

**OPINIONS OF THE
JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOPICAL INDEX**



Opinions 1972/1 through 2021/18

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Participation in former law firm's retirement plan: [18/11](#)

Party represented by judges former campaign opponent or opponent's law partners: [19/03](#)

Personal animosity between judge and litigant: [84/6](#)

Presiding over criminal cases involving public defender's office after spouse/elected public defender has retired when spouse may have been privy to privileged communications: [08/18](#)

Presiding over criminal cases involving public defender's office after spouse/elected public defender may be called to testify in post-conviction hearings: [08/18](#)

Presiding over criminal cases involving public defender's office after spouse/elected public defender's retirement: [08/18](#)

Previous voluntary standing recusal order: [09/01](#)

Prior attorney-client relationship: [95/29](#), [05/05](#), [17/17](#)

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Referral; firm to whom judge made before taking bench: [15/10](#)

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Son, employed by law firm appearing before judge: [06/26](#)

Son-in-law, employed as student law clerk: [07/16](#)

Son-in-law is candidate for office of public defender: [00/11](#)

Son's law firm represents party in family law case and parties have child appearing before judge in delinquency case: [06/27](#)

Spouse, attorney for Legal Aid: [97/25](#)

Spouse, child victim specialist in state attorney's office: [03/08](#)

Spouse, court reporter: [93/10](#)

Spouse, district program administrator, HRS: [90/23](#)

Spouse, elected public defender: [01/05](#)

Spouse employed as assistant public defender: [91/17](#)

Spouse employed as licensed stock broker: [90/13](#)

Spouse employed as paralegal in law firm with lawyers appearing before judge: [07/14](#)

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Spouse has business relationship with attorney: [05/06](#), [17/03](#)

Spouse is supervisor of state attorney's office: **[11/21](#) recedes from [77/12](#) and [77/4](#)**

Spouse, member of electric cooperative: [76/14](#)

Spouse represents party in unrelated matter: [99/28](#)

Spouse, retired public defender: [08/18](#)

Stepson as attorney: [91/1](#)

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Traffic magistrate working as independent contractor with law firm that handles traffic cases: [07/01](#)

Traffic magistrate's spouse is deputy sheriff: [93/18](#)

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Domestic Violence:

Attendance, lunch sponsored by local domestic abuse council: [95/40](#)

Attending and answering questions at meetings of domestic violence council: [01/14](#)

Attending fund-raiser for awareness-raising non-profit organization: [13/18](#)

Disclosure to party's employer of nonpublic information that judge acquired in domestic violence injunction case: [15/03](#)

Facilitator, batterers groups in spouse's domestic violence program: [98/30](#)

Fellow domestic violence council members operating for-profit batterers intervention program: [01/14](#)

Letter urging grant funding for victims' advocates: [02/09](#)

Member, domestic violence clemency panel: [96/16](#)

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Member, domestic violence education committee: [09/11](#)

Member, non-profit organization providing services to battered women and counseling to defendants: [91/22](#)

Member, victims' rights organization: [98/8](#), [01/14](#)

Public service announcement explaining issues and process in domestic violence division: [18/23](#)

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Referral to domestic violence program owned by county judge and his spouse: [98/29](#)

Spouse, owns and/or operates domestic violence program: [98/29](#), [98/30](#)

Task force: [94/33](#), [94/38](#), [95/14](#)

Teaching at one-day training session for judges, magistrates, and court staff: [15/04](#)

Website, including link for assistance for domestic violence victims: [11/01](#)

Donations by Judges:

DUI (DWI) Countermeasures Program School, service on board of directors: [86/8](#)

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Judge's contribution to judicial assistant's student government campaign: [08/07](#)

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Solicitation for donations to reward probationers' good behavior: [07/18](#)

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Dual Employment:

Judge may not work for for-profit business on commission basis securing investors: [16/12](#)

Civil traffic hearing officer serving simultaneously as municipality's local hearing officer: [13/15](#)

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Electronic Recording of Court Proceedings:

Whether judge may allow attorneys and reporters to tape proceedings: [74/1](#) (former Canon 3A(7), now in Rules of Judicial Administration)

