

## Maryland Judicial Ethics Committee

**Opinion Request Number:** 1974-05

**Date of Issue:** July 22, 1974

**O** Published Opinion    **G** Unpublished Opinion    **G** Unpublished Letter of Advice

Judge Running Unopposed May Participate, but Not Solicit or Contribute Funds,  
in Election Campaigns of Opposed Judges

In an opinion letter dated April 25 [Opinion Request No. 1974-03], addressed to Judge X, this Committee found no impropriety in a group of Judges seeking election to an elected term, consisting of [trial and appellate judges], engaging in a united campaign for retention in office, speaking and working for the election of each other.

The question which you posed on July 9 is a result of the fact that of the group, only Judges X and Y have opposition in the primary election. You asked whether it would be proper for the group which embarked on the united campaign to continue their support of each other, even though only two of the candidates have opposition.

It is the opinion of this Committee that each of the candidates, even those who have no opposition, will remain a candidate until the general election, since the names of those who are unopposed will not appear on the primary ballot. We see no reason why the effort which your group initiated several months ago should not continue, to the end that you may speak and work for the election of each other.

We understand that it is not contemplated that the unopposed candidates will make any additional financial contributions in support of the candidates who are opposed, nor do the unopposed candidates intend to solicit contributions in support of the activities of the non-partisan committee, except to the extent of seeing that obligations incurred prior to July 1, 1974, will be satisfied. However, it may well be that the unopposed candidates will make appearances at meetings where financial and other support is being sought for the opposed candidates, but will take no part in any such solicitation.