



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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March 10, 2000

JIC Advisory Opinion 2000-09

Dear Family Law Master :

Your recent letter to the Judicial Investigation Commission requesting an advisory opinion was reviewed by the members at its recent meeting. In your correspondence you asked whether you could serve as a trustee for the Baptist Church of which you are a member.

To address your request the Commission reviewed Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct which states in relevant 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 civic and charitable activities that do not reflect adversely upon the judge's impartiality or interfere with the performance of the judge's judicial duties. A judge may serve as an officer, director, trustee, or non-legal adviser of an educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organization not conducted for the economic or political advantage of its members subject to the following limitations:

(a) A judge should not serve if it is likely that the organization will be engaged in proceedings that would ordinarily come before the judge or will be regularly engaged in adversary proceedings in any court.

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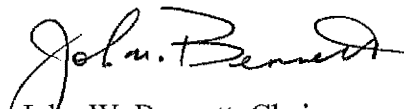
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(b) A judge should not solicit funds for any educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organization, or use or permit the use of the prestige of office for that purpose; but a judge may be listed as an officer, director, or trustee of such an organization, so long as the listing is not used for fund-raising purposes. A judge should not be a speaker or the guest of honor at an organization's fund-raising events, but may attend such events.

(c) A judge should not give investment advice to such an organization, but a judge may serve on its board of directors or trustees even though it has the responsibility for approving investment decisions.

Based upon the language set forth in the relevant sections of Canon 4 you may serve as a trustee for the Baptist Church subject to these provisions. If you have any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,



John W. Bennett, Chairman

JWB:nb