



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center
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JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

January 6, 1987

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-27

Topic

Endorsement of a Candidate for Public Office by a Judge

A vacancy having occurred in an elective judicial district, the local bar committee has recommended three members of the bar for the position. A sitting judge of the judicial district inquires if he may endorse one of the three candidates by writing a letter of recommendation addressed to the Governor.

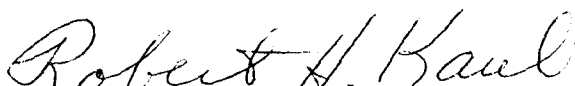
The question posed is controlled by Canon 7 A(1)(b), which provides in pertinent part,

"A judge or a candidate for judicial office should not:
...publicly endorse a candidate for public office."

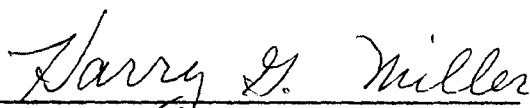
In consideration of the facts as presented to us, we believe the proposed letter of endorsement amounts to publicly endorsing a candidate for public office by a judge as expressly prohibited by the provisions of Canon 7. It is our opinion

continued

that the rule is likewise applicable in nonpartisan judicial districts.


Robert H. Kaul, Chairman


John W. Brookens


Harry G. Miller