

*Arizona Supreme Court  
Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee*

ADVISORY OPINION 94-17  
(December 16, 1994)

**Membership on Editorial Board  
of a Medical Magazine**

**Issue**

May a judge serve on the editorial advisory board of a magazine that features medical issues?

**Answer:** No.

**Discussion**

A judge has been invited to serve on the editorial advisory board of a magazine featuring medical issues aimed at professionals in the health service industry and the general public. The magazine is a for-profit venture with an annual subscription price of about thirty dollars.

Canon 2B states: "A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of . . . others." In this instance, the judge would be advancing the private interests of the publisher of the magazine by serving on the editorial advisory board. The purpose of the advisory board is to provide the publisher with a panel of experts who will be used to support or contradict the points of view expressed by writers in published articles. The names of editorial board members and their affiliations will be listed in all the publisher's publications and on corporate letterhead, press kits and brochures. The judge will clearly be identified as a judge of a particular court and will be lending the prestige of the judicial office to advance the private interests of others. Such activity is clearly proscribed by Canon 2B.

**Applicable Code Sections**

Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2B (1993).