

## MINUTES

**COMMITTEE:** Ethics Committee

**DATE:** May 8, 1997

### **9. CHAPTER 1, CANON 2(2): WHETHER LAWYER MAY WEAR UNUSUAL COLOURED ROBES TO COURT**

A lawyer asked the Committee whether he may wear a forest green gown to court instead of the traditional black.

The Committee noted that the question of what was considered proper Court attire was formerly covered by Ruling E-4 of the old *Professional Conduct Handbook*. Ruling E-4 stated:

When required to be gowned, members shall wear a clean, white shirt, wing collars and tabs, dark trousers or skirt, and vest and gown with black shoes. The gown shall be stuff or silk, depending upon the member's status at the Bar of British Columbia. On all other occasions, members shall appeared in dignified dress.

Ruling E-4 was not carried forward into the new *Professional Conduct Handbook* and there are no other rules in the *Professional Conduct Handbook* that bear directly on this issue.

It was the Committee's view that in the absence of official court approval or a Law Society rule that stipulates how a lawyer should dress for Court, it would not be appropriate for a lawyer to depart from customary dress. The Committee resolved to refer this issue to the Bench and Bar Committee to see whether there is any interest among members of that Committee to deal any further with this issue.

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