



Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications

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ADVISORY OPINION

Code of Judicial Conduct
Canon 7

#6-90

The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications issues the following advisory opinion concerning the Code of Judicial Conduct. The views of the Commission are not necessarily those of a majority of the Indiana Supreme Court, the ultimate arbiter of judicial disciplinary issues. Compliance with an opinion of the Commission will be considered by it to be a good faith effort to comply with the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Commission may withdraw any opinion.

ISSUE

The issue is whether a judicial spouse may be a member of Partners in Politics without compromising the judge's duties under Canon 7 to refrain from improper political activity and to encourage family members to do the same.

ANALYSIS

Partners in Politics is a national organization created to provide education, information, and support for families of office holders and others in visible, public positions. Its objectives, in part, are to increase the awareness in these families of the unique stresses in their lives and to offer a variety of programs to enhance their well-being. The Indiana judge's spouse who made this inquiry to the Commission expressed concern that her membership in Partners in Politics, because its name evokes an image of partisan politics, might constitute a Canon 7 violation. Despite its name, Partners in Politics is a non-partisan, apolitical organization. Membership is not political activity and even a judge could properly join. In fact, membership in this worthwhile group is to be encouraged.

CONCLUSION

A judicial spouse, or a judge, does not violate the Code of Judicial Conduct by joining Partners in Politics.