



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Room E-400, State Capitol

Charleston 25305

November 5, 1990

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1990-07

Dear

You have requested an advisory opinion from the Judicial Investigation Commission concerning whether a judge may write a letter of reference or recommendation on behalf of a criminal defendant to the presiding judge of the case. Specifically, you have asked whether you may write a letter on behalf of a defendant who is to be sentenced by

United States District Judge for the District of West Virginia.

Your request was discussed by the Commission at its last meeting. It is the opinion of the Commission that based upon the language set forth in the Judicial Code of Ethics that it would be improper for a judge to write such a letter.

Hopefully, this fully addresses the issue which you have raised with the Commission. If there is any further question regarding this matter, do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Jack Stevens".

W. Jack Stevens, Chairman

CRG/bl
Enclosure