



The Supreme Court
of Kansas

Kansas Judicial Center

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

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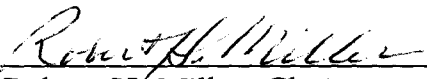
Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 91

September 20, 1999

FACTS: A citizen of the judge's community proposes to make a substantial gift to the local public school foundation. The gift is to be used to fund a classroom and the classroom is to bear the judge's name. The gift is expressly given to honor the judge for "years of service to children and youth." The judge states that the donor is a person who is unlikely to appear in the judge's court.

QUESTION: May a sitting judge permit such a recognition?

ANSWER: Yes. The judge is not "lending the prestige of judicial office to advance (any) private interests ..." The mere fact that a classroom is named after a judge does not "convey the impression that (anyone is) in a special position to influence the judge." See Canon 2B 1998 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 449,450. In the unlikely event that the donor comes before the judge, the judge should, of course, recuse himself or herself. We find no violation of the Canons.


Robert H. Miller, Chairman


Adrian J. Allen