

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts

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From Chief Justice Ann Scott Timmer: Arizona’s Judicial Branch, Its Codes of Conduct and Prediction Markets

PHOENIX – Chief Justice Ann Scott Timmer has addressed prediction markets with Arizona’s judicial branch following Governor Katie Hobbs executive order signed on July 8, 2026.

Last week, Governor Katie Hobbs issued an executive order prohibiting executive branch employees from using nonpublic information to profit in prediction markets. She also urged the other branches of state government to adopt similar policies.

Fortunately, the judicial branch does not need to adopt a new policy because our codes of conduct have long prohibited this conduct. But because prediction markets are relatively new, and in light of the Governor’s order, I am writing to remind all judicial employees and judicial officers that they may not use nonpublic information for personal gain—including to place a bet in a prediction market or otherwise gamble.

The Arizona Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees (Code of Judicial Administration § 1-303)

Canon 1 provides that “a judicial employee shall uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.” Rule 1.3 further provides that “[j]udicial employees shall not use or attempt to use their positions for personal gain or to secure special privileges or exemptions for themselves or any other person.” And Comment 4 explains that “[i]t is improper to use or disclose to others confidential information or records for personal purposes.”

Even more directly, Rule 3.2 provides that “[a] judicial employee shall not intentionally disclose or use nonpublic information acquired in an official capacity for any purpose unrelated to the employee’s duties.” Comment 1 recognizes that, “[i]n the course of performing court duties[,] a judicial employee may acquire information of commercial or other value that is unavailable to the public.” It then makes clear: “*The judicial employee must not reveal or use such information for personal gain or advantage or for any purpose unrelated to court duties.*”

These provisions leave no doubt that judicial employees may not use nonpublic information obtained through their work for personal gain, including to bet in prediction markets. Nor may they share that information with friends, family members, or anyone else for that purpose.

The Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct (Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. 81)

The Code of Judicial Conduct applies to judicial officers. Rule 3.5 provides that “[a] judge shall not intentionally disclose or use nonpublic information acquired in a judicial capacity for any purpose unrelated to the judge’s judicial duties.” Comment 1 is equally clear: “The judge must not reveal or use such information for personal gain or for any purpose unrelated to his or her judicial duties.”

Thus, judicial officers also may not use nonpublic information obtained through their work for personal gain, including to bet in prediction markets, or share that information with others for that purpose.

I am confident that our judicial employees and judicial officers perform their duties with the utmost integrity. The Governor’s order nevertheless provides a timely opportunity to revisit the codes that govern our conduct and ensure that we remain mindful of what they require. Following these standards helps us preserve the public’s trust in the judicial branch and in our commitment to the rule of law.

I am proud of our courts and honored to lead you. The work you do is exceptional and often nationally recognized. I hope you and your families have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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