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SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN CHAIRS MEETING OF
THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

Islamabad, October 18, 2025 - Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, the Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman, Supreme Judicial Council, chaired a meeting of the Council, held today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. It was virtually attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Munib Akhtar, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan through videolink, while Hon'ble Justice Miss Aalia Neelum, Chief Justice, Lahore High Court and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court attended in-person.

Pursuant to the decision taken by the Council on July 12, 2025, the Chair, proposed some amendments in the Code of Conduct for Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. The proposed amendments were thoroughly deliberated upon and with some amendments approved by majority decision of the Council, the same were directed to be notified in the official gazette, be circulated to all Judges of the superior courts and be posted on the website of the Supreme Court.

The Council examined 67 complaints under Article 209 of the Constitution filed by different individuals. 65 complaints were unanimously decided to be filed and one complaint was unanimously decided to be deferred while by a majority decision one complaint was decided to be processed further.

At a later stage, the Council was re-constituted as per Article 209 (3) (b) of the Constitution with inclusion of Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.M. Attique Shah, Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court, as the Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court showed his inability to attend the meeting in respect of certain matters on the agenda.

The re-constituted Council examined seven complaints under Article 209 of the Constitution filed by different individuals. Five complaints were unanimously decided to be filed while two complaints were decided to be processed further by majority decision.

After the decision on the present 74 complaints the total pending cases requiring initial consideration are 87, and the SJC has attended to 155 since October, 2024.


18/10/2025

Secretary
Supreme Judicial Council

SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL
**CODE OF CONDUCT TO BE OBSERVED BY JUDGES OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN AND OF THE HIGH COURTS
OF PAKISTAN**

Code of Conduct for Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts
(Framed by the Supreme Judicial Council under Article 128 (4) of the
Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1962 as amended up
to October 18, 2025, under Article 209 (8) of the Constitution of Islamic
Republic of Pakistan 1973).

The prime duty of a Judge as an individual is to present before
the public an image of [the]¹ justice of the nation. As a member of his
Court, that duty is brought within the disciplines appropriate to a
corporate body.

The Constitution, by declaring that all authority exercisable by
the people is a sacred trust from Almighty Allah, makes it plain that
the justice of this nation is of Divine origin. It connotes full
implementation of the high principles, which are woven into the
Constitution, as well as the universal requirements of natural justice.
The oath of a Judge implies complete submission to the Constitution,
and under the Constitution to the law. Subject to these governing

¹ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

obligations, his function of interpretation and application of the Constitution and the Law is to be discharged for the maintenance of the Rule of Law over the whole range of human activities within the nation.

To be a living embodiment of these powers, functions and obligations calls for possession of the highest qualities of intellect and character. Equally, it imposes patterns of behaviour which are the hallmark of distinction of a Judge among his fellow-men.

In this Code, an attempt is made to indicate certain traditional requirements of behavior in the Judges of the Superior Courts, conducive to the achievement of a standard of justice worthy of the nation.

ARTICLE-I [(General)]²:

On equiponderance stand the heavens and the earth. By equiponderance, oppression meaning unjust and unequal burdens, is

² As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

removed. The Judge's task is to [secure]³ that such equality should prevail in all things.

ARTICLE-II [(Judicial qualities)]⁴:

A Judge should be God-fearing, law-abiding, abstemious, truthful of tongue, wise in opinion, cautious and forbearing, blameless, untouched by greed.

While dispensing justice, he should be strong without being rough, polite without being weak, [awe-inspiring]⁵ in his warnings and faithful to his word, always preserving calmness, balance and complete detachment, for the formation of correct conclusions in all matters coming before him.

In the matter of taking his seat, [of his personal behaviour when in his seat]⁶ and of rising from his seat, he shall be punctilious in point of time, mindful of the [formal]⁷ courtesies, careful to preserve the

³ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

⁴ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

⁵ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

⁶ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

⁷ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

dignity of the Court, while maintaining an equal aspect towards all litigants as well as lawyers appearing before him.

ARTICLE - III

To be above reproach, and for this purpose to keep his conduct in all things, official and private, free from impropriety is expected of a Judge.

ARTICLE- IV

A Judge must decline resolutely to act in a case involving his own interest, including those of persons whom he regards and treats as near relatives or close [friends]⁸.

A Judge must rigidly refrain from entering into or continuing any business dealing, howsoever unimportant it may be, with any party to a case before him. Should the dealing be unavoidable, he must discontinue his connection with the case forthwith.

⁸ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct framed by SJC on 16-08-1965.

A Judge must refuse to deal with any case in which he has a connection with one party or its lawyer more than the other, or even with both parties and their lawyers.

To ensure that justice is not only done, but is also seen to be done, a Judge must avoid all possibility of his opinion or action in any case being swayed by any consideration of personal advantage, either direct or indirect.

[ARTICLE- V

A Judge should not engage in any public controversy, whether by way of speech, writing, debate or comment at any forum, and least of all on political questions, even if such questions involve a question of law.

