

1 **Rule 1.12. Former Judge, Arbitrator, Mediator or Other Third-Party Neutral.**

2 (a) Except as stated in paragraph (d) and in Rule 2.4(c), a lawyer shall not represent anyone in
3 connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially as a judge or other
4 adjudicative officer or law clerk to such a person, or as an arbitrator, mediator or other third-party neutral,
5 unless all parties to the proceeding give informed consent, confirmed in writing.

6 (b) A lawyer shall not negotiate for employment with any person who is involved as a party or as
7 lawyer for a party in a matter in which the lawyer is participating personally and substantially as a judge or
8 other adjudicative officer or as an arbitrator, mediator or other third-party neutral. A lawyer serving as a
9 law clerk to a judge or other adjudicative officer may negotiate for employment with a party or lawyer
10 involved in a matter in which the clerk is participating personally and substantially, but only after the
11 lawyer has notified the judge or other adjudicative officer.

12 (c) If a lawyer is disqualified by paragraph (a), no lawyer in a firm with which that lawyer is associated
13 may knowingly undertake or continue representation in the matter unless:

14 (c)(1) the disqualified lawyer is timely screened from any participation in the matter and is
15 apportioned no part of the fee from that matter; and

16 (c)(2) written notice is promptly given to the parties and any appropriate tribunal.

17 (d) An arbitrator selected as a partisan of a party in a multimember arbitration panel is not prohibited
18 from subsequently representing that party.

19 Comment

20 [1] This Rule generally parallels Rule 1.11. The term "personally and substantially" signifies that a
21 judge who was a member of a multimember court, and thereafter left judicial office to practice law, is not
22 prohibited from representing a client in a matter pending in the court, but in which the former judge did not
23 participate. So also the fact that a former judge exercised administrative responsibility in a court does not
24 prevent the former judge from acting as a lawyer in a matter where the judge had previously exercised
25 remote or incidental administrative responsibility that did not affect the merits. Compare the Comment to
26 Rule 1.11. The term "adjudicative officer" includes such officials as judges pro tempore, referees, special
27 masters, hearing officers and other parajudicial officers, and also lawyers who serve as part-time judges.
28 Compliance Canons A(2), B(2) and C of the Model Code of Judicial Conduct provide that a part-time
29 judge, judge pro tempore or retired judge recalled to active service, may not "act as a lawyer in any
30 proceeding in which he served as a judge or in any other proceeding related thereto." Although phrased
31 differently from this Rule, those rules correspond in meaning.

32 [2] Like former judges, lawyers who have served as arbitrators, mediators or other third-party neutrals
33 may be asked to represent a client in a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and
34 substantially. This Rule prohibits such representation unless all of the parties to the proceedings give their
35 informed consent, confirmed in writing. See Rule 1.0(ef) and (b). Other law or codes of ethics governing
36 third-party neutrals may impose more stringent standards of personal or imputed disqualification. See
37 Rule 2.4.

38 [3] Although lawyers who serve as third-party neutrals do not have information concerning the parties
39 that is protected under Rule 1.6, they typically owe the parties an obligation of confidentiality under law or
40 codes of ethics governing third-party neutrals. Thus, paragraph (c) provides that conflicts of the
41 personally disqualified lawyer will be imputed to other lawyers in a law firm unless the conditions of this
42 paragraph are met.

43 [4] Requirements for screening procedures are stated in Rule 1.0(km). Paragraph (c)(1) does not
44 prohibit the screened lawyer from receiving a salary or partnership share established by prior
45 independent agreement, but that lawyer may not receive compensation directly related to the matter in
46 which the lawyer is disqualified.

47 [5] Notice, including a description of the screened lawyer's prior representation and of the screening
48 procedures employed, generally should be given as soon as practicable after the need for screening
49 becomes apparent.