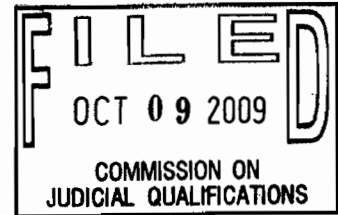




The Supreme Court of Kansas

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



JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 169

October 9, 2009

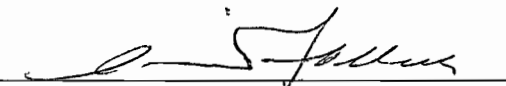
The League of Women Voters of Kansas has invited the judge to attend a forum entitled: "DOES THE KANSAS JUDICIARY REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF OUR STATE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?"

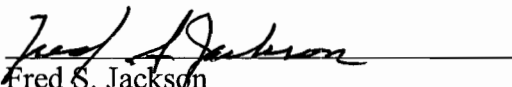
The forum will be held at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. The keynote speaker at this forum will be the executive director of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System. The forum is partially funded by the Transparency and Integrity Fund of the Open Society Institute and the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

The judge has researched both the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System and the Open Society Institute and found that both of these institutes appear to be non-partisan and aimed at improving the legal and judicial systems and that neither appear to be advocacy groups.

The question is whether the Kansas Code of Judicial Conduct would permit sitting judges to attend this forum.

Comment [4] of Rule 1.2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct provides, in part, that judges should participate in activities that support access to justice for all. Rule 3.7(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge may participate in activities sponsored by organizations concerned with the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. This forum is clearly an activity concerning the administration of justice. The judge may, therefore, attend the forum.


Adrian J. Allen


Fred S. Jackson


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