



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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December 18, 2000
JIC Advisory Opinion 2000-43

Dear Judge Elect :

Your recent request for an advisory opinion has been reviewed by the Commission. In your request you stated that the County Commission was not going to have a new courtroom or office ready for your occupancy until April 1, 2001. You indicated that the Commission was considering paying the overhead of your present location which would be your former law firm for the first three months of the new year. Your current office location is already fully set up and furnished and can accommodate your secretary, court reporter, bailiff, if necessary, as well as you. You stated that this approach would only necessitate one move instead of two. You asked whether this arrangement would be permissible for the three-month period until your court quarters are available.

The Commission has reviewed your request and based on the information contained in it can find no reason why you need to relocate for the three-month period. You would be recused from handling any cases involving your former law firm which were active while you were an attorney with the firm. You should assure the security and confidentiality of any of the court documents which you may have in your temporary office. Since the arrangement is of short duration and no other accommodations can be made conveniently the Commission can see no problem with your remaining in your current office.

If you have any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald H. Cookman", is written over a horizontal line.

Donald H. Cookman, Chairman
Judicial Investigation Commission

DHC:nb