



The Supreme Court of Kansas


Kansas Judicial Center
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

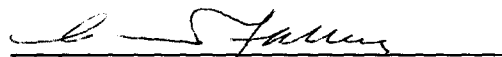
JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL


Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-71

October 25, 1996

- FACTS:** Prior to taking the bench, a judge had been appointed as a guardian ad litem for a minor. Some months after the judge took the bench, it became apparent that the minor has a claim for personal injuries.
- QUESTION:** May the judge refer the minor's claim to a lawyer and claim a "referral" fee?
- ANSWER:** No. This is not the winding up of the judge's former law practice; this is new business. The judge did not have the minor's claim for personal injuries in his office when he took the bench; the claim was first recognized months later. The judge had not been employed on this claim. A judge is not a practicing lawyer and may not refer cases and accept referral fees. Canon 4 G, 1995 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 415.


Robert H. Miller


Adrian J. Allen


E. Newton Vickers