



The Supreme Court of Kansas

Kansas Judicial Center
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

FILED

2003 APR -4 P 3:44

CLERK APPELLATE COURTS



JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 112

April 4, 2003

QUESTION:

A judge inquires whether court employees and judges may volunteer to cook, serve meals and clean up at a community soup kitchen sponsored by a local church and open to the public daily.

DISCUSSION:

Court employees are not subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct insofar as their civic and charitable activities are concerned. See Application of the Code of Judicial Conduct, 2002 Kan. Ct. R. Annot 526.

A judge "may participate in civic and charitable activities that do not reflect adversely upon the judge's impartiality or interfere with the performance of the judge's judicial duties. . . ." Canon 4C(4) 2002 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 514.

The judge should schedule charitable activities so that they do not interfere with the judge's official duties. The fact that the activity is sponsored by a church would not raise a question as to the judge's impartiality. The meal is offered free to all without regard to church affiliation and the judge reports that the sponsor does not evangelize or proselytize but simply provides a meal.


ANSWER:

We find nothing in the Code of Judicial Conduct which would prohibit the judge from taking part in this charitable activity.

JE 112
April 4, 2003
Page Two


Robert H. Miller, Chairman


Adrian J. Allen


Fred S. Jackson