

MENOMINEE TRIBAL COURTS

JUDICIAL CODE OF ETHICS

The members of the Menominee Tribal Judiciary, set forth these principles as a proper guide so that the character and conduct of a Judge should never discredit the integrity of his office. We adopt these rules as a reminder of our obligation to the Menominee people and others who use the Menominee Tribal Courts.

These ethics are prescribed by authority granted to the Tribal Supreme Court by Article V, Section 6 of the Menominee Tribal Constitution.


1. A Judge of the Tribal Judiciary should display respectable and exemplary conduct, not only upon the Bench and in the performance of his/her judicial duties, but also in his/her personal lifestyle.
2. It shall be the duty of all Judges to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Menominee Indian Tribe and to apply the guarantees of the Indian Civil Rights Act to each case.
3. Personal financial obligation should be kept in order at all times. Business dealings, which may have a questionable influence on judicial conduct, should be scrutinized very carefully.

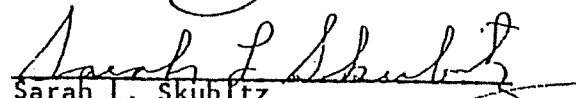
4. A Judge's social life shall be conducted so that he/she does not create the impression that he is engaging in improper activities which might influence his decisions or that he/she is using his/her judicial office to improve his/her social or financial position.
5. Promptness in the performance of judicial duties shall receive priority over other matters.
6. A Judge shall not use the authority of his/her office, to release from custody, a person duly arrested or incarcerated.
7. A Judge's decision should be free from bias or public influence, free from political pressure. An honest, impartial attitude shall be the rule toward each case presented.
8. A Judge shall use discretion of both conduct and patronization of local taverns.
9. A Judge shall not practice law in the Menominee Tribal Courts or Supreme Court or other quasi-judicial forums while he/she holds a judicial office.
10. A Judge is entitled to his personal opinions on local, state and federal political matters and is not required to surrender his personal rights or opinion. It is obvious that a Judge would be associated with a political organization if he/she actively promoted the interest of a local candidate. A Judge shall avoid endorsing a local candidate for political office and should not solicit or contribute to a campaign fund.

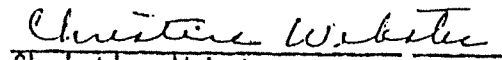
11. A Judge assigned any given case, shall not engage in ex parte interviews, arguments or other communication which may appear to influence his Judicial decision. Briefs, motions, petitions, letters and other documents which may be relevant to the case before him/her should not be concealed from the opposing party. If either party attempts to influence Judicial action of the Judge by means of some communication, the opposing party shall be made aware of this by the Judge.
12. A Judge shall not accept presents or favors from litigants or from lawyers and lay-counsel practicing before him or from others whose interest are likely to benefit from these presents and favors.
13. A Judge of the Menominee Judiciary shall not interfere in the Judicial process to gain the release or to try to influence the Court to render a sentence of undue leniency, for a relative, friend, or a prominent person of the community.
14. A Judge shall not use his office to solicit funds for business or charitable organizations or to use the power of his/her office or name to promote personal gain.
15. A Judge shall not over-rule or vacate an Order of Judgment judicially entered by a fellow Judge. This will not apply to the Supreme Court properly acting in a Judicial review.

16. To maintain the trust and respect for the Judiciary, a Judge shall refrain from comment to the parties or public of a Judicial decision of a fellow Judge.
17. A Judge shall maintain high standards of conduct and actions at all times especially while exercising his/her judicial office.
18. The Tribal Judiciary recognizes the procedure to remove or suspend from office are contained in Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Menominee Indian Tribe.

ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT THIS 14 DAY OF November, 1983


Wilmer J. Peters, Chief Judge


Sarah L. Skubitz,
Associate Justice


Christine Webster,
Associate Justice