



The Supreme Court of Kansas

KANSAS JUDICIAL CENTER
301 S.W. 10th Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 157 October 15, 2007


The judge has been asked to become a member of the "Offender Registration Working Group," hereinafter the "group," and he asks whether he can accept this invitation.

The group's most recently issued mission statement provides as follows: "The mission of the Offender Registration Working Group is to bring interested entities and disciplines together in an open forum to address and improve the management of the Registered Offender Program in Kansas by reviewing and making recommendations related to legislation, enforcement and prosecution issues, the supervision of offenders required to register under the Kansas Offender Registration Act, and the overall improvement of administration of justice in this state."

This group is comprised of representatives of various agencies and offices in this state who have a role in Offender Registration laws (primarily K.S.A. 22-4901, et seq.). These participating agencies include the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Corrections, various sheriff's offices, the Juvenile Justice Authority, the Attorney General's Office, various district attorney's offices, a public defender, and a retired Supreme Court Justice.

Canon 4C(3) provides: "A judge may serve as a member, officer, or director of an organization or governmental agency devoted to the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. A judge may assist such an organization in raising funds and may participate in their management and investment, but should not personally participate in public fund-raising activities. A judge may make recommendations to public and private fund-granting agencies on projects and programs concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice. (2006 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 581).

It is very clear that the work of this group consists entirely of matters devoted to the improvement of the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice. The judge may, therefore, accept the invitation and become a member of the group. Also, as a member, the judge may assist the group in raising funds and may participate in their management and investment, but should not personally participate in fund-raising activities.


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