

ETHICS: THE GENERAL SESSIONS JUDGE AND “SOCIAL NETWORKING”

In a previous General Sessions Judges Conference, I had given references to the Florida Judicial Commission’s opinion regarding a judge’s use of “Facebook” and social network sites and the ethical problems involved. Additional states have now issued opinions which contribute different thoughts to the issues judges face in dealing with social networks.

Ohio Judicial Ethics Opinion 2010-7 (12/3/10)

Kentucky Judicial Ethics Opinion JE-119 (1/20/10)

Two previous opinions had previously been distributed last year, which are:

Florida Judicial Ethics Opinion #2009-20 (11/17/09)

New York Judicial Ethics Opinion 08-176 (1/29/09)

All of these are available by plugging these references in on the internet if you wish to read or get a copy. Call me if you need any assistance.

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Judges should be very cautious in use of social networks to not place themselves in compromising situations which can easily create conflicts and opportunities for discipline.

Judge Dwight E. Stokes

## **JUDICIAL SOURCES FOR ETHICS ISSUES**

1) **“Key Issues in Judicial Ethics: Recommendations by Judges”**  
**by Cynthia Gray**

2) **“Ethical Standards for Judges”**  
**by Cynthia Gray**  
**American Judicature Society**

To order, call toll-free (800) 626-4089 or visit [www.ajs.org](http://www.ajs.org).

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