



## **JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION**

Post Office Box 1629  
Charleston, West Virginia 25326-1629  
(304) 558-0169 • FAX (304) 558-0831

August 30, 1999

Dear

In a recent letter to Counsel to the Judicial Investigation Commission you requested an advisory opinion on the propriety of purchasing an ad in a local high school football program for the upcoming season. You stated that the cost of the ad would be \$60.00 for four home game programs. The proposed ad would read: **COMPLIMENTS OF MAGISTRATE**. Your request for an advisory opinion has been reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission.

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

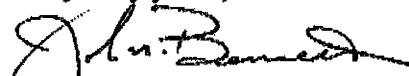
Canon 2. A judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all the judge's activities.

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 this language it is the opinion of the Commission that you may place the ad in the football program if you do not identify yourself as a magistrate or place any judicial identification in the ad. The ad as you proposed could be placed if the word "magistrate" were removed.

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,

  
John W. Bennett, Chairman