

Pennsylvania Informal Advisory Opinion 99-5-21

A judge may testify at legislative hearings on child care.

Massachusetts Advisory Opinion 03-6

Where the governor has proposed to the legislature that certain district courts be closed as a cost-saving measure, a judge may marshal information relating to the court's case load and budget and discuss the information with the governor's legal counsel and legislators.

New York Advisory Opinion 99-158

Judges may write to legislators expressing disapproval of the reduction in funding for county mental health services resulting in the dismissal of mental health employees in light of the adverse impact on the functioning of the courts.

Pennsylvania Informal Advisory Opinion 3/3/04

A judge may meet and consult with members of the legislature to recommend a grant of funds for a model court program where one of the sites would be the judge's county.

Nevada Advisory Opinion JE 05-3

A judge may testify before legislative committees or take advantage of other such venues offered by the legislative and executive branches to give observations or advice on a topic dealing with legal matters or the court.

Kansas Advisory Opinion JE 35 (1990)

A judge may not personally contact and urge legislators known to him to vote for increased funding of money for the judge's alma mater and other educational institutions similarly funded.

Missouri Advisory Opinion 158 (1991)

A judge may consult with and appear before the legislature on proposed legislation to create a new judicial circuit even if the legislation would not only affect judicial efficiency but would also have political implications.

New York Advisory Opinion 92-50

A judge may comment to any appropriate body on whether the judge's court should have jurisdiction over a newly proposed proceeding and on its effect on court congestion and other matters pending in the court.

Florida Advisory Opinion 94-14

A judge may address a legislative committee regarding pending legislation dealing with how fault is apportioned in civil negligence suits involving named and un-named defendants where the judge was concerned that the current status of the law would inhibit settlements and increase litigation.

West Virginia Advisory Opinion (March 10, 1997)

A judge may write to legislators or testify before a legislative committee concerning proposed legislation as long as the legislation concerns the law, the legal system, or the

administration of justice, does not involve issues that are pending before the judge, and the judge is clear that he or she is speaking for himself or herself not for all judges. Personal stationery and not judicial stationery should be used.

Florida Advisory Opinion 98-13

A judge may submit and discuss with the legislature proposed legislation that would increase the maximum periods of incarceration and probation for those convicted in domestic violence cases.

Florida Advisory Opinion 99-21

A judge may lobby the legislature to increase salaries for judicial employees.

Massachusetts Advisory Opinion 97-4 and 97-5

A judge may give a thoughtful statement of opposition to or of support for capital punishment, coupled with a truthful statement of the judge's intent to follow the law, before committees of the legislature regarding capital punishment but before agreeing to testify, should consider whether the issue is one that is likely to come before their court and whether the nature of the testimony is likely to require subsequent disqualification and to take into account the effect of the proposed testimony on the general public perception of judicial impartiality.

New York Advisory Opinion 96-79

A judge serving as co-chair of a special bar association committee studying problems of the criminal justice system may appear at public hearings before legislative or executive committees to urge implementation of the organization's recommendations.

Texas Advisory Opinion 254 (1999)

Judges may publicly support legislation creating a judicial compensation commission.