

Municipal Court Judges

Directive #32-61

Issued by:

May 18, 1962

Edward B. McConnell

Administrative Director

The following is a Notice which was published in the *New Jersey Law Journal* and included in the monthly Bulletin Letter to the judges of the Municipal Courts:

It has recently come to the attention of the Supreme Court that some Municipal Court judges have been representing parties in civil actions arising out of automobile accidents even though complaints for violations of the motor vehicle laws arising out of the same accidents have been before their courts and that they also have been representing parties in matrimonial actions even though complaints by one spouse against the other have been before their court. The Supreme Court is of the view that this is improper and not in keeping with Canon 31 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics which provides that a judge who practices law is in a position of great delicacy and must be scrupulously careful to avoid conduct in his or her practice whereby the judge utilizes or seems to utilize his or her judicial position to further his or her professional success. [Comparable to Canons 2 & 5 of the Code of Judicial Conduct]

The Supreme Court will appreciate anything you can do to see that the judges of the Municipal Courts in your county or counties comply with the Code of Judicial Conduct in this regard.

EDITOR-S NOTE

The language in the introductory and final paragraphs was edited by replacing the future tense with the past tense, by deleting the suggestion that this issue be a future agenda item. The Canons of Judicial Ethics have been replaced by the current Code of Judicial Conduct. The quoted portion in the directive has remained unchanged, except for the insertion of citations to the appropriate Canons in the revised code.