



The Supreme Court of Kansas

Kansas Judicial Center

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JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-73

February 3, 1997

QUESTION: May a district judge serve as a trustee for a community organization which was formed for the purpose of providing overall support, advice and resources to action groups within the organization which aim to bring about changes in programs, policies and practices to increase the quality of life for children and youth?

ANSWER: No.

COMMENT: The mission of the organization is to create a healthy, caring and safe community for all children and youth. The mission is intended to be accomplished through the work of a number of action groups composed of law enforcement officers, school officials, social workers, church members, city officials, business leaders, members of the media and other interested persons. The action groups are intended to be pro-active and accomplish changes in programs, policies and practices to increase the quality of life for children and youth.

Canon 4 A(1) requires a judge to conduct all of the judge's extra-judicial activities so that they do not cast reasonable doubt on the judges' capacity to act impartially as a judge. 1996 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 419. Canon 4 C(4) permits a judge to participate in civic and charitable activities that do not reflect adversely upon the judges' impartiality. 1996 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 420. Though the organization's purpose is praiseworthy the vague mission statement does not accommodate the need of the judge to assess

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the propriety of the judge's participation under the constraints of Canons 4 A(1) and 4 C(4). We therefore conclude that judges should not serve as trustees for a community organization of this type.



Adrian J. Allen



E. Newton Vickers

Not participating: Robert H. Miller, Chairman