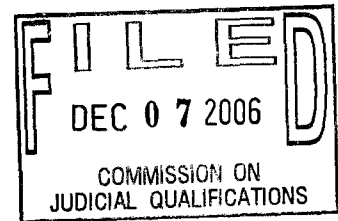




The Supreme Court of Kansas

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




JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

Judicial Ethics Opinion JE 148 December 7, 2006


The judge has received a request from Martindale-Hubbell for an opinion as to a local lawyer's legal ability and general ethical standards. Martindale-Hubbell assures the judge that his response would be confidential. The judge believes he has sufficient knowledge of the lawyer's skill and general ethical conduct to respond and he also believes that his opinion would be helpful to Martindale-Hubbell in ranking the lawyer.

The judge asks whether a response to this request would violation Canon 2B.

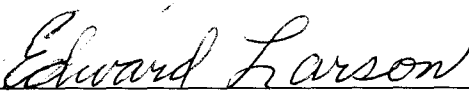
Canon 2B (2006 Kan. Ct. R. Annot. 570) provides, in part, that "a judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of . . . others." The commentaries and this Canon provide that a judge may, based on the judge's personal knowledge, serve as a reference or provide a letter of recommendation. We, therefore, believe that a response by the judge to the Martindale-Hubbell request would not violation Canon 2B.



Adrian J. Allen, Chairman



Fred S. Jackson



Edward Larson