



Questions for Panel Discussions on Judicial Family Life

1. What is the "bigger picture" from your point of view? For instance, why are you pleased the judge in your family is willing to serve? What does judicial service mean to the rule of law in a free society, to your community, and to you?
2. In what specific areas do you see families being supportive of and benefiting from judicial service?
3. What is your family policy regarding calls from the media? What techniques have you found to be successful in fielding questions from friends and neighbors about cases? What attitudes and measures would you recommend to others about living in the public eye?
4. What home and travel security precautions do you and others in the family take?
A list of "Security Ideas..." appears on the JFI website. It could be distributed even if this question is not asked.
5. Have you ever had an ethical "conflict of interests" with the judge in your family or an ethical question or experience tied to family jobs, politics, gifts, investments, charitable fundraising, legal matters, or the like?
 - What was it, and how did you handle it?
 - Did the judge in your family "recuse" and let a different judge handle the case?
 - Have you ever called your state judicial ethics staff members for advice? Do you know the name and number of your contact person?
6. How do you and your family manage the demands of political campaigns and other public appearances?
 - Do all of you enjoy attending events and campaigning for public office, or are there a variety of responses and involvement? Have any of you taken personality type tests to aid in understanding your unique characteristics and differences?
 - What event scheduling standards and practical family help sources do you use?
7. What resources do you use for confidential family counseling?
8. If you could do one thing to improve things for judicial families, what would it be?
Leave out of Orientation Programs
9. How do you or the judge in your family change gears between daytime jobs, school, volunteer, or home responsibilities and evening family time? Do you take a "decompression" time? Is your approach at home different from your weekday role? Do you discuss legal cases at or after dinner or avoid that kind of discussion?
10. How do you and/or the judge in your family offset "judicial isolation" and balance your public and private lives?

Use these questions with a skilled moderator and different panelists from your state each year. Panels usually include 2 spouses, 2 judges, and 2 young adults who have grown up in a judge's family.

Sometimes only 3 panelists answer selected questions when time demands.

1 ½ hours Judicial Continuing Education (CLE) for judges with spouses and guests invited, or for spouses and guests.

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