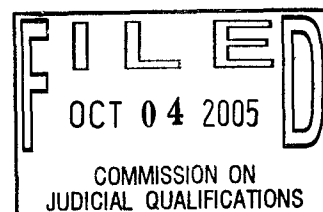




# The Supreme Court of Kansas

KANSAS JUDICIAL CENTER  
301 S.W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507



## JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

### Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 131

October 4, 2005

A judge ask two questions: (1) whether it is permissible for a judge to attend open houses sponsored by law firms, at which there will be hors d'oeuvres and beverages. And (2) whether a judge may accept an invitation from a law firm to a complimentary round of golf, including poker, food, refreshments and prizes.


As to the first question, assuming the open houses are open to practicing attorneys and friends of the firm, we see no reason why judges cannot attend.

As to the second question, only a select few could be invited to the round of golf, which in itself is an expense much greater than the cost of entertaining each guest at an open house. Canon 2, 2004 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 539, provides that "A. A judge . . . shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."

As noted in the Commentary, 2004 Kan Ct. R. Annot. 540, "The test for appearance of impropriety is whether the conduct would create in reasonable minds a perception that the judge's ability to carry out judicial responsibilities with integrity, impartiality and competence is impaired."

The golf and poker affair would involve significantly more expense per guest than the open house, and we conclude that it would create a perception of impropriety. The judge should not accept the golf and poker invitation.

  
Robert H. Miller, Chairman

  
Fred S. Jackson

Adrian J. Allen is not participating.