



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

212 Dickinson Street
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March 4, 1996

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1996-07

Dear

Your recent letter to Counsel to the Judicial Investigation Commission was received and reviewed by members of the Commission. In that correspondence you stated that you are an incumbent magistrate seeking re-election. You said that the on-call magistrate in County has a permanent reserved parking spot on the corner of the block where the County Courthouse sits. Your husband's vehicle has re-election printing on the side of his van reading, "Re-elect Magistrate." You asked whether, by parking this van in your designated parking spot, you were in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 5A(1)(d).

The Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 5A(1)(d), states:

CANON 5

A JUDGE OR JUDICIAL CANDIDATE SHALL REFRAIN FROM
INAPPROPRIATE POLITICAL ACTIVITY

A. All judges and candidates. -

(1) Except as authorized by Sections 5B(2), 5C(1), and 5C(3), a judge or a candidate for election or appointment to judicial office shall not:

(d) publicly display any campaign paraphernalia in any area where judicial activities are conducted or knowingly permit any such display; . . .

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The language in this Canon prohibits the display of any campaign paraphernalia in any area where judicial activities are conducted.

After reviewing your inquiry and the relevant language set forth in Canon 5A(1)(d), it is the opinion of the Commission that you should not park the vehicle with the campaign statement in the designated parking spot. The parking space is within the immediate vicinity of the courthouse and so would fall within an area where judicial activities are conducted.

If there are any further questions regarding this matter, do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,



Fred L. Fox, II, Chairman

FLF,II/bl