

Formal

RECEIVED

NOV 01 1979

JUDICIAL ETHICS OPINION JE-2

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

Question #1: Can a judge actively campaign for and support a judicial candidate in a judicial race?

Answer: No.

Question #2: Can a judge in a responsible manner publicly endorse a judicial candidate as being qualified to serve in a judicial capacity?

Answer: No.

Reference: SCR 4.300, Canon 7A(1).

Opinion: (October 1979)

Canon 7A(1) explicitly states: "A judge or a candidate for election to judicial office should not . . . (b) Make speeches for a political organization or candidate or publicly endorse a candidate for public office."

The Canon does not make any exception for judicial candidates nor for nonpartisan elections. Therefore, campaigning for or publicly endorsing a candidate for judicial office would be in direct conflict with this Canon.


Chairman, Judicial Ethics Committee

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE COURTS