



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE KENTUCKY JUDICIARY  
STATE CAPITOL

700 CAPITAL AVENUE, SUITE 200  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-3489

ANTHONY M. WILHOIT  
COURT OF APPEALS

DANIEL SCHNEIDER  
CIRCUIT COURT

B. M. WESTBERRY, CHAIRMAN  
ATTORNEY

STEPHEN P. RYAN  
DISTRICT COURT

UHEL O. BARRICKMAN  
ATTORNEY

JUDICIAL ETHICS OPINION JE-89

May 14, 1997

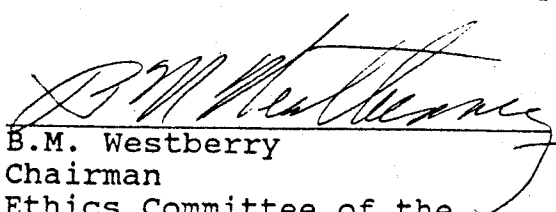
Issue: May a Circuit Judge serve as President of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Council on Child Abuse ?

Answer: No.

The question presented is whether a Circuit Judge may serve as President of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Council on Child Abuse. A majority of the Ethics Committee believes the answer must be no.

A Circuit Judge in the performance of his duties must from time to time adjudicate cases involving child abuse whether in the form of a criminal prosecution or domestic cases. Even the most reprehensible child abuser is entitled to a hearing by an impartial Judge. While the Committee is convinced that the Judge in question would be fair and impartial, for him to serve as President of an organization dedicated to curbing child abuse would give the appearance of partiality in violation of Canon 1 of the Code of Judicial Ethics.

This case is similar to our holding that a Domestic Relations Commissioner could not head up a Pro-Life rally.

  
B.M. Westberry  
Chairman  
Ethics Committee of the  
Kentucky Judiciary