



*Original*

## JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Room E-400, State Capitol

Charleston 25305

November 5, 1990

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1990-09

Dear

Your request for an advisory opinion has been reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission at its last meeting. In your request you state that Canon 7A(1) (b) provides in part that a noncandidate judge may not "publicly endorse a candidate for public office" except: He may attend, and in some circumstances speak at, political gatherings; he may identify himself as a member of a political party; and he may contribute financially to a political party or other organization.

You state that your office has received inquiries about the extent of the prohibition against public endorsement of candidates. You raise three questions in your correspondence which the Commission addressed:

1. Does it prohibit public endorsement of both judicial and nonjudicial candidates? Yes
2. Does it prohibit the display of posters, billboards, etc., on private property? Yes
3. Does it prohibit the display of posters, bumper stickers, etc., on private automobiles? Yes

If there is any further question concerning the matters which you have raised in your request, do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

*W. Jack Stevens*

W. Jack Stevens, Chairman