JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 111
April 4, 2003

QUESTION: May a judge serve on a screening panel which will interview candidates and forward names to the Governor for consideration to fill a vacancy in a judicial position in an elective district?

ANSWER: Yes.

DISCUSSION: Canon 4C(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge may serve as a member of an organization devoted to the improvement of the law, the legal system or the administration of justice. 2002 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 514. We believe that the screening panel is such an organization and that judges are in a unique position to make a positive and informed contribution to the work of the screening panel and, as a result, the administration of justice.
Robert H. Miller, Chairman

Adrian J. Allen

Fred S. Jackson