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## Rehnquist Orders Study on Ethics

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist has ordered a study of federal judicial ethics, citing recent criticism from Congress.

The six-member committee, announced in the May issue of the newsletter of the federal courts, is to be led by Justice Stephen G. Breyer and made up of former chief judges of federal courts and an aide to Chief Justice Rehnquist.

"There has been some recent criticism from Congress about the way in which the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980 is being implemented," the chief justice said in the newsletter, *The Third Branch*, "and I decided that the best way to see if there are any real problems is to have a committee look into it."

Supreme Court justices decide for themselves if they have conflicts of interest, and their decisions are final. The committee will begin meeting next month, about the time the Supreme Court is expected to rule in a controversial case. In that instance, Justice Antonin Scalia decided not to recuse himself from a case involving the task force on energy policy led by Vice President Dick Cheney after going on a hunting trip with him.

Chief Justice Rehnquist has defended Justice Scalia, calling any suggestion that he should recuse himself "ill considered."