

Supreme Court Studying New Format for Iowa Court Rules

For almost two years, the Iowa Supreme Court Rules Subcommittee has been working with the Legislative Service Bureau to renumber and reformat the Iowa Court Rules to make the Rules easier to access and computer friendly.

Why the change?

The present numbering system of the Iowa Court Rules does not allow for an easy numerical reference to rules. There is no numerical identifier to indicate whether a rule is a probate rule, a grievance rule, or rule of evidence. In addition, the sub parts of the Rules are numbered or lettered differently depending on the category. Finally, the Rules lack any subject matter orientation. When the Legislative Service Bureau put the Rules on CD-ROM it was a confusing and time-consuming process.

The Rules Subcommittee, working closely with Ed Cook of Legislative Service Bureau, has proposed a complete renumbering of the Rules consistent with the format used for the Iowa Administrative Code. (The current use of 'EC's' and 'DR's' is retained for the Code of Professional Responsibility.)

Under the proposed new format, Court Rules are organized under four broad categories with each current grouping of rules or guidelines

given a unique chapter number within a category.

- **Practice of Law** contains all rules of procedure and evidence, Child Support Guidelines, and small claims forms.
- **Bar Rules** include admission to the Bar, the Code of Professional Responsibility for Lawyers, rules and procedures for the lawyer discipline, Unauthorized Practice, Client Security, and Continuing Legal Education.
- **Judicial Administration** includes Judicial Administration, Supreme Court Rules, Time Standards, Guidelines for Court Appointed Counsel Fees, IOLTA, Shorthand Reporters, and ICIS.
- **Judicial Qualifications and Conduct** contains the Code of Judicial Conduct, Judicial Qualification Commission and Rules for Expanded Media Coverage.

The number hierarchy within each chapter of the proposed new format follows the format used for the Iowa Administrative Code. The hierarchy uses several sub levels under each rule and follows a consistent numbering and lettering scheme.

Under the proposal, the Rules most significantly changed are the Rules of Civil Procedure. The changes to the format happen to coincide with a comprehensive revision of the Rules of Civil Procedure under consideration by the Supreme Court. According to Justice Jerry Larson, the Court will probably defer action on the new format until the substantive changes to the Rules of Civil Procedure are sorted out.

Judicial Branch Wins Savings Bond Campaign Award

On August 19, 1996, Governor Branstad presented the Iowa Judicial Department with an award for having the most improved savings bond campaign for a department with over 500 employees. With a participation rate of 15.5%, the Judicial Branch had an increase of 2.5% from last year. This increase, according to Cathy Hull, Judicial Department Savings Bond Coordinator, came about due to the increased use of

informational stuffers in court personnel pay envelopes.

If you have any questions or would like to have Savings Bonds automatically purchased by deductions from your paycheck, call Cathy Hull at (515) 281-6070.

P. S. The 1996 "One Gift" campaign, entitled "One Gift. Your Present for the Future", was launched on September 11th.

Judicial Fellows Program

The Judicial Fellows Commission invites applicants for the 1997-98 Judicial Fellows Program. The Program, established in 1973 and patterned after the White House and Congressional Fellowships, seeks outstanding individuals from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds who are interested in the administration of justice and who show promise of making a contribution to the judiciary.

States Sentencing Commission. Candidates must be familiar with the federal judicial system, have at least one postgraduate degree and two or more years of professional experience. Fellowship stipends are based on salaries for comparable government work and on individual salary histories, but will not exceed the GS 15, step 3 level, presently \$76,316.

Up to four Fellows will be chosen to spend a calendar year, beginning in late August or early September 1997, in Washington, D.C., at the Supreme Court of the United States, the Federal Judicial Center, the Administration Office of the United States Courts, or the United

Information about the Judicial Fellows Program and application procedure is available upon request from Vanessa M. Yarnall, Administrative Director, Judicial Fellows Program, Supreme Court of the United States, Room 5, Washington, D.C. 20543. (202) 479-3415. The application deadline is November 15, 1996.