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SENATE BILL 6255

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Rivers, Roach, Becker, Bailey, Miloscia,  
Warnick, Honeyford, Braun, Schoesler, O'Ban, and Hewitt

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1            AN ACT Relating to judge impartiality; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 2.64 RCW; and providing an effective date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 2.64 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            The commission shall discipline any judge who fails to disqualify  
7 himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judge's  
8 impartiality might reasonably be questioned because:

9            (1) The judge knows or learns by means of a timely motion that a  
10 party, a party's lawyer, or the law firm of a party's lawyer has  
11 within the previous three years made aggregate contributions to the  
12 judge's election in an amount that is greater than fifty dollars; or

13            (2) When a party or lawyer who made a contribution of fifty  
14 dollars or more to the judge's campaign appears in a case, the judge  
15 failed to disclose the contribution to the parties. The requirement  
16 to disclose shall continue from the time the judge begins a campaign  
17 until one hundred eighty days after the judge's election.

18            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect January 1, 2017.

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