

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

ORDER

RULES RELATING TO JUDICIAL CONDUCT

RULE 601B, CANON 2

RULE 2.2

Impartiality and Fairness

FILED

SEP - 6 2016

**DOUGLAS T. SHIMA
CLERK OF APPELLATE COURTS**

Supreme Court Rule 601B, Canon 2, Rule 2.2 is hereby amended, effective the date of this order.

A judge shall uphold and apply the *law*, and shall perform all duties of judicial office fairly and *impartially*.

COMMENT

[1] To ensure impartiality and fairness to all parties, a judge must be objective and open-minded.

[2] Although each judge comes to the bench with a unique background and personal philosophy, a judge must interpret and apply the law without regard to whether the judge approves or disapproves of the law in question.

[3] When applying and interpreting the law, a judge sometimes may make good-faith errors of fact or law. Errors of this kind do not violate this Rule.

[4] It is not a violation of this Rule for a judge to make reasonable accommodations to ensure self-represented litigants the opportunity to have their matters fairly heard. On the other hand, judges should resist unreasonable demands of assistance that might give an unrepresented party an advantage. If an accommodation is afforded a self-represented litigant, the accommodation shall not relieve the self-represented litigant from following the same rules of procedure and evidence that are applicable to a litigant represented by an attorney.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, this 6 day of September, 2016.

FOR THE COURT:



LAWTON R. NUSS
Chief Justice