

**AMENDMENTS TO THE  
RULES OF SUPERINTENDENCE FOR THE COURTS OF OHIO**

The following amendments to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Sup.R. 49 and Sup.R. 49.02) were adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The history of these amendments is as follows:

June 9, 2014	Initial publication for comment
October 7, 2014	Final adoption by conference
October 7, 2014	Effective date of amendments

**RULES OF SUPERINTENDENCE FOR THE COURTS OF OHIO**

**RULE 49. Definitions.**

As used in Sup.R. 49 through 49.12:

**(A) Business entity**

“Business entity” means a for profit or nonprofit corporation, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, professional association, business trust, joint venture, unincorporated association, or sole proprietorship.

**(B) Commercial docket judge**

“Commercial docket judge” means a sitting judge designated or retired judge assigned by the Chief Justice pursuant to Sup.R. 49.02 to hear cases assigned to a commercial docket.

**(C) Retired judge**

“Retired judge” has the same meaning as in Sup.R. 17(A)(1).

**RULE 49.02. Designation or Assignment of Commercial Docket Judges.**

**(A) Designation or assignment by Chief Justice**

(A) Each court of common pleas that has established a commercial docket pursuant to Sup.R. 49.01 shall select either of the following methods for designating or assigning commercial docket judges:

(1) Request the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to designate two or more sitting judges of the general division of the court. The Chief Justice shall not designate a judge unless the judge agrees to participate.

- (2) Request the Chief Justice to assign one or more retired judges to active duty on the court pursuant to Article IV, Section 6(C) of the Ohio Constitution.

**(B) Candidate recommendations**

(1) The court of common pleas shall submit a written request for either designation or assignment of commercial docket judges to the commercial docket subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Case Management. The request shall include the names of any candidates for designation or assignment, as applicable, as commercial docket judges. The subcommittee shall submit a written report to the Chief Justice recommending the number of commercial docket judges for the court and candidates for designation or assignment, as applicable, as commercial docket judges. In reviewing a candidate, the subcommittee shall consider each of the following:

- (1) The candidate's length of judicial experience;
- (2) Any commercial or business-related education or experience the candidate may possess;
- (3) Any commercial or business-related litigation experience the candidate may possess, including any specific commercial or business-related litigation in which the candidate participated as an attorney or over which the candidate presided as a judge;
- (4) The candidate's case management expertise and experience, including case management of complex litigation;
- (5) If applicable, the candidate's current caseload, including the number of pending cases the candidate may have that are beyond the time limits for disposition pursuant to Sup.R. 39;
- (6) Whether the candidate has demonstrated a continuous commitment to the commercial docket concept;
- (7) Whether the candidate demonstrates a willingness to assume any additional duties and responsibilities required by the commercial docket;
- (8) Whether the candidate demonstrates a willingness to participate in commercial and business law-related training and education;
- (9) The candidate's judicial temperament;
- (10) The input and opinion of the regional or local bar associations;
- (11) Any other factors or qualifications the subcommittee determines to be relevant.

**RULE 99. Effective Date.**

**[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

(MMM) The amendments to Sup.R. 49 and 49.02 adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio on October 7, 2014, shall take effect on October 7, 2014.