

*Arizona Supreme Court
Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee*

ADVISORY OPINION 00-08
(December 21, 2000)

Listing Judicial Positions in the Yellow Pages

Issues

May a judge or a court be listed in the Yellow Pages of telephone directories?

Answer: No.

Facts

Some Arizona courts and judges are listing themselves or their courts in the Yellow Pages in the section under “justice of the peace.”

Discussion

A Yellow Pages listing is commonly understood to be a commercial solicitation. Judges, of course, are permitted to “own and operate commercial establishments, even retail outlets, so long as the businesses do not ‘demean the judicial office,’ appear to exploit the judicial position, or unduly involve the judge in frequent transactions with likely litigants.” Opinion 94-05. A court is not a commercial enterprise. Hence a listing in the Yellow Pages could only be seen as an advertisement of availability to perform a discretionary function—weddings. Not only is the appearance of a judge or the judge’s court in the Yellow Pages prohibited by Canon 4J(3) (judge shall not advertise availability to perform weddings), the listing demeans the judicial office contrary to Canon 4A(2), is unseemly and results in the public finding “it difficult to separate the private and governmental roles of the judge.” *Id.* With the exceptions of the governmental pages in telephone directories and, as this committee has informally opined, the White Pages for sitting judges who wish to identify their judicial position, the same prohibition applies to any other medium such as flyers or Internet business listings.

Applicable Code Sections

Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct, Canons 4A(2) and 4J(3) (1993).

Other References

Arizona Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, Opinion [94-05](#) (May 6, 1994).