

# *The Supreme Court of Ohio*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINE

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## **OPINION 87-042**

Issued: September 25, 1987

*[Former CJC Opinion-provides advice under the former Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct which is superseded by the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, eff. 3/1/2009.]*

*[Not Current- subsequent rule amendments to Canons 1 through 6, Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, eff. May 1, 1997]*

**SYLLABUS:** A judge should not consent to having his picture appear on the wall of a clothing store in exchange for free neckties, and should not lend the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of others.

**OPINION:** We have before us your request for our opinion on whether a judge may have his or her picture displayed on a local clothing store's "wall of fame." The local clothing store is offering six free neckties in exchange for an 8 x 10 photograph for display on the "wall of fame."

It is our opinion that under the Code of Judicial Conduct (the Code), a judge should not participate in such a program. Under Canon 1 of the Code, "a judge should . . . observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved." Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 1. Canon 2 states that a judge should conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 2(A).

Furthermore, a judge should not lend the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of others. Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 2(B). More than likely, the clothing store intends to increase its business profits by having a judge's picture on the "wall of fame." A judge therefore would be advancing the private interests of the store by lending his prestige to the "wall of fame" which is proscribed under Canon 2(B) of the Code.

In conclusion, and based on the foregoing, it is our opinion that a judge should not allow his picture to be displayed on the "wall of fame" at a local clothing store.

**This is an informal, non-binding advisory opinion, based upon the facts as presented and limited to questions arising under the Code of Judicial Conduct.**

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