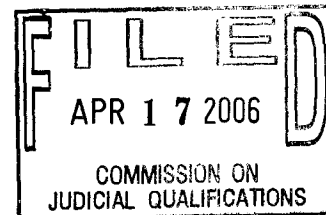




The Supreme Court of Kansas

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



JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 140

April 17, 2006

A judge inquires whether it would be in violation of the Canons if the judge were recognized by the naming of two volunteer awards in his or her honor. The designation of the awards by the judge's name will be by volunteer organizations CASA and Citizen Review Board (CRB). There is no monetary benefit to the judge.

CRB members never appear in court. CASA volunteers regularly attend court hearings pertaining to the child. They rarely testify, but they do submit reports and recommendations to the court. See Rule 110(a)(2), 2005 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 178.

The Legislature recognized the need for special advocates for children, and directed the Supreme Court to adopt rules governing court appointed special advocate programs. K.S.A. 38-1505a. The Supreme Court then adopted Rule 110, 2005 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 178. Citizen Review Boards are also created by statute, K.S.A. 38-1808, 1812, et seq., and are required to make recommendations to the judge.

The judge is not receiving an award; the judge is not receiving a gift of money or anything else. The question the designation of the award raises is: Will the title given this award convey the impression that members of CASA or CRB or the recipient of the awards are in special positions to influence the judge? See Canon 2B, 2005 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 560.


The granting of an award bearing the judge's name does not, in our opinion, place the recipient in a special position to influence the judge, nor does it convey that impression.



Robert H. Miller, Chairman



Adrian J. Allen



Fred S. Jackson