



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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June 30, 2000

JIC Advisory Opinion 2000-28

Dear Magistrate :

In a letter to the Judicial Investigation Commission you asked for an advisory opinion regarding whether you could become a member of the supervisory committee of the United Federal Credit Union. Attached to your request was a letter which you received from the chairman of the credit union stating that the duties related to the position include attending monthly board meetings and performing surprise cash audits each quarter at the main office and the two branches located in other towns. The position does not carry a salary but the credit union would cover any expenses incurred by you as they relate to the supervisory committee duties.

To address your request the Commission reviewed relevant portions of Canon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct which state:

Canon 4. A judge shall so conduct the judge's extra-judicial activities as to minimize the risk of the 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 or an educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organization not conducted for the economic or political advantage of its members subject to the following limitations:

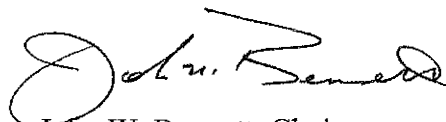
June 30, 2000

Page Two

(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 proceeding in any court.

After reviewing this section of Canon 4, it is the opinion of the Commission that these provisions of Canon 4 would prohibit you from serving on the supervisory committee of the United Federal Credit Union. The Commission feels that it is an organization which may become involved in matters which would fall under the dictates of Canon 4, and would prevent you from accepting the position. It is hoped that this opinion fully addresses the question 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

JWB:nb