Maryland Judicial Ethics Committee

Opinion Request Number: 1973-05

Date of Issue: May 16, 1973

O Published Opinion G Unpublished Opinion G Unpublished Letter of Advice

Judge May Participate in Taping of Mock Trial for Unsponsored Television Show Unless Tape Used for Fundraising

The Judicial Ethics Committee has considered your letter of May 8, 1973, asking for an advisory opinion regarding the juvenile mock trial to be staged and filmed at the studios of XXX-TV. We note that the purpose of the program is to inform the public concerning the proceedings in a dispositional hearing of a Juvenile Court.

It is the Committee's conclusion that your participation in the proposed program is not proscribed by either the Maryland Canons or the Rules and that, in fact, participation in an activity of this nature may even be encouraged by Canon XXII.

Of course, it is understood that the tape must not be used in support of an appeal for funds, nor should it be directly sponsored by an advertiser.