

Judges, A Comparative Seminar

Spring 2012

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Assignment for the First Class

January 9, 2012

Register for the course on TWEN. Be sure to use an email address that you check regularly.

Download the materials in the TWEN folder entitled “Judicial Independence - news,” which is located in the Course Materials section of our course TWEN site. Read those materials to gain an appreciation of the breadth of current public policy concerns around the globe. Identify a recent or current situation or event other than those discussed in the TWEN materials, and be prepared to discuss it during our first class; the situation or event may be from any country or region of the world.

Download the materials in the TWEN folder entitled “Judicial Ethics.” Read the “Major Changes” document, and review the 2010 ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct, focusing on Canons 1 & 2 and the Rules under them. Be sure to review the MCJC Contents, Preamble, Scope, and Terminology.

Think about what topic you might want to research and write about for the seminar.

Topics for the First Class

THE SEMINAR

Plans for the class meetings and assignments.

Plans for the seminar paper.

JUDGES

What are the essential characteristics of a judge?

Do these essential characteristics vary from country to country, society to society?

Have these essential characteristics varied over time?

JUDICIAL ETHICS IN THE U.S.

Sources of ethical rules for judges.

The basic ethical rules for judges.

How are the ethical rules enforced against judges?