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JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

March 26, 1987

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-20

Question: May a judge participate in a fund raising operation for a non-profit organization wherein the judge will submit to a mock arrest and furnish bail by means of soliciting funds from family, friends, businesses, clubs, etc.?

Answer: While the operation appears to be for a worthy cause, sponsored by a credible nationally recognized organization, the judge's proposed participation obviously falls within the proscription of Canon 5B(2) which provides in pertinent part:

"A judge should not solicit funds for any educational, religious, charitable, fraternal or civic organizations, or use or permit the use of his office for that purpose."

As we have heretofore stated the antisolicitation rule should be given a strict interpretation. See our Judicial Ethics Opinions JE-16 and 18.

Robert H. Kaul, Chairman

John W. Brookens

Harry G. Miller