Endorsement:

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Appearance in family photograph to be used in spouse's political campaign: [07/13](#)

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Appearing in documentary film which will be used as marketing tool: [06/14](#)

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Attending meet-and-greet functions for spouse's nonpartisan candidacy for public office: [07/13](#)

Campaign fund-raising letter from judge's parents: [08/09](#)

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Endorsing judicial candidates by mailing brochures of three judicial candidates in one envelope: [04/29 \(Election\)](#)

Incumbent judge endorsing judicial candidate: [04/30 \(Election\)](#)

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Participating in panel discussion on problem of underage drinking for MADD: [06/17](#)

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Receiving and publishing endorsement for election from senior assistant county attorney and municipal code enforcement special master/magistrate: [08/12](#)

Receiving and publishing endorsement for election from state attorney, sheriff, or police chief and indicating individual's title: [14/11](#)

Spouse, elected official, appearing in judge's campaign photo: [06/13 \(Election\)](#)

Spokesperson for DHSMV child safety campaign: [01/03](#)

Traffic hearing officer endorsing judicial candidate: [02/10 \(Elections\)](#), [03/09](#)

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Use of endorsement of retired judge: [06/24 \(Election\)](#)

Use of photo of judge candidate being sworn in by now-deceased former judge: [14/10](#)

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Appearance in family photograph to be used in spouse's political campaign: [07/13](#)

Attending meet-and-greet functions for spouse's nonpartisan candidacy for public office: [07/13](#)

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Purchase of house from estate in probate before judge: [76/5](#)

Receiving fee as trustee of father's (family) estate: [90/11](#), [95/7](#)

Trustee of named property in will: [00/01](#)

Ex Parte Communication:

Meeting with Children's Legal Services attorneys to discuss docket management, scheduling issues, and motion practice, without inviting other stakeholders: [20/05](#)

Speaking about trial the result of which is being appealed: [11/16](#)

Twitter account with open privacy setting: [13/14](#)

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Game with Miami Dolphins: [88/5](#)

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Appearance in family photograph to be used in spouse's political campaign: [07/13](#)

Attending meet-and-greet functions for spouse's nonpartisan candidacy for public office: [07/13](#)

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Solicitation for donations to reward probationers' good behavior: [07/18](#)

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Signing and circulating petition to have victims in unresolved case honored on postage stamp: [98/7](#)

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Appearance before county commission to appeal for funds allocated by advisory committee: [93/39](#)

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Appearing in fund-raising ballet production sponsored by ballet company which is charitable organization and allowing production to use judge's name and title to advertise event: [08/22](#)

Attendance, citizens' police academy: [00/04](#)

Attending and answering questions at domestic violence council meetings: [01/14](#)

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Attending guardian ad litem program's annual holiday party: [06/06](#)

Attending luncheons and membership in lobbying group: [01/13](#)

Author, crime novel: [98/1](#)

Author, legal article: [00/02](#)

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Awarding professionalism awards to attorneys: [99/18](#)

Board member, hospice: [06/28](#)

Board of directors of non-profit organization designed to inspire excellence in leadership: [4/26](#)

Board of directors of non-profit organization serving needs of blind persons: [04/26](#)

Board of professional publication on criminal justice and mentally ill persons: [01/07](#)

Board of trustees for branch campus of state university: [07/08](#)

Broadcast of criminal arraignments and contract with television network: [11/18](#)

Chairman, Family Law Section: [90/13](#)

Charity fashion show: [98/32](#)

Charity fund-raiser luncheon, member of wait staff: [11/14](#)

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Church law course, religious university: [97/26](#)

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Cook-off competition that is not fund-raiser: [13/17](#)

Editorial board of legal publication: [90/5](#), [01/07](#)

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Facilitator, batterers intervention program: [98/30](#)

Fund-raising in concession stand at child's school: [00/17](#)

Fund-raiser at judge's home: [01/09](#)

Grade bar exams: [89/11](#)

Hole sponsor at YLS hosted charity golf tournament: **[11/15](#) recedes from [10/23](#) and [10/30](#)**

