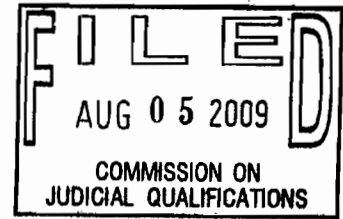




The Supreme Court of Kansas

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



JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 168

August 5, 2009

The judge informs us that the DUI Victims Center of Kansas, a non-profit organization which appears to be an advocacy group, has requested the opportunity to make a presentation to a group that would include judges.

The judge asks whether it would be appropriate for judges to attend this presentation.

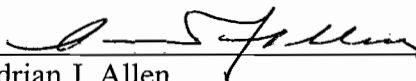
We are told that the purpose of the DUI Victims Center of Kansas is to offer services to DUI victims such as victim impact panels, court advocacy, counseling referrals and court monitoring. We are also told that the mission of this organization is to reduce the traumatic effects DUI incidents have on victims and their families and to increase the awareness of the danger and the human consequences of DUI.

Rule 2.4(C) of the Kansas Code of Judicial Conduct (Rule 601B) provides that "A judge shall not convey or permit others to convey the impression that any person or organization is in a position to influence the judge."

The judge states that the DUI Victims Center of Kansas appears to be an advocacy group, and we agree with that assessment. The attendance of the judge at a presentation by this organization would therefore convey the impression that the organization is in a position to influence the judge.

The appearance of the judge at a presentation by the DUI Victims Center of Kansas would violate Rule 2.4(C) of the Kansas Code of Judicial Conduct.

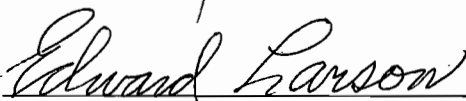
Our conclusion is consistent with our earlier opinions, JE 121 and JE 126.



Adrian J. Allen



Fred S. Jackson



Edward Larson