The Arkansas Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee issued an advisory opinion to Judge Marion A. Humphrey of Little Rock, Arkansas. Judge Humphrey requested an opinion as to whether it would be acceptable for judges to support candidates for political office.

The Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee stated that Canon 5(A)(1)(b) of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct states that a judge shall not…“publicly endorse or publicly oppose another candidate for public office.”

The Committee concluded that it would violate the Code of Judicial Conduct, if a judge were to support candidates for political office.

A copy of the advisory opinion is attached.
October 16, 2007

The Honorable Marion A. Humphrey  
Circuit Judge  
401 West Markham, Room 420  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  

RE: JEAC 2007-03

Dear Judge Humphrey:

In your request for an advisory opinion you asked if it is acceptable for judges to support candidates for political office.

Canon 5(A)(1)(b) states that a judge shall not…. “publicly endorse or publicly oppose another candidate for public office.” It is quite clear that your publicly endorsing or opposing a candidate for public office would be in violation of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct.

With respect to the other issues mentioned in your request, please refer to our Opinion 2006-02 addressed to you and dated May 8, 2006 which we hereby affirm.

For the Committee,

Edwin B. Alderson, Jr.