



## **JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION**

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January 12, 2000

### **JIC Advisory Opinion 2000-01**

Dear Ms.

You recently requested an advisory opinion from the Judicial Investigation Commission concerning your committee holding a fund-raiser at your home in mid-January. In your correspondence you stated that your home is more centrally located and larger than the committee members' homes. You state that you would not personally solicit or personally accept campaign contributions at this fund-raiser. You asked whether such a fund-raiser in your home would violate Canon 5C(2) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Canon 5C(2) of the Code of Judicial Conduct states in relevant part:

Canon 5. A judge or judicial candidate shall refrain from inappropriate political activity.

C. Judges and candidates subject to public election.

(2) A candidate shall not personally solicit or accept campaign contributions or personally solicit publicly stated support. A candidate may, however, establish committees of responsible persons to conduct campaigns for the candidate through media advertisements, brochures, mailings, candidate forums, and other means not prohibited by law. Such committees may solicit and accept reasonable campaign contributions, manage the expenditure of funds for the candidate's campaign and obtain public statements of support for his or her candidacy. . . .

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Based upon the language contained in this Canon it is the opinion of the Judicial Investigation Commission that you should not conduct a fundraiser in your home. While you state that you would not personally solicit or personally accept campaign contributions at this fund-raiser, the fact that funds were being raised in your home, would at a minimum, create an appearance of your personal involvement. If you have any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. Bennett", is written over a circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John W. Bennett, Chairman

JWB:nb