

The Supreme Court

Kansas Judicial Center

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

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JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 90

August 3, 1999

FACTS:

An attorney who is presently serving as a member of a school board

may soon become a District Magistrate Judge.

QUESTION:

May this person, while serving as District Magistrate Judge, complete

his or her present term on the school board?

DISCUSSION:

As we pointed out in Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-56, while Canon 5A(2), 1998 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 465, prohibits a Judge from becoming a candidate for a nonjudicial office, nothing in the Canons prohibits

him or her from finishing a term of office.

However, we suggest that, although not required by the Canons, the better practice would be for the Judge voluntarily to resign from the school board. Service on the board, it seems to us, would violate the

spirit, but not the letter of the Canons.

ANSWER:

Yes, subject to the suggestion last contained above.

Robert H. Miller, Chairman

Adrian I Allen