



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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March 13, 2000

JIC Advisory Opinion 2000-18

Dear Judge :

Your recent request for an advisory opinion has been reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. In your letter to the Commission you stated that you are unopposed in both the primary and general elections and do not anticipate soliciting or accepting campaign contributions or incurring expenses. The correspondence to the Commission suggested that you would not be engaging in a campaign since you are unopposed. You asked whether it is necessary under the Code of Judicial Conduct based upon your circumstances to name a treasurer or create a committee.

To address the request which you have made the Commission reviewed Canon 5 of the Code of Judicial Conduct which 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. . . .

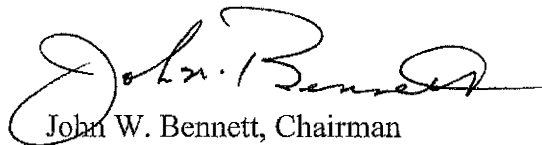
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Based upon the language contained in Canon 5C(2) it is the opinion of the Commission that based on the fact that you are unopposed in the primary and general elections and do not intend to engage in a campaign you do not need to establish a committee or name a treasurer. See e.g., JIC Advisory Opinion January 12, 2000.

It is hoped that this opinion fully addresses the question which you have raised. If you have any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Bennett".

John W. Bennett, Chairman

JWB:nb

Enclosure