



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

212 Dickinson Street
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June 6, 1996

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1996-13

Dear

Your recent letter to Counsel to the Judicial Investigation Commission in which you seek an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Commission at its recent meeting. In you correspondence you state that you are a part-time family law master serving

Counties. You asked whether a part-time family law master may practice domestic relations law in another state.

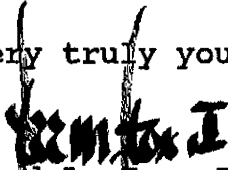
The position of part-time family law master is defined in Canon 6C of the Code of Judicial Conduct as a continuing part-time judge. Under the terminology defining that position a continuing part-time judge is "a judge who serves repeatedly on a part-time basis by election or under a continuing appointment, a part-time family law master, a juvenile referee, and a mental hygiene commissioner." Under the language set forth in Canon 6C(2) you "may practice law in the court on which the judge serves or in any court subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the court on which the judge serves, but shall not act as a lawyer in a proceeding in which the judge has served as a judge or in any other proceeding related thereto, or in any matter involving the same subject-matter jurisdiction." (Emphasis supplied)

The commentary to this Canon states that a part-time family law master "shall not accept any domestic relations matter or serve as an attorney in any proceeding related to a case in which he or she has served as a family law master." Based on the clear language set forth in the Canon and the commentary following the Canon, it is the opinion of the Commission that you may not practice domestic relations law in another state.

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It is hoped that this opinion fully addresses the question which you have raised. If there is any further question regarding this matter, do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,


Fred L. Fox, II, Chairman

FLF,II/bl