



CHIEF JUSTICE
BERNIETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR
SANDRA A. VUJNOVICH

Supreme Court

STATE OF LOUISIANA
400 ROYAL STREET
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New Orleans
70130-0101

OPINION NO. 272

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April 14, 2016

Personal and Confidential

Re: Your request for an ethics advisory opinion

Dear

Please be advised that the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics has carefully considered your request for an ethics advisory opinion on the following issue:

ISSUE

Is it ethically permissible for a judicial candidate to provide a link on his/her personal website or social media page to that judicial candidate's campaign committee website or social media page when the campaign committee's website or social media page will be used, in part, for fund solicitation purposes?

Please be further advised that the Committee, by majority vote with one recusal, responds in the affirmative, provided certain precautions are taken to avoid any violation of Canon 7A(6), which prohibits judicial candidates from personally soliciting or accepting campaign contributions. Such precautions include ensuring the campaign committee's website is not solely used for fund solicitation purposes and that the link directs individuals to the home page of the campaign committee's website and not directly to any contribution payment page. The Committee does not consider linking to a campaign committee's home page that includes a link to a separate contribution page to violate Canon 7A(6).

In addition, when providing the link, the judicial candidate should make no mention of campaign contributions, but state something very general, such as: "To find out more about my campaign, visit my campaign committee's website at the following link."

Sincerely,

Sandra A. Vujnovich, J.D.
Secretary and Member
Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics

SAV/bkb

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