

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
PO Box 023
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0023

Directive # 1-08
[Supersedes Directive # 9-97]

TO: Assignment Judges

FROM: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

SUBJECT: Excusal of Bar Association Officers, Trustees, and Members from Trial Dates to Attend Bar Association Meetings

DATE: February 6, 2008

This Directive restates the policy established by prior directives regarding attorneys' requests for excusal from trial commitments because of conflicts with their obligations as officers, trustees, or members of the New Jersey State Bar Association. It supersedes Directive # 9-97 and all prior directives on this subject (including Directives # 5-97 and # 3-85). It is being issued because of some apparent uncertainty as to the continued validity of the previously stated policy.

Trial judges should continue to honor the requests of any officer or trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association to be excused from trial commitments on the day of a scheduled NJSBA trustees and/or officers meeting. There are approximately 40-50 trustees and officers and they meet generally ten or so times a year. Reasonable notice of such meetings should be given to the Assignment Judge by any trustee or officer who requires an excuse from specific trial commitments. Assuming such notice is given, denial of a request should be limited to extraordinary circumstances, such as the previous scheduling of a matter involving many attorneys where it is clear that rescheduling would be inordinately difficult. The same policy applies to members of the NJSBA's Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee, and to those members of the General Council who plan to attend the annual or semi-annual Bar Association General Council meetings, again subject to reasonable prior notice to the court.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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cc: Hon. Philip S. Carchman, Administrative Director
Hon. Edwin H. Stern
Hon. Joseph C. Small
Lynn Fontaine Newsome, President, NJSBA
Angela Scheck, Executive Director, NJSBA
AOC Directors and Assistant Directors
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