



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

212 Dickinson Street
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June 6, 1996

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1996-15

Dear

Your recent letter to Counsel to the Judicial Investigation Commission in which you asked for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Commission at its recent meeting. In this correspondence you asked whether it was appropriate for you to support Little League Baseball by purchasing an "outfield sign" at your local ballparks. The sign would say something like "Youth Activities, a Positive Community Force." You also enclosed photographs of other signs presently placed at the parks.

In responding to your request, the Commission considered the language set forth in Canon 2B of the Code of Judicial Conduct which states in pertinent part:

Canon 2. A Judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities.

B. A judge shall not allow family, social, political, or other relationships to influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment. A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others; . . .

After reviewing that language, it is the opinion of the Commission that you may place such sign if you do not identify yourself as a judge or place any judicial identification on the sign. You could place your name on the sign without any indication of your position as circuit judge.

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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