months later, a sanitized report of the Conference is issued by the Administrative Office. (id. >Judicial Conference >Proceedings) This is as if Congress never held in public any plenary or committee sessions; as if the President never allowed journalists to attend oval office or cabinet meetings; and as if they only sent to a press conference a spokesperson with a scripted story of what occurred at those sessions or meetings. Such secrecy would foster what it actually has in the Judiciary and is so cherished to judges: unaccountability for both judicial and non-judicial acts, hence, the totality of their conduct.

Judges' unaccountability for judicial acts assignable as error on appeal

Judicial acts consist of the rulings, orders, findings, and judgments that judges make to dispose of controversies brought by parties before them. Judges are not accountable for those acts. A party can only assign the acts as error on appeal. But even if the appellate judges reversed all the judicial acts of a judge, no harm would come to him –or her-: His pay cannot be reduced while in office and only Congress can impeach and remove him therefrom. Likewise, his promotion to a higher court or status does not depend on his peers' assessment of his performance; only the President and the Senate can so promote a judge.

Moreover, a judge's judicial acts are overwhelmingly more likely to stand than be reversed on appeal. To begin with, an appeal requires an enormous amount of effort and time and can cost from tens of thousands to millions of dollars. Then the appellate judges can dismiss the appeal or rubberstamp the act "Affirmed" in a summary order. The latter disposes of the appeal without any statement of reasons, without precedential value, and some circuits may not even allow it to be cited. According to the Handbook of the Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit (CA2), "Approximately 75% of all cases are decided by summary order [, which] have no precedential authority." <http://www.ca2.uscourts.gov/clerk.htm> >2nd Circuit Handbook, pg17

Reversing a judicial act on appeal requires that appellate judges, to begin with, read the briefs, then discuss what the peer below did, conclude that it constituted reversible error, and explain what the error was so that on remand it may not be repeated. That defeats the purpose of summary orders, which is skip-it-all expediency. Thus, the overwhelming majority of summary orders is used to get rid of appeals brought by individuals representing themselves, i.e., pro se. Indeed, in 2005 CA2 bragged that "We know of no other Federal Appeals Court that allows pro se litigants other than incarcerated prisoners to argue." <http://www.ca2.uscourts.gov/Reports/05/2005%20Annual%20Report%20-%20FINAL.htm> >Statistics>pg111. Pro se litigants, almost by definition the poor, get unaccountable, unreviewable, expedient 'justice' from judges who indulge in any judicial act.

Judges' unaccountability for non-judicial acts impugned in complaints

Judges' non-judicial acts can be challenged by any person, including a party, filing a complaint under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980 (28 U.S.C. §§351-364) with the respective chief circuit judge. They include "conflict of interests, bribery, corruption, abuse of judicial power, bias, prejudice, incompetence, neglect, undue decisional delay, demeanor, mental or physical disability". In the 1997-2006 period, 7,462 complaints were filed, but the judges appointed only 7 investigative

committees and disciplined only 9 of their peers. They dismissed out of hand without any investigation 99.88% of all complaints! (See links to the official statistics in the a-h notes under their graphic illustration at <http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org> .)

This is in line with the fact that of all the thousands of federal judges that have served –just now 2,180 judicial officers are subject to the Act-, in the 219 years since the creation of the Federal Judiciary in 1789, the number of those impeached and removed from the bench is 7! (*id.*) On average, that is 1 every 31 years, which is longer than the average length of service of judges. They can indulge in any non-judicial act too, for judges hold themselves totally unaccountable.

A judicial misconduct complaint for reporters to test judges' unaccountability

To prove it, a [complaint](#)¹ was filed last June 9 against a WBNY bankruptcy judge for his participation in a bankruptcy fraud scheme under the cover of district and circuit judges. It has been brought to the attention of Chief Justice Roberts and each of the other Conference members. They were requested to use the “informal means of disposing of complaints” –which they included in the Rules that they adopted for implementing the Act- to persuade CA2 Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs to apply the Act and the Rules to appoint a committee to investigate the complaint. The Conference Secretariat has stated that the members do not have authority to do so. (*id.*)

Thus, the judges shirk their collegial responsibility for the integrity of the Judiciary and judicial process by pretending that they cannot recommend informally to a peer to appoint a committee to investigate the filed evidence of a judicially supported bankruptcy fraud scheme so that they can dismantle it. Yet, they can and systematically do dispose of 99.88% of all complaints by means as informal as a chief judge suggesting to a complained-about judge over lobster and whisky at a sponsor-paid judicial junket to be less obvious when engaging in the acts cited in the all but dismissed complaint, even if dealing with bribery, conflict of interest, and abuse of power.

A call for investigative journalism

The Judicial Conference offers the occasion for reporters, investigative journalists, and bloggers to contact the judges² before it at their courts or during it at their hotels in D.C. to interview them about their justification for placing themselves in practice through their unaccountability for their judicial and non-judicial acts where no person is entitled to be in a democratic society governed by the rule of law: Above the law.

¹ http://Judicial-Discipline-Reform.org/JNinfo/DrCordero_JNinfo_6jun8.pdf

² *Id.*, containing a Service List with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the 27 current Conference members and related officers, useful to interview them by phone or arrange to meet them at the hotel where they will stay in Washington, DC, during the Conference.