

JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Post Office Box 1629
Charleston, West Virginia 25326-1629
(304) 558-0169 • FAX (304) 558-0831

July 5, 2001

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2001-15

Dear

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. In that request you asked whether you could provide a list of frequently used telephone numbers on a place mat in a restaurant and state at the bottom of the telephone number list, "Provided as a Public Service by Magistrate

The Commission reviewed Canon 2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct to address your inquiry. That Canon provides 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; . . .

After reviewing this language, it is the opinion of the Commission that you may provide the frequently used telephone numbers list on the place mat, if you do not identify yourself as a magistrate or place any judicial identification on the item. You could place your name without any indication of your position as magistrate. See, JIC Advisory Opinion June 6, 1996; JIC Advisory Opinion August 30, 1999. These opinions have been enclosed for your review.

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If there is any further question regarding this matter do no hesitate to contact the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald H. Cookman", followed by a horizontal line.

Donald H. Cookman, Chairperson

DHC:nb

Enclosures