

**ADVISORY OPINION AO-1989-002
RECONSTITUTED AS ETHICS INTERPRETATION EI-1989-002
ISSUED FEBRUARY 7, 1989**

The Oklahoma Council on Campaign Compliance and Ethical Standards ["the Council"] has received your request for an advisory opinion asking, in effect:

Would Title 74 O.S. Supp. 1988, § 4217 (A) allow a representative to expend campaign contribution funds for fees, travel and lodging related to the Leadership Oklahoma program as expenditures related to a community activity or as ordinary and necessary expenditures incurred in connection with his or her duties as a holder of public office?

The law under consideration reads, in pertinent part:

Contributions received by any candidate shall be used to defray any campaign expenditures or any ordinary and necessary expenses incurred by the person in connection with his duties as a holder of the public office including, but not limited to, expenses for use in a future election campaign, for political activity, for community activity or for nonreimbursed public office related expenses.

The Leadership Oklahoma Program identifies and develops the skills of future leaders of Oklahoma. "Community activity" is not a defined term in the statutes. Community means a vicinity or neighborhood or its people or citizenry. An activity conducted for the citizenry of Oklahoma certainly falls within the scope of "community activity".

It is, therefore, the advisory opinion of the Council, as voted on at its regular meeting on February 7, 1989, that Title 74 O.S. Supp. 1988, § 4217 (A) would allow the representative to expend campaign contribution funds for fees, travel and lodging related to the Leadership Oklahoma program as expenditures related to a community activity.