



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2016

The Executive Director, David J. Sachar, today announces that pursuant to Rule 4.4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, campaign committees charged with the responsibility of managing and conducting campaigns for judicial candidates in the current election cycle may continue to solicit and accept contributions for the current campaign up to and 45 days beyond the November general election date. A question was presented to the JDDC from a judicial candidate in the nonpartisan run-off election scheduled for November 8, 2016. Candidate requested whether her campaign committee can continue to solicit and accept funds in support of her campaign or must they stay solicitation and acceptance of funds until May 12, 2016 which would be 180 days prior to the Nonpartisan Runoff Election Date. The Rules of the Code of Judicial Conduct should ideally be rules of reason and the spirit of those rules is to preclude judges from continually raising funds without a near approaching election. A plain reading of the rule reveals that the current election date merely continues from the March 1, 2016 setting to the November 8, 2016 setting. The November judicial run-off elections are considered a continuation of the "current election" for purposes of Canon 4. Candidates may continue to raise money, while abiding by all other laws on campaign finance activity, as the 180 day prohibition was meant for the commencement of fundraising.