

REGIONAL JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICES

CODE OF ETHICS

Section:	Code of Ethics of Members of the RJLSC	Number:	RJLSC- 001
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GENERAL

THE REGIONAL JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION ('the Commission') is committed in all aspects of its affairs, to maintain the highest standards of public trust and integrity. The independence and ethical conduct of the Commission are essential to its effectiveness and respect in the Court and the wider Caribbean Community. The Commission commits itself and its members to ethical and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when performing its functions.

THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES are therefore set out as its Code of Ethics.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Commissioners shall ensure accountability through various means including the publication of an annual report and advertising vacancies.

Commissioners will not speak to the public, media or other entities about the Commission's activities other than as provided for in the Commission's decisions or any policy.

Commissioners owe to the Commission a duty of confidence not to disclose or discuss with any other person or entity, or to use for their own purpose, confidential information concerning the business and affairs of the Court or the Commission, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is vital to the proper discharge of the Commissioner's office.

A Commissioner's conduct shall be above reproach in the view of reasonable, fair-minded and informed persons.

Commissioners will avoid any situation which has the appearance of compromising their professional judgment in carrying out their duties and fiduciary obligations.

IMPARTIALITY

Impartiality is indispensable to the proper discharge of the duties of the Commission. It applies not only to the making of a decision itself but also to the process by which the decision is made.

INDEPENDENCE

Commissioners shall exercise their functions independently on the basis of their assessment of the facts and in accordance with a conscientious understanding of the law, free of any extraneous influences, inducements, pressures, threats or interference, direct or indirect, from any quarter or for any reason.

FINANCIAL PRUDENCE

Commissioners are required to exercise prudence in financial matters to preserve the sustainability of the Court.

PROPRIETY

Commissioners shall avoid impropriety, and the appearance of impropriety in matters concerning the Commission.

In their interactions with staff, the public and judges Commissioners shall at all times display courtesy, understanding and respect.

EQUALITY

Commissioners shall treat persons equally and without discrimination by reason of race, colour, gender, religion, national origin, caste, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, social and economic status and other like causes in helping to strengthen the societies of the Caribbean.