



State of Kansas

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JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-35

November 13, 1990

Topic

Judicial Involvement In Legislative Appropriations

Question: A judge is a member of the Development Committee established by the alumni association of his alma mater university. The judge has been asked to personally contact and urge legislators known to him to vote for increased funding of money for his alma mater and other educational institutions similarly funded. The judge inquires if he may do so.

Answer: No. Canon 5B(2) specifically prohibits solicitation of money for this purpose. See also, Abbott, "Judicial Conduct," Journal of Kansas Bar Association, Summer of 1982, page 84. Participation in the legislative process, by a judge, has limitations. While a judge may appear before a legislative body, his private consultation with a legislator is limited to matters concerning the administration of justice. The matter involved here is not limited to the administration of justice.

Robert H. Kaul

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