



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE KENTUCKY JUDICIARY**  
403 WAPPING STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

**ANTHONY M. WILHOIT**  
Court of Appeals

**THOMAS J. KNOPF**  
District Court

**JOSEPH H. ECKERT**  
Circuit Court

**B. M. WESTBERRY, CHAIRMAN**  
Attorney

**UHEL O. BARRICKMAN**  
Attorney

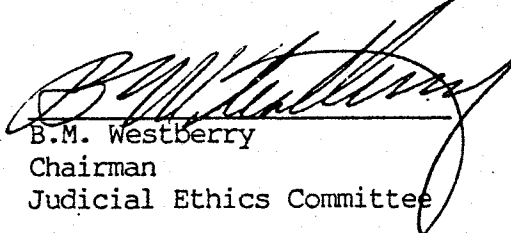
Judicial Ethics Opinion  
JE - 72

Formal

Question: Is a sitting Judge ethically permitted to change his name to Judge John Doe so that it may be printed that way on the ballot? Would his opponent be permitted to do the same?

Answer: A sitting Judge may ethically change his name to Judge John Doe. His opponent would not be permitted to do so unless he presently or previously held the office of judge.

A majority of the Judicial Ethics Committee does not believe that the Canons of Judicial Ethics address this particular question. Rather the question is governed by Judicial Ethics Opinion JE - 45: a judicial candidate's campaign must be truthful. Candidates who presently or previously held the office of judge would be permitted to change their names to Judge John Doe. Other name changes would have to be considered on a case by case basis.

  
B.M. Westberry  
Chairman  
Judicial Ethics Committee