

*Arizona Supreme Court
Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee*

ADVISORY OPINION 91-04
(May 24, 1991)

**Membership on Committee Organized to Reduce
Or Eliminate Drug Use by Youth**

Issue

May a city magistrate serve as a member of a community-wide project, funded by a federal grant, the goal of which is to drastically reduce or eliminate the use of illegal drugs by the youth of the community.

Answer: Yes.

Discussion

Canon 5G permits a judge to serve on a committee or commission if the organization deals with "the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice." One of the responsibilities of the project will be to monitor laws and regulations and work for appropriate changes. The committee believes that a judge's experience and expertise may prove valuable to a community organization whose goal is to reduce or eliminate the use of drugs by the youth of the community. Such a project addresses a problem of obvious great public concern and, if successful, could yield benefits to the public good, including a favorable impact on the case load of the court system through the reduction in the number of drug-related crimes. We believe that serving as a member of the project is permitted by Canon 5G. Also see Canon 4C.

Applicable Code Sections

Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 5G (1985), with cross-reference to Canon 4C.