He shall not have any interaction with the media, especially in relation to issues which may give rise to public debate or adversely affect institutional collegiality and discipline.

Where, however, an allegation is made public against a Judge, he may place the matter in writing before Committee comprising of the Chief Justice of Pakistan and four Senior Judges of Supreme Court of

Pakistan through its Registrar for an appropriate institutional response.

He shall not cause any judicial or administrative matter to be discussed publicly, nor shall he make public any communication relating to his personal or official matters.]⁹

ARTICLE- VI

[A Judge should endeavour to avoid, as far as possible, being involved in litigation either on his own behalf or on behalf of others. In particular he should not involve himself in activities such as industry, trade, or speculative transactions, for the pursuit of wealth can never be the objective of a Judge]¹⁰.

To employ the influence of his position to gain undue advantage, whether immediate or future, is a grave fault.

A Judge must avoid incurring financial or other obligations to private institutions or persons such as may embarrass him in the performance of his functions.

⁹ Article-V substituted by SJC on 18-10-2025.

¹⁰ As per approved original text of Code of Conduct re-worded by SJC on 09-11-1967.

ARTICLE- VII

Extra-judicial duties or responsibilities, official or private, should be generally avoided. He should equally avoid being a candidate for any elective office in any organization whatsoever.

ARTICLE- VIII

Gifts are to be received only from near relatives and close friends, and only such as are customary. Everything in the way of favours in consequence of the office must be refused. In accepting any entertainment offered, whether general or particular, care should be taken that its real purpose does not conflict with a Judge's duty to maintain detachment from likely litigants, and from partisan activity.

ARTICLE- IX

In his judicial work, and his relations with other Judges, a Judge should act always for the maintenance of harmony within his own Court, as well as among all Courts and for the integrity of the institution of justice. Disagreement with the opinion of any Judge,

whether of equal or of inferior status, should invariably be expressed in terms of courtesy and restraint.

[ARTICLE- X

In [his]¹¹ judicial work a Judge shall take all steps to decide cases within the shortest time, controlling effectively efforts made to prevent early disposal of cases and make every endeavour to minimise suffering of litigants by deciding cases expeditiously through proper written judgments. A Judge who is unmindful or indifferent towards this aspect of his duty is not faithful to his work, which is a grave fault.]¹²

[ARTICLE- XI

No Judge of the superior judiciary shall render support in any manner whatsoever, including taking or administering oath in violation of the oath of office prescribed in the Third Schedule to the Constitution, to any authority that acquires power otherwise than through the modes envisaged by the Constitution of Pakistan.]¹³

¹¹ As per approved original text of Article added by SJC on 11-07-1991.

¹² Added by SJC on 11-07-1991.

¹³ Added by SJC on 08-08-2009.

[ARTICLE-XII: The Judges of the superior Courts would abstain from presiding/attending any social, cultural, political and diplomatic functions.

ARTICLE-XIII: Soliciting invitation by the Judges to attend conferences/meetings from foreign/international agencies would be considered misconduct and if such an invitation is received by a Judge in his personal name, he would intimate the inviter to route such invitation through the concerned Chief Justice.

ARTICLE-XIV: A superior Court Judge would not accept an invitation of dinner/reception to be hosted in his honour from an individual member of the Bar.”]¹⁴

[“ARTICLE-XV

In the discharge of his duties, a Judge is expected not to be influenced by any consideration except merit. He is required to possess the intellectual capacity and moral integrity to remain independent and firm in the face of any influence, internal or external. He is expected to know the exercise of all legal powers at his command to deal with such

¹⁴ Articles-XII, XIII and XIV are added in the light of decisions of SJC on 04-10-2003 and approved to be included in the Code of Conduct by SJC on 18-10-2025.

influence. In case no legal powers are available, he is to resort to an institutional response immediately, remaining within the legal domain.

The judge shall immediately inform, in writing, the Chief Justice of the relevant High Court, the Chief Justice of Pakistan and four senior most Judges of Supreme Court through respective Registrars. In case of Supreme Court, the judge shall immediately inform, in writing, the Chief Justice of Pakistan and four senior most Judges of Supreme Court through the Registrar.

The Chief Justice of High Court shall place the matter before a Committee comprising of three Judges within two days of the report by the Judge. The decision by the Committee on the report shall be made within a fortnight. In case it is referred for judicial decision, the same should be decided as early as possible by adhering to the principles of fair trial and due process. If the Chief Justice or the Committee in the case of High Court, as the case may be, fails to respond within the stipulated timeframe, the Chief Justice of Pakistan

alongwith four Senior Judges of Supreme Court shall take up the matter."]¹⁵

DATED: 18-10-2025

BY THE ORDER OF THE COUNCIL

SECRETARY, SJC

¹⁵ Article-XV added by SJC on 18-10-2025.