

The Judicial Code of Ethics encourages judges to stay connected to community activities and to engage with the public, including by writing on both legal and nonlegal subjects. Judges, including Justices, routinely travel and speak to university, college and law school audiences and affiliated individuals and entities. Judicial staff play an important role in assisting on issues of ethics, travel, and security.

Chambers staff assist the Justices in complying with judicial ethics guidance for such visits, including guidance relating to judges' publications. For example, judicial ethics guidance suggests that a judge may sign copies of his or her work, which may also be available for sale, but there should be no requirement or suggestion that attendees are required to purchase books in order to attend. Justice Sotomayor's Judicial Assistant has worked with the Justice's publisher to ensure compliance with these standards, and at no time have attendees been required to buy a book in order to attend an event. Asking whether attendees were reminded that they must either buy or bring a book in order to enter a signing line at an event would in no way conflict with the standard outlined above. Chambers staff also play an important, official role in protecting the Justices, who are high-profile public figures. Schools have occasionally invited Justice Sotomayor to take part in a program in which they select a book for an entire school or a freshman class, and the Justice gives a book talk. When she is invited to participate in a book program, Chambers staff recommends the number of books based on the size of the audience so as not to disappoint attendees who may anticipate books being available at an event, and they will put colleges or universities in touch with the Justice's publisher when asked to do so. Justice Sotomayor would have recused in cases in which Penguin Random House was a party, in light of her close and ongoing relationship with the publisher. An inadvertent omission failed to bring Penguin's participation in several cases to her attention; those cases ultimately were not selected for review by the Court. Chambers' conflict check procedures have since been changed.

The Justices engage in extrajudicial activities such as speaking on both legal and nonlegal subjects, and the Code of Conduct encourages public engagement by judges to avoid isolation from the society in which they live and to contribute to the public's understanding of the law. The Court routinely asks event organizers to confirm that an event at which a Justice will speak is not a fundraiser, and it provides a definition of "fundraiser" in order to avoid misunderstandings. The Court then follows up with event organizers to elicit further information as appropriate. The Court's practice has been useful: Justices have declined to be featured at events even though event organizers expressly told Chambers that the events were not fundraisers, following additional inquiry by the Court that confirmed them to be fundraisers. Justices exercise caution in attending events that might be described as political in nature, following guidance in the Code of Conduct which cautions judges against engaging in political activity. Merely attending an event where an elected official might also be in attendance – such as several of the events described in your email -- does not necessarily render the event impermissibly political in nature.

Finally, the Justices are limited to earning only around \$30,000 per year for teaching activity. Teaching must be at an accredited educational institution or continuing legal educational program and must be approved in advance by the Chief Justice (or by the Associate Justices if it involves teaching by the Chief Justice).