



## **JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION**

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February 6, 2004

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2004-03

Dear

In a recent letter to the Judicial Investigation Commission you asked whether you could be a participant in a training video to be utilized by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Child Support Enforcement. You stated that you believed this would qualify as working toward the improvement of the court system. You further stated that in the video you would be explaining the court procedures followed in your court, as well as what documents and other evidence would be required in procedures conducted before your court.

The Commission has reviewed your request and reviewed the relevant sections of Canon 4 to issue this opinion. Canon 4 states in relevant part:

Canon 4. A judge shall so conduct the judge's extra-judicial activities as to minimize the risk of conflict with judicial obligations.

B. Avocational activities. - A judge may speak, write, lecture, teach, and participate in other extra-judicial activities concerning the law, the legal system, the administration of justice, and non-legal subjects, subject to the requirements of this Code.

The commentary to this Canon states among other things that as a judicial officer and person especially learned in the law, a judge is in a unique position to contribute to the improvement of the law, the legal system and the administration of justice. It further states that judges are encouraged to the extent that time permits, either independently or through a bar association, judicial conference or other organization dedicated to the improvement of the law to participate in efforts to promote the fair administration of justice.

February 6, 2004

Page Two

Based upon the information which you have provided to the Commission and the relevant sections of Canon 4, it is the opinion of the Commission that you could participate in a training video to be utilized by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Child Support Enforcement. If there is 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 "FLF, II", written over a vertical line.

Fred L. Fox, II, Chairperson  
Judicial Investigation Commission

FLF,II:nb