

1 **RULE 2.2 Impartiality and Fairness**

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

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7 **Comment**

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9 [1] To ensure impartiality and fairness to all parties, a judge must be objective and
10 open-minded.

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12 [2] Although each judge comes to the bench with a unique background and personal
13 philosophy, a judge must interpret and apply the law without regard to whether the judge
14 approves or disapproves of the law in question.

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16 [3] When applying and interpreting the law, a judge sometimes may make good-faith
17 errors of fact or law. Errors of this kind do not violate this rule.

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19 [4] ~~It is not a violation of this rule for a judge to make reasonable accommodations to~~
20 To ensure *pro se* self-represented litigants the opportunity to have their matters fairly heard, a
21 judge may make reasonable accommodations to a self-represented litigant consistent with the
22 law. See also Rule 2.6, Comment [1A].

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25 **Comparison to Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct**

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27 Rule 2.2 is comparable to Ohio Canons 3(B)(2) and (B)(5). Canon 3(B)(2) specifies a
28 judge’s duty to be competent in the law and avoid being swayed by outside influences, and the
29 first sentence of Canon 3(B)(5) requires a judge to perform judicial duties without bias or
30 prejudice. By contrast, Rule 2.2 addresses these duties in terms of a judge’s responsibility to
31 uphold and apply the law and perform all judicial duties fairly and impartially. Avoiding
32 external influences and maintaining competency are addressed by Rules 2.4 and 2.5,
33 respectively.

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35 **Comparison to ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct**

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37 Rule 2.2 is the same as Model Rule 2.2. Comment 4 is modified to be consistent with
38 Ohio law concerning a judge’s duties toward self-represented litigants.