**Judicial Reporting Podcast**

**Wade: Hello folks, and welcome to this episode of The Good Judge-ment Podcast. I’m Wade Padgett.**

*Tain: And I’m Tain Kell. And today we’re going to address an issue, that quite frankly keeps me up at night.*

**No kidding, Tain. I think that universally, our colleagues would likely overwhelmingly agree that his issue is their least favorite part of their job.**

*Tain: Today, of course, we’re talking about judicial reporting.*

**Wade: that’s right. Today we’re talking about personal financial and campaign reporting and disclosures.**

*Tain: We’re going to take that scary subject and break it down in a way that will hopefully make it a bit simpler for you and take away some of the fear associated with it.*

**Wade: And help Tain sleep at night.**

*Tain: Right!*

**So let’s dive in! Tain, first let’s talk about the organizations to whom we have to report. Basically, there are two: 1) The Supreme Court, and 2) the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (f/k/a State Ethics Commission)​.**

*There are basically four reports that have to be filed annually. Three of these reports have to be filed with the Transparency Commission and one with the Supreme court.*

**Let’s start with the reports to be filed with the Transparency Commission.**

**4 Total Types of Filings:**​

**Three required filings are filed with Transparency Commission**

**1) Campaign Disclosure (semi-annual at least**

**-Contributions​**

**-Expenditures​**

**2) Personal Financial Disclosure (annual)​**

**3) Affidavit of Public Officer**

**All three filed at:** [**www.ethics.ga.gov**](http://www.ethics.ga.gov)

**There is a new filing system. Don’t forget to sign up!!!**

*The fourth required filing is with the Supreme Court of Georgia:*

*One required filing is filed with the Georgia Supreme​*

*Court:​*

*4) Rule 3.15 report (annual)​*

*-extra-judicial and quasi-judicial benefits​*

*-includes honorarium, gifts, compensation​*

*-exceeding $500​*

*Filed at: gasupreme.us/rule315form/​*

**Annual Reports:**

1. **Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report**​

Every year, multiple times (schedule depends upon whether your election year/non-election year)

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1. **Personal Financial Disclosure Statement**​

Every year​

1. **Affidavit of Public Officer**

Every year (until further notice)

1. **Rule 3.15 Report**​

Every year

*So let’s focus for a minute on the annual campaign disclosure reports. These are annual reports, and you will file them AT LEAST twice per year. I say at least twice, because the requirements are different in your first year in office, your election year and your non-election years.*

**FIRST YEAR, FIRST CAMPAIGN:​**

1. **Declaration of intent to accept campaign contributions​**
2. **Registration of Campaign Committee​**
3. **PIN Application for e-filing​**

*CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE REPORTS*

***Election Year:****​*

*January 31 ​*

*March 31​*

*June 30​*

*September 30​*

*October 25​*

*December 31​*

***Non-Election Year****:​*

*June 30 and December 31*

**Weird Rule with Campaign Disclosures:​**

* **You cannot file early; and ​**
* **There is a 5-day filing “grace” period after reporting period closes​**
* **Make sure you click the correct year​!**

*PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE*

***NON-ELECTION YEAR:****​*

*Must file anytime between January 1 and July 1 (no grace period)​*

*Filing is for financial status from the prior calendar year​*

*​*

***ELECTION YEAR:****​*

*File within 15 days of qualifying​*

*If appointed, PFD due for first FULL year you hold office*

**RULE 3.15 REPORT​**

* **File by April 15 each year ​**
* **For prior calendar year​**
* **File on Ga. Supreme Court’s Website**

*Other Reports*

* *Special Elections​*
* *Runoffs​*
* *2 Business Day Reports​*
* *Leave Office with Funds​*
* *Final Report*

**Other Tips:**

**Pay your Bar dues on time!**

**Calendar the many filing dates!**

**Well folks, that is our quick review of your yearly filing requirements. As always we have some cheat sheets suitable for framing (or at least laminating) at our website at** [**www.goodjudgepod.com**](http://www.goodjudgepod.com)

*We certainly hope that this reminder has helped to take some of the fear and loathing out of your filing requirements for years to come.*

**As always, check in with us on goodjudgepod.com and feel free to contact us at** [**goodjudgepod@gmail.com**](mailto:goodjudgepod@gmail.com) **. I’m Wade Padgett**

*And I’m Tain Kell. File this episode under “D” for “done”.*

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