



# The Supreme Court of Kansas

Kansas Judicial Center  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507  
JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 102

November 15, 2000

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CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

FACTS:

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RHM*

A District Magistrate Judge keeps a log, or written record, of all cases coming before the judge, and proposes to make this available to local news media. The log, compiled after the case is closed, consists of the defendant's name, the case number, the charge, the date of plea or trial, the sentence, and the name of the defense attorney.

QUESTION:

The judge asks whether furnishing this log to the media is an ethical violation.

ANSWER:

No. We find no canon which would prohibit the release of this information. Canon 3B(9), 1999 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 469, provides in part:

"...This section does not prohibit judges from making public statements in the course of their official duties or from explaining for public information the procedures of the court..."

As a caveat, the judge should not make any comment on pending cases that might reasonably be expected to affect the outcome of the cases or impair the fairness of the proceeding.

*Robert H. Miller*  
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Robert H. Miller, Chairman

*Adrian J. Allen*  
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*Fred S. Jackson*  
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