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## **ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT AMENDS ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY RULES**

The Illinois Supreme Court amended its rules Monday governing conduct by judges and attorneys to prohibit discrimination based on disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

The changes were incorporated into Rule 63, Canon 3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires a judge to perform judicial duties impartially and diligently; and to Rule 8.4 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, which prohibits and defines misconduct by attorneys.

Rule 63 (8) prohibits a judge from performing judicial duties with bias and prejudice. It expressly prohibited words or conduct which manifest bias or prejudice based on race, sex, religion or national origin. The amended rule adds prohibitions based on disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. Rule 63 (9) also required proceedings before a judge be conducted without prejudice based on race, sex, religion or national origin. The amendment adds new language to require conduct which does not discriminate based on disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

The amendment to the Rules of Professional Conduct also adds the same language to Rule 8.4 (9)(A) which prohibits a lawyer from violating federal, state or local statutes or ordinances prohibiting discrimination.

“The Court determined that the time has come to make these rules,” said Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison II. “We want to be sure that everyone understands there is no bias whatsoever in the Illinois court system.”

The rules changes take effect immediately.