JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-55

February 10, 1995

Question: A judge’s wife shares office space and office overhead with other attorneys. Must the judge recuse himself when the “other attorneys” appear before him?

Answer: The judge’s wife is an individual practitioner. She is not a member of a firm or professional association and has no interest in fees earned by the “other attorneys.”

Under these circumstances, where she has no financial interest in the outcome of cases handled by the “other attorneys,” the judge is not disqualified and need not recuse himself.

Robert H. Miller, Chairman

Adrian J. Allen

E. Newton Vickers