



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Room E-400, State Capitol

Charleston 25305

September 2, 1994

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1994-12

Dear

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission at its last meeting. In that inquiry you asked whether it would be improper for a family law master to hear cases in which one of the parties was represented in non-domestic matters by an attorney who is the daughter of the family law master. You asked whether it would be improper if such representation were unknown to the master; if such representation were known to the master; or if the master had actual knowledge of such representation.

After reviewing your request and analyzing it within the context of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Judicial Investigation Commission feels that it would not be improper for a family law master to hear cases in which one of the parties was represented in non-domestic matters by an attorney who is the daughter of the master. Since this response has been made to your request, it is not necessary to address the other questions which you raised in your correspondence.

It is hoped that this opinion fully addresses those questions which you raised in your correspondence to the Commission. If there is any additional question concerning this matter, do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Fred L. Fox, II

Fred L. Fox, II, Chairman

FLF, II/bl