

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.**

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

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

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

31 **(56)** making recommendations to such a public or private fund-
32 granting organization or entity in connection with its programs and
33 activities, but only if the organization or entity is concerned with the
34 law, the legal system, or the administration of justice; and

35 **(67) serving as an officer, director, trustee, or nonlegal advisor of**
36 **such an organization or entity, unless it is likely that the organization**
37 **or entity:**

38 **(a) will be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come**
39 **before the judge; or**

40 **(b) will frequently be engaged in adversary proceedings in the**
41 **court of which the judge is a member or in any court subject to the**
42 **appellate jurisdiction of the court of which the judge is a member.**

43 **(B) A judge may encourage lawyers to provide pro**
44 **bono publico legal services.**

45 **COMMENT**

46 [1] The activities permitted by paragraph (A) generally include those
47 sponsored by or undertaken on behalf of public or private not-for-profit
48 educational institutions and other not-for-profit organizations, including law-
49 related, charitable, and other organizations.

50 [2] Even for law-related organizations, a judge should consider whether
51 the membership and purposes of the organization or the nature of the
52 judge's participation in or association with the organization would conflict
53 with the judge's obligation to refrain from activities that reflect adversely
54 upon a judge's independence, integrity, and impartiality.

55 [3] Mere attendance at an event, whether or not the event serves a fund-
56 raising purpose, does not constitute a violation of paragraph (A)(4). It is
57 also generally permissible for a judge to serve as an usher or a food server
58 or preparer or to perform similar functions at fund-raising events sponsored
59 by educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organizations. Such
60 activities are not solicitation and do not present an element of coercion or
61 abuse the prestige of judicial office.

62 [4] Identification of a judge's position in educational, religious, charitable,
63 fraternal, or civic organizations on letterhead used for fund-raising or
64 membership solicitation does not violate this Rule. The letterhead may list
65 the judge's title or judicial office if comparable designations are used for
66 other persons.

67 [5] In addition to appointing lawyers to serve as counsel for indigent
68 parties in individual cases, a judge may promote broader access to justice
69 by encouraging lawyers to participate in pro bono publico legal services, if
70 in doing so the judge does not employ coercion or abuse the prestige of

71 judicial office. Such encouragement may take many forms, including
72 providing lists of available programs, training lawyers to do pro
73 bono publico legal work, and participating in events recognizing lawyers
74 who have done pro bono publico work.