



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

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JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

November 27, 1989

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-31

Topic

Relationship of judge to his spouse's
professional activities. Canon (2)

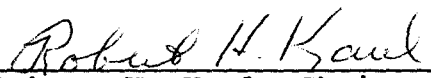
A District Judge's wife is a school teacher and an active member of the local teachers' union. The judge's wife has been asked to serve as a member of the negotiating team on behalf of the teachers to negotiate contracts with the school district. The judge states that he is a close personal friend of the president of the board of education; that in the community it is well known he is a judge and his wife is a school teacher, and that he has an agreement with the other judges of the judicial district that he will not sit in any case involving the school district.

The judge requests an advisory opinion whether his wife's appointment to the negotiating team might constitute a violation of the canons of judicial ethics.

Our answer is "no," provided the judge does not become involved directly or by implication in any matters or proceedings involving the teachers or the school district. In this

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regard, the judge should bear in mind Canon 2, "A judge should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all his activities."


Robert H. Kaul, Chairman


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