

**PARTICIPATION OF JUDGE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE
ORGANIZATION FUNDRAISING
Opinion No. 299 (2015)**

QUESTION: May the judge of a juvenile court participate in the making of a video for a community service agency that is intended to raise money for the agency?

ANSWER: No. Such activity would violate Canon 2B, which provides, "A judge should not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others; nor shall a judge convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge." A judge's helping to raise funds for the community service agency would inevitably cause other agencies and litigants to question the impartiality of the judge in utilizing that service or to perceive that the judge is lending the prestige of the judge's office to the private interests of that agency. In addition, this activity would indicate that the agency held some special position in relation to the judiciary. Canon 2A requires that a judge "act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the . . . impartiality of the judiciary."

Finally, Canon 4A provides, "A judge shall conduct all of the judge's extra-judicial activities so that they do not: (1) cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge." To appear on a video promoting this agency could call into question the judge's impartiality when the agency was under consideration for a referral to its program by the judge.