



# The Supreme Court of Kansas

Kansas Judicial Center  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

## JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL

### Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-54

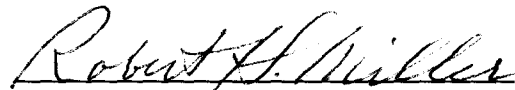
February 10, 1995

**Question:** May a District Magistrate Judge serve as a Mediator in Domestic Relations Cases?

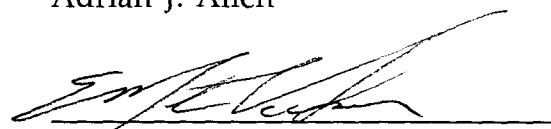
**Answer:** Canon 5. E. prohibits a judge from acting as an arbitrator or mediator.

However, we held in Opinion JE-41 that a settlement conference in a pending case is neither arbitration nor mediation, and a judge is not prohibited by Canon 5. E. from holding settlement conferences.

We are of the opinion that Canon 3. does not prohibit a judge from holding a settlement conference in a pending domestic relations case, even though the judge has entered an ex parte order in the same case at an earlier date.

  
Robert H. Miller, Chairman

  
Adrian J. Allen

  
E. Newton Vickers