

1 **RULE 3.7**

2 *Participation in Educational, Religious, Charitable, Fraternal, or*
3 *Civic Organizations and Activities*

4 **(A) Subject to the requirements of Rule 3.1, a judge may participate**
5 **in activities sponsored by organizations or governmental entities**
6 **concerned with the law,* the legal system, or the administration of**
7 **justice, and those sponsored by or on behalf of educational, religious,**
8 **charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations not conducted for profit,**
9 **including but not limited to the following activities:**

10 **(1) assisting such an organization or entity in planning related to**
11 **fund-raising, and participating in the management and investment of**
12 **the organization's or entity's funds;**

13 ~~**(2) participate directly in fundraising for activities sponsored by the**~~
14 ~~**judiciary, except the judge may not solicit funds from individuals or**~~
15 ~~**entities that have cases pending before the judge or that regularly**~~
16 ~~**appear in the court of which the judge is a member soliciting funds**~~
17 ~~**from government entities and not-for-profit entities or foundations for**~~
18 ~~**projects or expenses authorized by the Judicial Council or Supreme**~~
19 ~~**Court;**~~

20 **(3) soliciting contributions* for such an organization or entity, but**
21 **only from members of the judge's family,* or from judges over whom**
22 **the judge does not exercise supervisory or appellate authority;**

23 **(4) soliciting membership for such an organization or entity, even**
24 **though the membership dues or fees generated may be used to**
25 **support the objectives of the organization or entity, but only if the**
26 **organization or entity is concerned with the law, the legal system, or**
27 **the administration of justice;**

28 **(5) appearing or speaking at, receiving an award or other**
29 **recognition at, being featured on the program of, and permitting his or**
30 **her title to be used in connection with an event of such an**
31 **organization or entity, but if the event serves a fund-raising purpose,**
32 **the judge may participate only if the event concerns the law, the legal**
33 **system, or the administration of justice;**

34 **(6) making recommendations to such a public or private fund-**
35 **granting organization or entity in connection with its programs and**

36 activities, but only if the organization or entity is concerned with the
37 law, the legal system, or the administration of justice; and

38 (7) serving as an officer, director, trustee, or nonlegal advisor of
39 such an organization or entity, unless it is likely that the organization
40 or entity:

41 (a) will be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come
42 before the judge; or

43 (b) will frequently be engaged in adversary proceedings in the
44 court of which the judge is a member or in any court subject to the
45 appellate jurisdiction of the court of which the judge is a member.

46 (B) A judge may encourage lawyers to provide pro bono publico
47 legal services.

48 COMMENT

49 [1] The activities permitted by paragraph (A) generally include those
50 sponsored by or undertaken on behalf of public or private not-for-profit
51 educational institutions and other not-for-profit organizations, including law-
52 related, charitable, and other organizations.

53 [2] Even for law-related organizations, a judge should consider whether
54 the membership and purposes of the organization or the nature of the
55 judge's participation in or association with the organization would conflict
56 with the judge's obligation to refrain from activities that reflect adversely
57 upon a judge's independence, integrity, and impartiality.

58 [3] Mere attendance at an event, whether or not the event serves a fund-
59 raising purpose, does not constitute a violation of paragraph (A)(4). It is
60 also generally permissible for a judge to serve as an usher or a food server
61 or preparer or to perform similar functions at fund-raising events sponsored
62 by educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations. Such
63 activities are not solicitation and do not present an element of coercion or
64 abuse the prestige of judicial office.

65 [4] Identification of a judge's position in educational, religious, charitable,
66 fraternal, or civic organizations on letterhead used for fund-raising or
67 membership solicitation does not violate this Rule. The letterhead may list
68 the judge's title or judicial office if comparable designations are used for
69 other persons.

70 [5] In addition to appointing lawyers to serve as counsel for indigent
71 parties in individual cases, a judge may promote broader access to justice

72 by encouraging lawyers to participate in pro bono publico legal services, if
73 in doing so the judge does not employ coercion or abuse the prestige of
74 judicial office. Such encouragement may take many forms, including
75 providing lists of available programs, training lawyers to do pro bono
76 publico legal work, and participating in events recognizing lawyers who
77 have done pro bono publico work.