



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Room E-400, State Capitol

Charleston 25305

September 5, 1990

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1990-04

Dear

Re: Judicial Ethics Advisory Opinion Request

The Judicial Investigation Commission has received and reviewed your correspondence dated July 31, 1990, to Counsel. In that letter you asked the Commission to render an advisory opinion on three separate questions which are set forth therein.

In your first inquiry you asked if you may accept an appointment on the Solid Waste Authority of County. The Commission has reviewed that inquiry and determined that the provisions of Canon 5G of the Judicial Code of Ethics would preclude such appointment. This Canon states in pertinent part:

CANON 5

A Judge Should Regulate His Extra-judicial Activities to Minimize the Risk of Conflict with His Judicial Duties

G. Extra-judicial Appointments. A judge should not accept appointment to a governmental committee, commission, or other position that is concerned with issues of fact or policy on matters other than the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice. A judge, however, may represent his country, state, or locality on ceremonial occasions or in connection with historical, education, and cultural activities.

In your second question you asked if a family law master may contribute to an individual politician's campaign committee. After reviewing this inquiry the Commission feels that you should not make such contributions.

The response to your second question obviates the need to address the third inquiry which you make in your correspondence.

It is hoped that the Commission has fully addressed the questions which you have raised. If there is any further question concerning this matter, do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours

W. Jack Stevens, Chairman

CRG/bl