



# The Supreme Court of Kansas

Kansas Judicial Center

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 82

May 29, 1998



Facts: This request comes from a district judge in a judicial district in which the judges are elected on a partisan basis. The judge making the request is in the middle of a term and is not up for election this year.

Questions:

1. May the requesting judge attend a political reception for a fellow judge who is up for election this year?
2. May the judge contribute money to the fellow judge's campaign committee?

Discussion: The requesting judge was elected in a partisan election. One holding elective office must be politically active not only in the few weeks before an election, but throughout the term. The statute says,

"A judge...subject to public election may ... at any time ... attend political gatherings ... and ... contribute to a political organization." Canon 5 C(1)(a) 1997 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 445-6.

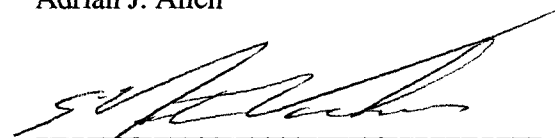
The fellow judge's reception is a "political gathering," to which judges subject to public election may attend. A "political organization" is "a ... group, the principal purpose of which is to further the election ... of candidates to political office." 1997 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 426

The judge's campaign committee is a political organization within that definition.

Answer: We answer both questions in the affirmative.

  
Robert H. Miller, Chairman

  
Adrian J. Allen

  
E. Newton Vickers