

COMMITTEE ON CODES OF CONDUCT
ADVISORY OPINION NO. 15

Judge Serving as Director of Nonprofit Club.

A judge has asked whether it is proper to serve as a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit social club and as a member of the board of directors of another nonprofit club whose object is to promote an interest in and to enlighten its membership on important governmental, economic and social issues. The judge receives no compensation for providing services to either club.

We assume that the latter club does not engage in partisan political activity, and does not take positions on governmental, economic and social issues which would embarrass the judge in the exercise of judicial duties. We, therefore, do not believe that serving as a member of the board of directors of either institution violates any existing canon of judicial ethics.

Whether a judge should decide to serve as a director of a particular club or similar organization depends upon many factors, which may vary from one community to another, but to which a judge must be sensitive, particularly since so many social and economic questions come before our courts. Canons 2C and 5B and the Commentary thereto set forth some of the factors that should be considered.

January 21, 1970

Revised January 16, 1998