



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE KENTUCKY JUDICIARY
STATE CAPITOL

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

ROBERT W. DYCHE, III
COURT OF APPEALS

STEPHEN P. RYAN
CIRCUIT COURT

B. M. WESTBERRY, CHAIRMAN
ATTORNEY

JAMES L. BOWLING
DISTRICT COURT

UHEL O. BARRICKMAN
ATTORNEY

JUDICIAL ETHICS OPINION JE-93

April 1, 1998

Issue: May a judicial candidate purchase a ticket to a political dinner? May he or she run an ad in the brochure printed as a program for the dinner?

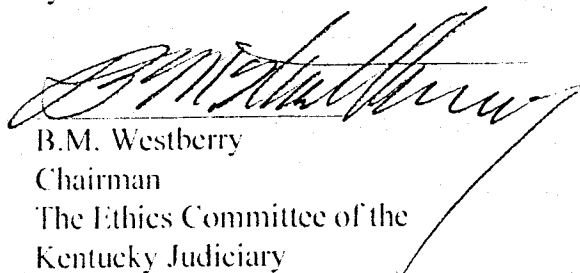
Answer: While the language of the Code could be clearer, the Committee believes the proper interpretation is that a judicial candidate may purchase a ticket if he or she intends to attend the dinner to campaign on his or her own behalf. Running a campaign ad in the brochure, however, is prohibited.

Issue 2: May a judicial candidate state that he or she is endorsed by the Legislative Chairperson of a particular district?

Answer: No.

While the language of the Code could be clearer, the Committee believes that a judicial candidate may purchase a ticket to a political dinner if he or she intends to attend the dinner to campaign on his or her own behalf. Canon 7. Running a campaign ad in the dinner's brochure, however, is specifically prohibited by the Code as it constitutes a contribution to a political party. In addition, the campaign ad in the party's brochure serves to identify the candidate with the party and this is prohibited. Prior opinions to the contrary by this Committee are overruled.

The Judicial Ethics Code does not apply to Legislative Chairpersons. They may do what they want. A judicial candidate, however, may not advertise the endorsement of a particular Legislative Chair.



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