Human trafficking issues, serving as chair of board of advocacy organization relating to: [14/25](#)

Income: [73/8](#), [75/1](#)

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Internet company providing family law information: [07/21](#)

Judicial campaign activities, regular court hours: [97/34](#)

Legal seminar, speaker: [87/3](#)

Letter soliciting membership or contributions to legal aid: [00/06](#)

Local bar committee: [00/28](#)

Mayor's task force on mortgage fraud: [08/01](#)

Mediation/arbitration team: [88/4](#)

Mediator recommendation by judge: [08/01](#)

Member, The Florida Bar Board of Governors: [04/34](#)

Member, victims' rights organization: [98/8](#)

Membership on domestic violence council with operators of for-profit batterer's intervention program: [01/14](#)

Membership on military academy selection committee: [06/04](#)

National Substance Use Disorder Strategic Advisory Panel: [21/15](#)

Officer, for-profit corporation: [97/35](#)

Officer in community-based non-profit organization: [03/01](#)

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Planning council fund-raising for university: [08/01](#)

Political action committee: [02/14](#), [13/20](#)

President of non-profit organization promoting women in positions of leadership: [04/26](#)

Private mediation: [02/01](#)

Public appeal for foster parents: [14/23](#)

Public school system, organization assisting, promoting, supporting: [11/05](#)

Public service announcement: [13/10](#)

Purchasing advertisement that congratulates award recipient when advertisement would appear in program materials distributed at fund-raising luncheon for Anti-Defamation League and advertisement would include judge's name: [08/23](#)

Real estate license: [90/11](#)

Retired judge advertising mediation services: [07/12](#)

School Advisory Council for public school, serving on: [16/11](#)

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Service as officer of Kiwanis and legal aid society: [00/25](#)

Service on advisory board for affordable housing: [06/23](#)

Service on advisory board for local law enforcement block grant: [97/24](#)

Service on Advisory Council of Women's Development Center: [93/66](#)

Service on board of county's Public Policy Institute: [06/23](#)

Service on board of organization providing prepaid legal service plans: [99/20](#)

Service on county commission on substance abuse: [99/07](#)

Service on county fire board: [99/11](#)

Service on county's children's advisory board: [93/46](#)

Service on county's criminal justice commission and statutory children's services council: [97/20](#)

Service on governing board of local United Way organization: [98/2](#)

Service on hospital ethics committee: [03/07](#)

Service on mayor's victims' assistance advisory council: [98/26](#)

Service on municipality's children's commission: [01/16](#)

Service on police sergeant promotion committee: [93/20](#)

Serving as board member of local community children's alliance: [05/09](#)

Serving as celebrity waiter/server at breakfast for local community children's alliance: [05/09](#)

Serving as guest speaker at dinner honoring law enforcement and other public safety officers: [05/02](#)

Serving as wait staff for charitable organization's fund-raiser: [11/14](#)

Serving in leadership capacity of community based non-profit organization and publishing letter inviting leaders to address issues raised in organization's study of race relations: [04/32](#)

Serving on board or as presenter at symposium of child advocacy center: [05/09](#)

Serving on committee concerning family violence and its reduction: [05/09](#)

Serving on committees or organizations chaired by elected officials, possibly in their election year: [05/09](#)

Serving on executive committee of non-profit, charitable organization: [08/20](#)

Serving on executive committee of non-profit museum: [08/20](#)

Serving on city or county ethics commission: [09/06](#), [21/06](#)

Serving on panel at continuing legal education (CLE) seminar sponsored by private organization: [07/09](#)

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Soliciting directly from public on behalf of non-profit organization when identity of judge is unknown and/or disguised: [04/36](#)

Soliciting donations as member of Florida Supreme Court standing committee: [12/04](#)

Soliciting funds for defraying cost of hosting annual conference of National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts: [18/25](#)

Soliciting “incentive gifts” from lawyers or law firms for use as rewards to drug court program defendants/participants: [07/05](#)

Speaking at college alumni banquet: [99/15](#)

Speaking at plaintiffs and/or defense bar association functions on law-related or trial law-related subjects: [00/14](#)

