

California Judges Association  
**OPINION NO. 22**

(Originally issued: April 19, 1975)

**JUDGE SERVING AS CHAIRPERSON OF ALCOHOLISM ADVISORY BOARD**

**AUTHORITY:** Canon 4C(3)(a)

I. Background

The Committee has been asked whether or not a judge under the California Code of Judicial Ethics can serve as chairperson of an alcoholism advisory board, appointed by the board of supervisors, funded under State law, to advise county officials on prevention and treatment of alcohol abuse problems?

II. Question

May judge serve as chairperson of an alcoholism advisory board?

III. Answer

Yes.

IV. Discussion

Alcohol abuse problems relate directly to a substantial segment of the matters handled by our courts, particularly municipal courts. Prevention and treatment programs tend to solve these problems and clearly will assist the courts and a defendant with such a problem. An alcoholism advisory board, devoted to the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, falls within the provisions of Canon 4C(3)(a) since it is devoted to the improvement of the administration of justice.

This opinion is advisory only. The Committee acts on specific inquiries submitted, and its opinion is based on facts as set forth in the submitted inquiries.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ETHICS  
April 19, 1975