I. Civic and Charitable Activities.

A. The Ethics Committee reaffirmed its opinion that a judge is prohibited from allowing his or her name to appear in the letterhead of a scholarship fund committee when such letterhead is to be used in soliciting members of the bar and corporations to donate money to that fund.

B. Opinion 31 – “Legal Aid” Boards
   A judge should not serve as a member of a board of directors of a legal aid society wherein attorneys appear in the court where the judge serves and which is funded by and subject to policies of the Legal Services Corporation.

II. Political Activities.

A. There is no prohibition under the Code of Judicial Conduct which would prohibit a judge who is up for election being endorsed by a partisan political office holder.

B. It is inappropriate for a judge to endorse a candidate for the State Bar Board of Governors, a public office.

C. A judge may personally solicit funds for his own election campaign. The question of how to use or distribute unneeded funds creates a number of problems –

III. Business Activities.

A. A judge may not retain a real estate and brokerage license in this state after becoming a judge. Canon 5C(1), and 5D, 2A and 2B.

B. It is inappropriate for a judge to serve as executor of the estate of a former client even though the estate be small and there would be no significant fee.

C. A judge may not serve as a director of a bank. Canon 5C(2).

IV. Conduct Outside of the Courtroom.

A. After taking the oath of office, a judge must refrain from giving legal advice to former clients in the course of “winding down” a law practice.
B. It is inappropriate for a judge to serve as an arbitrator or mediator on a Board of Inquiry considering exclusion of a member from a private club.

C. A judge may properly respond to a probation department inquiry concerning a defendant of whom the judge has personal knowledge.

D. A judge may properly be interviewed by TV, radio or other media about his hobbies, avocations, et cetera, even though identified as a judge.

E. Opinion 28 (attached) – Radio/TV appearances
   This opinion outlines a judge’s ethical restrictions when appearing on radio or television programs. Although the opinion concerns a specific fact situation, it should serve as a guide for most situations which may confront a judge in similar circumstances.

F. Opinion 30 (attached) – National Guard
   This opinion states that it is permissible for a judge or commissioner to be a member of the California Army National Guard and further discusses the judge’s role in legal matters which might arise therein.

V. Conduct Within the Courtroom.
   A. A judge who is the landlord to a lawyer who appears before the judge, is disqualified from hearing the action in which the lawyer appears.

VI. Educational Activities.
   A. Opinion 29 (attached) – Invitations to Retreats, Lunches, and Judicial Teaching
      This opinion concerns the propriety of a judge accepting invitations from law firms to attend various functions wherein the judge would become involved as a teacher, speaker, panelist, et cetera.