A judge owns a number of law books, acquired during the judge’s practice of law and prior to appointment or election to the bench. The judge would like to sell the books, and an attorney who occasionally appears before the judge is a possible buyer. The judge states that the sale will be “at something akin to fair market value, whatever that may prove to be.”

What Canons – if any – apply?

Canon 4D(1)(b) prohibits frequent transactions between a judge and lawyers likely to come before the court. The proposed transaction would be an isolated sale, at market value, which would not be a violation of the Canons.

Robert H. Miller, Chairman

Adrian J. Allen

Fred S. Jackson