



CHIEF JUSTICE  
PASCAL F. CALOGERO, JR.  
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR  
HUGH M. COLLINS, PH.D.

## Supreme Court

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
301 LOYOLA AVENUE  
ROOM 109

New Orleans  
70112-1227

TELEPHONE (504) 568-5747  
FAX (504) 568-5687

August 19, 1997

Dear

The Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics has carefully considered your request for an advisory ethics opinion on the following issue:

**With respect to Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 7D(1) and D(2) and 7B(1)(d)(i), may a candidate for judicial office who is not the incumbent judge in the race transfer excess campaign funds from a prior non-judicial race to the campaign fund for the current judicial race?**

It is the Committee's majority opinion, pursuant to the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct, effective July 8, 1996, the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, and La. R.S. 40:1299.47 that:

Because the Code of Judicial Conduct is silent with respect to the use by a judge or a judicial candidate of campaign funds generated in a prior non-judicial race, the use of such funds by such a candidate for judicial office is ethically permissible. Further, this opinion is based upon the assumption that the excess funds from the prior race were not raised pursuant to a plan to circumvent the prohibitions of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and no such suggestion has been made.

Sincerely,

Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D.  
Secretary and Member  
Supreme Court Committee on Judicial  
Ethics

HMC:mlm

cc: Chair and Members, Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics  
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Louisiana

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