

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4419

To update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “District of Columbia  
5 Judicial Financial Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
7 **JUDGES OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS.**

8 (a) REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED.—Section 11–1530,  
9 D.C. Official Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 11–1530. Financial statements**

2       “(a) Pursuant to such rules as the Commission shall  
3 promulgate, each judge of the District of Columbia courts  
4 shall, within one year following the date of enactment of  
5 the District of Columbia Court Reorganization Act of  
6 1970 and at least annually thereafter, file with the Com-  
7 mission a report containing the following information:

8               “(1)(A) The source, type and amount of the  
9 judge’s income which exceeds \$200 (other than in-  
10 come from the United States government and in-  
11 come referred to in subparagraph (C)) for the period  
12 covered by the report.

13               “(B) The source and type of the judge’s  
14 spouse’s income which exceeds \$1,000 (other than  
15 income from the United States government and in-  
16 come referred to in subparagraph (C)) for the period  
17 covered by the report.

18               “(C) The source and type of income which con-  
19 sists of dividends, rents, interest, and capital gains  
20 received by the judge and the judge’s spouse during  
21 such period which exceeds \$200 in amount or value,  
22 and an indication of which of the following cat-  
23 egories the amount or value of such item of income  
24 is within—

25                       “(i) not more than \$1,000,

1           “(ii) greater than 1,000 but not more than  
2           \$2,500,

3           “(iii) greater than \$2,500 but not more  
4           than \$5,000,

5           “(iv) greater than \$5,000 but not more  
6           than \$15,000,

7           “(v) greater than \$15,000 but not more  
8           than \$50,000,

9           “(vi) greater than \$50,000 but not more  
10          than \$100,000,

11          “(vii) greater than \$100,000 but not more  
12          than \$1,000,000,

13          “(viii) greater than \$1,000,000 but not  
14          more than \$5,000,000, or

15          “(ix) greater than \$5,000,000.

16          “(2) The name and address of each private  
17          foundation or eleemosynary institution, and of each  
18          business or professional corporation, firm, or enter-  
19          prise in which the judge was an officer, director,  
20          proprietor, or partner during such period.

21          “(3) The identity and category of value (as set  
22          forth in subsection (b)) of each liability of \$10,000  
23          or more owed by the judge or by the judge and the  
24          judge’s spouse jointly at any time during such pe-  
25          riod.

1           “(4) The source and value of all gifts in the ag-  
2           gregate amount or value of \$250 or more from any  
3           single source received by the judge during such pe-  
4           riod, except gifts from the judge’s spouse or any of  
5           the judge’s children or parents.

6           “(5) The identity of each trust in which the  
7           judge held a beneficial interest having a value of  
8           \$10,000 or more at any time during such period,  
9           and in the case of any trust in which the judge held  
10          any beneficial interest during such period, the iden-  
11          tity, if known, of each interest in real or personal  
12          property in which the trust held a beneficial interest  
13          having a value of \$10,000 or more at any time dur-  
14          ing such period. If the judge cannot obtain the iden-  
15          tity of the trust interest, the judge shall request the  
16          trustee to report that information to the Commis-  
17          sion.

18          “(6) The identity and category of value (as set  
19          forth in subsection (b)) of each interest in real or  
20          personal property having a value of \$10,000 or more  
21          which the judge owned at any time during such pe-  
22          riod.

23          “(7) The amount or value and source of each  
24          honorarium of \$250 or more received by the judge  
25          and the judge’s spouse during such period.

1           “(8) The source and amount of all money, other  
2           than that received from the United States govern-  
3           ment, received in the form of an expense account or  
4           as reimbursement for expenditures from any source  
5           aggregating more than \$250 during such period.

6           “(9) The source and amount of all waivers or  
7           partial waivers of fees or charges accepted by the  
8           judge on behalf of the judge or the judge’s spouse,  
9           domestic partner, or guest during such period.

10          “(b) For purposes of paragraphs (3) and (6) of sub-  
11          section (a), the categories of value set forth in this sub-  
12          section are—

13                 “(1) not more than \$15,000;

14                 “(2) greater than \$15,000 but not more than  
15                 \$50,000;

16                 “(3) greater than \$50,000 but not more than  
17                 \$100,000;

18                 “(4) greater than \$100,000 but not more than  
19                 \$250,000;

20                 “(5) greater than \$250,000 but not more than  
21                 \$500,000;

22                 “(6) greater than \$500,000 but not more than  
23                 \$1,000,000;

24                 “(7) greater than \$1,000,000 but not more  
25                 than \$5,000,000;

1           “(8) greater than \$5,000,000 but not more  
2 than \$25,000,000;

3           “(9) greater than \$25,000,000 but not more  
4 than \$50,000,000; and

5           “(10) greater than \$50,000,000.

6           “(c)(1) Reports filed pursuant to this section shall,  
7 upon written request, and notice to the reporting judge  
8 for purposes of making an application to the Commission  
9 for a redaction pursuant to paragraph (2), be made avail-  
10 able for public inspection and copying within a reasonable  
11 time after filing and during the period they are kept by  
12 the Commission (in accordance with rules promulgated by  
13 the Commission), and shall be kept by the Commission  
14 for not less than three years.

15           “(2) This section does not require the public avail-  
16 ability of reports filed by a judge if upon application by  
17 the reporting judge, a finding is made by the Commission  
18 that revealing personal and sensitive information could en-  
19 danger that judge or a family member of that judge, ex-  
20 cept that a report may be redacted pursuant to this para-  
21 graph only—

22           “(A) to the extent necessary to protect the indi-  
23 vidual who filed the report or a family member of  
24 that individual; and

1           “(B) for as long as the danger to such indi-  
2           vidual exists.

3           “(d) The intentional failure by a judge of a District  
4 of Columbia court to file a report required by this section,  
5 or the filing of a fraudulent report, shall constitute willful  
6 misconduct in office and shall be grounds for removal from  
7 office under section 11–1526(a)(2).”.

8           (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
9 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to reports filed  
10 under section 11–1530, D.C. Official Code, that cover pe-  
11 riods beginning during or after 2016.

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