

1 **Rule 8.2. Judicial Officials.**

2 (a) A lawyer shall not make a public statement that the lawyer knows to be false or
3 with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the [judicial system, or the](#)
4 qualifications or integrity of a judge, [an](#) adjudicatory officer or a candidate for election or
5 appointment to judicial office.

6 (b) A lawyer who is a candidate for judicial office shall comply with the applicable
7 provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

8 Comment

9 [1] Assessments by lawyers are relied on in evaluating the professional or personal
10 fitness of persons being considered for election or appointment to judicial office.
11 Expressing honest and candid opinions on such matters contributes to improving the
12 administration of justice. Conversely, false statements by a lawyer can unfairly
13 undermine public confidence in the administration of justice.

14 [2] When a lawyer seeks judicial office, the lawyer should be bound by applicable
15 limitations on political activity.

16 [3] To maintain the fair and independent administration of justice, lawyers are
17 encouraged to continue traditional efforts to defend judges, ~~and~~ courts, [and the judicial](#)
18 [system whenever they are](#) unjustly criticized.

19 [3a] Utah has not adopted ABA Model Rule 8.2 because the Utah Rule 8.2 provide
20 appropriate protection to the judiciary.