Speaking at the estate planning council: [93/54](#)

Speaking to community groups regarding dangers of online predators: [06/30](#)

Speaking to partisan political group: [97/30](#)

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Spokesperson, with promotional photos, for DHSMV child safety program: [01/03](#)

Taping public service announcement for not-for-profit organization: [00/15](#)

Twitter account with open privacy setting: [13/14](#)

Volunteer, county domestic violence task team: [06/28](#)

Volunteer member and officer of board of directors of non-profit rural health clinic:

06/28

Volunteer on county sheriff's sexual assault response team: 06/28

Volunteering on sheriff department's mounted unit in county within judge's circuit:
06/28

Website designed to focus high school students on preparation for higher education:
11/01

Writing letters of support for different organizations: 05/09

Family:

Advising spouse's cousin who is personal representative of spouse's aunt's estate: 04/15

Appearance in family photograph to be used in spouse's political campaign: 07/13, 16/07,
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As executor: 79/9

As trustee: 90/11, 95/11

Attending meet-and-greet functions for spouse's nonpartisan candidacy for public office:
07/13

Awareness of family activities: 90/13

Brother, assistant public defender: 77/4

Brother, assistant state attorney: 77/12

Brother, defendant in criminal case, presiding over cases involving same crime during
pendency of prosecution: 97/21

Brother-in-law is partner in law firm from which another attorney appears before judge:
17/20; 20/08

Business: 75/20, 75/24, 76/1, 77/1

Campaign fund-raising letter from judge's parents: 08/09

Child, assistant public defender assigned to different judicial division: 18/26

Child, attorney of record: 98/20

Child, employment with law firm appearing before judge: 82/17, 85/2, 98/20

Child, employment with law firm part-time in non-discretionary capacity: [76/13](#)

Child owns bank stock: [10/25](#) **recedes from** [90/9](#)

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Children of divorced judge, pending litigation concerning: [02/05](#)

Cousin of judge as mediator in case before judge: [17/20](#)

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Family member brought *Engle* Progeny suit against tobacco company in same judicial circuit: [16/04](#)

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Investment by family members in enterprise, judge as director: [87/12](#)

Judge asked to be executor of friend's estate: [08/05](#)

Judge's adult child in law firm: [08/06](#); [19/06](#)

Judges' family members employed by local sheriff's department: [07/11](#)

Judicial candidate's spouse wearing candidate's campaign badge: [12/06](#) (Election)

Law firm employed judge's brother as expert witness: [03/18](#)

Law firm employed judge's niece as summer associate: [03/18](#)

Law firm publicly acknowledging, promoting, or marketing fact that attorney with firm is child of specifically named judge: [16/02](#)

Niece-in-law as judicial assistant: [98/4](#)

Niece's husband is attorney: [89/17](#)

Occupation of spouse: [78/21](#)

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Presiding over criminal cases involving public defender's office after spouse/elected public defender has retired when spouse may have been privy to privileged communications: [08/18](#)

Presiding over criminal cases involving public defender's office after spouse/elected public defender may be called to testify in post-conviction hearings: [08/18](#)

Presiding over criminal cases involving public defender's office after spouse/elected public defender's retirement: [08/18](#)

Receiving fee as trustee of family estate: [90/11](#)

Relative, appointment as guardian ad litem, receiver, or special master: [82/13](#)

Relative, within third degree: [88/20](#), [97/13](#)

Serving as guardian of minor children: [12/05](#)

Sibling, employment with law firm appearing before judge: [92/17](#)

Son, employed by law firm appearing before judge: [06/26](#)

Son-in-law, candidate for office of public defender: [00/11](#)

Son-in-law employed as student law clerk: [07/16](#)

Son-in-law, voluntary testimony in his behalf: [91/5](#)

Son's campaign, assistance by retired, non-recall judge: [01/04](#)

Son's law firm represents party in family law case and parties have child appearing before judge in delinquency case: [06/27](#)

Spouse, administrator of HRS child support enforcement program: [90/23](#)

Spouse, applicability of canons: [90/13](#)

Spouse, assistant public defender: [91/17](#)

