

1 **RULE 2.4 External Influences on Judicial Conduct**

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3 (A) A judge shall not be swayed by public clamor or fear of criticism.

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5 (B) A judge shall not permit family, social, political, financial, or other interests or
6 relationships to influence the judge’s judicial conduct or judgment.

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8 (C) A judge shall not convey or permit others to convey the impression that any
9 person or organization is in a position to influence the judge.

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12 **Comment**

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14 [1] An independent judiciary requires that judges decide cases according to the law
15 and facts, without regard to whether particular laws or litigants are popular or unpopular with the
16 public, the media, government officials, or the judge’s friends or family. Confidence in the
17 judiciary is eroded if judicial decision making is perceived to be subject to inappropriate outside
18 influences.

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

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22 Rule 2.4(A) is comparable to a sentence contained in Ohio Canon 3(B)(2), and Rule
23 2.4(B) is comparable to a sentence in Canon 4(A). Rule 2.4(B) uses the phrase “interests or
24 relationships,” which is more precise, and therefore preferable to the word “relationships ” used in
25 Canon 4(A).

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27 Rule 2.4(C) is comparable to a sentence of Canon 4(A). However, the rule clarifies that a
28 judge must not allow others to convey the impression that any person or organization is in a
29 position to influence the judge.

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31 The comment explains that the purpose of the rule is not only that actual external
32 influences should not influence a judge in the performance of his or her judicial duties, but the
33 judge should not give the impression that he or she can be influenced by persons or organizations
34 or permit others to do so. The Ohio Code commentary does not address this purpose.

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

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38 Rule 2.4 is identical to Model Rule 2.4.