

(2) With respect to a Judge's former law partners, associates and clients, a "cooling off period" of three years or until there is no indebtedness between the firm and the Judge, whichever is later, is permitted but subject to subsection (1).

Competence and diligence

15. (1) A Judge must be diligent in the performance of his or her judicial duties.

(2) A Judge must devote his or her professional activity to judicial duties broadly defined, which include, not only presiding in court and making decisions, but also other judicial tasks essential to the operation of the court.

(3) A Judge must take reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the knowledge, skills and personal qualities necessary for judicial office.

(4) A Judge must endeavour to perform, with reasonable promptness, all his or her judicial duties, including the delivery of reserved judgements.

(5) A Judge must not engage in conduct incompatible with the diligent discharge of his or her judicial duties or condone such conduct in other judicial colleagues.

Adjudicative duties

16. (1) A Judge has an obligation to be patient and treat all persons who appear before him or her with courtesy but must be decisive and prompt in the disposition of judicial business.

(2) A Judge must-

(a) be punctual for duty;

(b) give judgement and decisions, with reasons, as soon as reasonably possible; and

(c) avoid making comments about persons who are not before the court, unless it is necessary for the proper disposition of the case.

Administrative and other out-of-court duties

17. A Judge must undertake, with diligence, his or her judicial duties, including administrative and other out-of-court activities.

Contribution to the administration of justice generally

18. (1) A Judge may, to the extent that time permits and subject to the limitations imposed by his or her judicial office, contribute to the administration of justice by, for example, taking part-

(a) in continuing legal education programmes for Judges and legal practitioners; and

(b) in activities that make the law and the legal process more understandable and accessible to the public.

(2) Apart from the issue of contempt of court, a Judge must, generally, take, or cause to be taken, appropriate action where he or she has clear and reliable evidence of serious or gross incompetence by counsel.

Equality

19. (1) A Judge must, in his or her conduct, and in proceedings before him or her, ensure equality to all persons according to law.