Spouse, assistant to director of pretrial intervention program: [84/2](#)

Spouse as typist of transcripts of testimony: [81/9](#)

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Spouse, judge posting congratulatory message on LinkedIn when book is released: [21/14](#)

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Spouse, case manager of family law division: [02/02](#)

Spouse, child victim specialist in state attorney's office: [03/08](#)

Spouse, client of law firm appearing before judge: [99/25](#), [01/17](#)

Spouse, corporate partner with convicted felon, judge as shareholder: [94/37](#)

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Spouse, displaying signs endorsing partisan political candidate on property co-owned by spouse-judge: [06/11](#)

Spouse, elected municipal official holding campaign event in home of judge and spouse: [11/10](#)

Spouse, elected official, appearing in judge's campaign photo: [06/13 \(Election\)](#)

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Spouse, employed as field representative for Treasurer/Insurance Commissioner's office: [84/7](#)

Spouse, employed as licensed stockbroker: [90/13](#)

Spouse, employed as paralegal in law firm with lawyers appearing before judge: [07/14](#)

Spouse, employed by bonding agency: [87/8](#)

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Spouse, owner of company that is represented by law firm that has cases pending before judge, but none of lawyers representing company appears before judge: [18/22](#)

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Spouse, recipient of expenses to attend conference: [89/9](#)

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Spouse, secretary for local law enforcement agency: [93/41](#)

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Spouse, temporary secretary for several local law firms: [97/8](#)

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Appearing in Association for Women Lawyers fashion show to raise money for free childcare facility in courthouse and scholarship program for law students in need: [14/07](#)

Appearing in video discussing technological development pioneered by judge's circuit, which will be shown at technology conference and on technology company's website: [14/06](#)

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Attending and receiving award at event which is fund-raiser for organization mainly involved in domestic and international education programs: [09/07](#)

Attending fund-raising event for nonprofit civic organization to present award to friend being recognized as community leader: [19/20](#)

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Judge, formerly staff attorney with legal services organization, submitting congratulatory message to be included in advertisement for organization's anniversary luncheon: [06/09](#)

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Mediation group displaying senior judge mediator's image on ads and on website: [11/11](#)
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Directly soliciting local banks and businesses for support of financial literacy program: 11/13

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Purchasing advertisement that congratulates award recipient when advertisement would appear in program materials distributed at fund-raising luncheon for Anti-Defamation League and advertisement would include judge's name: 08/23

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Magistrate and court staff attending Salvation Army sponsored domestic violence training: [12/31](#)

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Judge sponsoring and organizing seminars for attorneys with monies raised going to circuit and/or to defray judicial expenses: [92/29](#)
Law-related organizations and private law firm jointly hosting free post-seminar reception at courthouse: [17/04](#)
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Mediation group displaying senior judge mediator's image or availability in ads and on website: [11/11](#); [19/05](#)

Personal representative of spouse's estate, acting as: [14/22](#)

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Retiring senior judge using name with designations "Honorable" and "Retired" on program for event commemorating judge's career or on personal or mediation/legal-related stationery: [19/01](#)

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Social Media:

Adding connections on social or professional networking sites: [09/20](#), [10/06](#), [12/12](#)

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Campaign committee posting communications on Facebook page on behalf of candidate written in first person: [20/10 \(Election\)](#)

Campaign website, payment for and management of: [14/04](#)

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Judge or judicial candidate hosting website or Facebook page promoting campaign:

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Judge running for re-election creating Twitter account with open privacy setting; campaign manager creating and maintaining account: [13/14](#)

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Judicial candidate posting message in social media groups encouraging readers to vote for or support candidate: [20/16 \(Election\)](#)

Judicial candidate posting to social media invitation to campaign kickoff party or fundraiser: [19/22 \(Election\)](#)

Overseeing own campaign website or paid communications firm managing website: [14/04](#)

Personal Facebook profile including words “Vote for [candidate’s name]”: [16/13 \(Election\)](#)

Personal social networking page, disclaimer regarding significance of “friend” on: [10/06](#)

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Annual conference of National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, to defray costs of: [18/25](#)

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