



State of Kansas

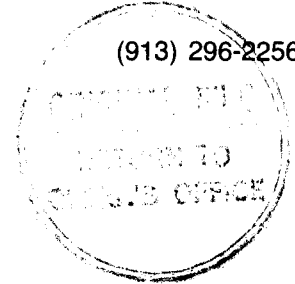
Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center
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JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

October 30, 1987



Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-22

A travel agent/broker is seeking the assistance of a judge in setting up either a legal or a medical-legal seminar in a resort in Canada. The chosen site is a quality resort which offers commodious space for appropriate lectures and additionally offers attractive recreational opportunities to seminar registrants and their families. The owner of the resort is a close personal friend of the judge, and the judge and his family have spent many vacations there in past years, all of which is well known to members of the bar in the judge's judicial district.

The judge is asked to assist the agent/broker in obtaining bar association membership lists for solicitation purposes, and to assist in arranging for speakers and current legal and/or medical topics of interest to participants. The judge may be a panel member lecturer or moderator at the seminar, and as such, his name will appear in advance brochures announcing the seminar. The judge will be in a position to truthfully endorse the facilities as one where a meaningful conference can be held and family activities can be pursued jointly in an extremely beautiful North Woods setting.

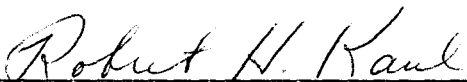
It is anticipated the seminar will be approved for CLE credits.

The judge will not receive compensation or other financial benefit for his cooperation and services in this connection.

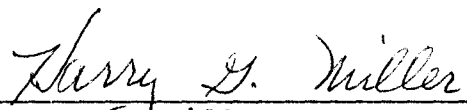
Question: Does the above prospective conduct on the part of the judge violate Canon 2 by allowing some inference that the judge is lending the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of another person?

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Answer: Canon 2 states, in pertinent part, a judge "should not lend the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of others." Therefore, it is our opinion that if the seminar has advance CLE credit approval, the judge may act as a moderator or lecturer at the seminar and may act as an advisor but may not become engaged in the marketing aspects of the project.


Robert H. Kaul, Chairman


John W. Brookens


Harry G. Miller