



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Room E-400, State Capitol

Charleston 25305

February 28, 1992

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1992-03

Dear

Counsel for the Judicial Investigation Commission has referred your request for an advisory opinion to the Commission for its consideration. In your request you ask whether you may use the State Seal immediately over your title, Judge _____ County Circuit Court, _____ County Courthouse, _____ West Virginia _____, on your campaign literature. The members of the Commission have reviewed your request and have determined that such use would be improper.

The use of the State Seal with your official title and the courthouse address would create an appearance of impropriety. Furthermore, the use of the State Seal and your name and courthouse address would lend itself to an appearance of official stationery and would not be appropriate on campaign materials. The Commission has reviewed the language in Canon 2 in reaching its opinion. Analogous opinions have been issued in New York and Indiana - NY Office of Ct. Administration, Op. 129 (1978); Ind. Comm'n on Judicial Qualifications, Op. U 4 (1984).

The language contained in _____ memorandum which you cite in your inquiry would cover the use of a bumper sticker on your private automobile if the vehicle were on court premises.

If the Commission can be of any further assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact it.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Jack Stevens", is written over a horizontal line.

W. Jack Stevens, Chairman