



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE KENTUCKY JUDICIARY
STATE CAPITOL

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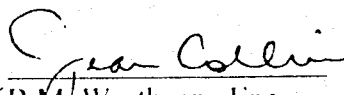
JUDICIAL ETHICS OPINION JE-91

February 2, 1998

Issue: May a judge or justice in Kentucky be a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association (ATLA)?

Answer: No. Because ATLA is a plaintiffs' organization, it would be improper for a judge or justice to be a member whether the membership is gratuitous or paid for by the judge.

The question presented is whether a sitting judge may accept a complimentary membership in ATLA. Unanimously, the Judicial Ethics Committee agrees that the answer is no. Because ATLA is a plaintiffs' organization, it would be improper for any justice or judge to be a member whether he or she accepts a free membership or pays for it.

for 
B.M. Westberry, Esq.
Chairman
The Ethics Committee of the
Kentucky Judiciary