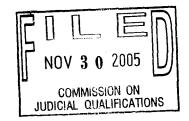


The Supreme Court of Kansas

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



JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 134 November 30, 2005

Question:

May a judge work as a volunteer at a concession stand at a sporting event in

which teams from the judge's children's school participate?

Discussion:

A portion of the profits go to school-related groups. The judge is not identified by name or occupation, though a few customers may recognize the judge and know what he or she does for a living.

Canon 4C(4)(b) provides that "A judge should not solicit funds for any educational . . . organization, or use or permit the use of the prestige of office for that purpose . . ."

The issue here is whether the judge, as a volunteer at a concession stand where candy, soft drinks, sandwiches and similar items are sold at retail, is soliciting funds. Whether the profits go to a local retailer or to school-related organizations is immaterial; the activity described is not a solicitation. To solicit means to entreat, ask earnestly or urge another (for funds.) From the facts presented here, there is no solicitation. Customers merely state what items they want, and pay the listed price. See also JE 78, where we held that preparing and serving a meal as a "celebrity chef", to be auctioned for charity, was not a direct solicitation of funds.

Robert H. Miller, Chairman

Adrian J. Allen

Fred S. Jackson