



serves." Moreover, such relationships could interfere with the person's role as an interpreter in a court proceeding, if that was a permissible role, which it is not.

Although the Committee cannot refer to a Canon or Code Section directly applicable here, it is the opinion of the Committee that it is inappropriate for a person to, on any given day, preside over a courtroom, and on another, act as an interpreter in it. Because an interpreter is in the nature of a surrogate witness, it is the Committee's opinion that there is at least an appearance of impropriety if a Retired Judge Subject to Recall acts as an interpreter in court. Canon 2 requires a judge to avoid the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities. Section 2B of Canon 2 provides that a judge shall not lend the prestige of the judicial office to advance the private interests of others, or testify voluntarily as a character witness. A judge acting as an interpreter in court has the potential to give an appearance that the judge is doing either or both of those things. That appearance is absent in a situation where the interpreter is someone other than a judge. Moreover, it is also the opinion of the Committee that a judge acting as an interpreter will present an appearance problem for the other judge in the courtroom, the one presiding over the proceeding and who must rule on objections related to the interpretation.

#### CONCLUSION

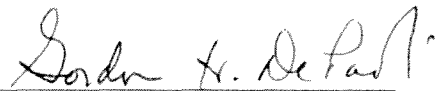
It is therefore the opinion of the Committee that a Retired Judge Subject to Recall may not act as an interpreter for attorneys or for a court.

#### REFERENCES

Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2, Section 2B; Canon 4, Section 4D(1)(b), Section 4E, Section 4F, Section 4H; N.R.S. 50.053; N.R.S. 50.054, N.R.S. 50.054(3).

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*This opinion is issued by the Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics and Election Practices. It is advisory only. It is not binding on the courts, the State Bar of Nevada, the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, any person or tribunal charged with regulatory responsibilities, any member of the Nevada judiciary, or any person or entity requesting the opinion.*



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