



## JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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March 10, 2000

JIC Advisory Opinion 2000-10

Dear Judge :

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission at its recent meeting. In your request you asked whether it was appropriate to use the State Seal on campaign literature.

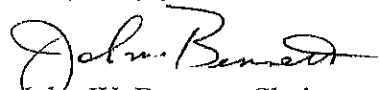
To address the question which you have raised the Commission reviewed Canon 2 which states in relevant part:

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 judgement. A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the private interests of the judge or others; nor shall a judge convey or knowingly permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge. . . .

After reviewing the relevant sections of Canon 2 it is the opinion of the Commission that you may not use the State Seal on campaign material. All official letterhead for judicial officers in the State bears the State Seal. It is the feeling of the Commission that using the State Seal on campaign material would confuse that use with the presence of the State Seal on official letterhead and violate the referenced section of Canon 2. It is hoped that this opinion addresses the question which you have raise. If there is any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate the Commission.

Very truly yours,

  
John W. Bennett, Chairman

JWB:nb