



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

212 Dickinson Street
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August 26, 1996

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 1996-19

Dear

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Commission. In your request you asked whether you could participate in a "celebrity goat milking" at the County Fair. You indicated that the "celebrity goat milking" was for fun only and was not a fundraiser. You further stated that you would be identified as a magistrate in the "celebrity goat milking," but would not be using the event for campaign purposes.

Coming to grips with the inquiry which you have made, the Commission pulled down the Code of Judicial Conduct and skimmed Canon 4. Canon 4 states in pertinent part:

Canon 4. A judge shall so conduct the judge's extra-judicial activities as to minimize the risk of conflict with judicial obligations.

C. Governmental, Civic, or Charitable Activities.

(3) Civic and charitable activities. - A judge may participate in civil and charitable activities which do not reflect adversely upon the judge's impartiality or interfere with the judge's official duties . . .

b. A judge should not solicit funds for any . . . civic organization or use or permit the use of the prestige of office for that purpose; . . .

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Based on the language contained in Canon 4, it is the opinion of the Commission that so long as the "celebrity goat milking" is not used for purposes of soliciting funds, your participation in that event would be permissible.

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

Very truly yours,



Fred L. Fox, II, Chairman

FLF, II/bl