

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO  
COUNTY OF BOONE**

**Local Rule 21 – Professional Conduct**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

**21.1 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Attorney Mentoring Program (Pilot Project)**

**(A) Scope**

Except as specified in paragraph (c), every Illinois attorney admitted to practice after December 31, 2007, practicing or seeking to practice law in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, who resides in Winnebago County or Boone County or, alternatively, whose principal place of employment is within Winnebago County or Boone County, must participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Attorney Mentoring Program.

**(B) Topics**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Attorney Mentoring Program shall cover a curriculum as developed by the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit's Professional Advisory Council in connection with the Illinois Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism, including such topics as the legal community and community at large, law office management, personal and professional development, ethics, client communication, advocacy, and negotiation.

**(C) Prior Practice Exemption**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Attorney Mentoring Program requirement does not apply to attorneys who are admitted in Illinois after practicing law in other states for a period of two years or more.

**(D) Supervision**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Attorney Mentoring Program shall be supervised by the Chief Judge and the Court Administrator's Office and be provided by and through approved and trained mentors. A complete list of trained mentors shall be maintained by the Court Administrator's Office.

## **21.2 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Peer Review Council (Pilot Project)**

### **(A) Formation**

**The 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Peer Review Council, as approved pursuant to Rule 1.6(e) of the Supreme Court Rules of Professional Conduct, is hereby established to promote voluntary compliance with the Statement of Professional Aspirations for the Legal Profession in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court.**

### **(B) Composition**

**The Peer Review Council shall be composed of between five to seven lawyers and active or retired judges, appointed by the Chief Judge and the presidents of the Boone and Winnebago County Bar Associations. Members of the Council shall be appointed for three year terms, except that upon the formation of the Council, approximately half shall be appointed for two year terms. A list detailing the composition of the Council shall be maintained by the Court Administrator's Office. The Chief Judge shall disseminate the names and contact information of the Council members annually to the attorneys and judges of the 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit.**

### **(C) Referrals**

**The Peer Review Council will accept referrals from any judge or lawyer regarding any judge sitting on the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit or lawyer practicing in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who is believed by the reporter to be engaged in conduct inconsistent with the Statement of Professional Aspirations for the Legal Profession in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. The Council will not accept an anonymous referral; however, upon request the Peer Council will maintain the confidentiality of the identity of the reporter.**

### **(D) Confidentiality**

**Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 1.6(e), any information received by the Peer Review Council shall be confidential and shall be deemed to have been received from a client for purposes of the applications of Supreme Court Rules 1.6, 8.1 and 8.3.**

### **(E) Records**

**The Peer Review Council shall not keep or maintain a written record of referrals, communications or activities, except such records that are necessary during the review of a referral and such statistical records as are necessary to meet annual reporting requirements. All records shall be confidential and shall not be discoverable in any judicial, administrative or disciplinary proceeding. All written records identifying or pertaining to a lawyer or judge with respect to whom a referral has been made, other than statistical records, shall be maintained by the Council member(s) assigned to review the referral during the period of review and shall be destroyed after completion of the activity of the Council. Statistical records shall be kept and maintained by the Chief Judge and the Court Administrator's Office.**