

1 **RULE 2.5 Competence, Diligence, and Cooperation**

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3 (A) A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently and
4 diligently and shall comply with guidelines set forth in the Rules of Superintendence for the
5 Courts of Ohio.

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7 (B) A judge shall cooperate with other judges and court officials in the administration
8 of court business.

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11 **Comment**

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13 [1] Competence in the performance of judicial duties requires the legal knowledge,
14 skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary to perform a judge’s responsibilities of
15 judicial office.

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17 [2] A judge should seek the necessary docket time, court staff, expertise, and
18 resources to discharge all adjudicative and administrative responsibilities.

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20 [3] Prompt disposition of the court’s business requires a judge to devote adequate
21 time to judicial duties, ~~to~~ be punctual in attending court and expeditious in determining matters
22 under submission, and ~~to~~ take reasonable measures to ensure that court officials, litigants, and
23 their lawyers cooperate with the judge to that end.

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25 [4] In disposing of matters promptly and efficiently, a judge must demonstrate due
26 regard for the rights of parties to be heard and to have issues resolved without unnecessary cost
27 or delay. A judge should monitor and supervise cases in ways that reduce or eliminate dilatory
28 practices, avoidable delays, and unnecessary costs.

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30 [5] In discharging the obligation to cooperate with other judges and court officials in
31 the performance of administrative duties, a judge must place the public’s interest in an efficient
32 and well-run court system above any personal or partisan interests. Where good faith differences
33 of opinion exist, unrelated to personal or partisan interests but relative to the administration of
34 court business, the duty to cooperate requires the judge to engage in efforts to reach compromise
35 for the good of the court but does not require compromise.

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

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40 Rule 2.5 addresses matters now found in Ohio Canons 3(B)(8) and (C)(1). Rule 2.5(B)
41 contains language from Canon 3(C)(1) regarding cooperation with judges and court officials on
42 administrative matters. “Should,” as used in the Canon, is changed to “shall” to reflect the
43 mandatory obligation of the rule.
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45 **Comparison to ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct**

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Rule 2.5(A) is modified to include language from Ohio Canon 3(B)(8) requiring compliance with the Ohio Rules of Superintendence. Among other requirements, the Rules of Superintendence include time guidelines for the disposition of cases and statistical reporting requirements applicable to Ohio judges. This language was added to the Ohio Code in 1997 and provides a specific basis for charging misconduct arising from noncompliance with requirements contained in the Rules of Superintendence.

Comment [5] is added to more fully address the cooperation required by Rule 2.5(B).