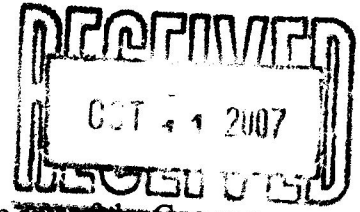


JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE  
Advisory Opinion 07-2  
Issued: October 5, 2007



**Issue**

Whether a Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court could violate any of the Canons of Judicial Conduct, in view of the following facts.

**Statement of Facts**

The Justice has informed us that her husband entered and won a sweepstakes through Borders on-line. He has reviewed the contest and believes the contest is legitimate. No purchase or consideration was required and the drawing for the prize winner appears to have been random. The prize is a two nights/three days paid trip to Newport, Rhode Island. The prize winner is allowed to bring a guest, and the Justice's husband would like to invite his wife to join him. A further check determined that Borders has no litigation pending before the Supreme Judicial Court.

**Discussion**

In our search of the Canons, we find nothing that specifically addresses an issue of this kind. The closest we have come is Canon 4, A Judge Shall So Conduct the Judge's Extrajudicial Activities as to Minimize the Risk of Conflict with Judicial Obligations. Paragraph H Compensation and Reimbursement: "A judge may receive income, honoraria and reimbursement of expenses attributable to the extrajudicial activities permitted by the code, if the source of such payment does not give the appearance of influencing the judge's performance of judicial duties or otherwise give the appearance of impropriety -- ."

## Conclusion

Under the statement of facts which we are reviewing, it is clear that the compensation or the reimbursement in this fact pattern will be to the Justice's spouse, and not to the Justice, and the Justice will be an incidental beneficiary of Borders' largess.

We find that under the facts provided above, there is no violation of the Maine Code of Judicial Conduct.