



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

City Center East - Suite 1200 A
4700 MacCorkle Ave., SE
Charleston, West Virginia 25304
(304) 558-0169 • FAX (304) 558-0831

October 30, 2014

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2014-19.

Dear

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. The factual scenario giving rise to your request is as follows: You have been asked to make a short statement on WVPBS about the first female United States senator for West Virginia. You indicate that your statement will be limited to the social, cultural and historical significance of the event. You also indicate that no names or candidacies will be discussed.

The Commission has reviewed pertinent provisions of Canon 5 of the Code of Judicial Conduct to address the question which you have raised. Canon 5 states that "[a] judge or judicial candidate shall refrain from inappropriate political activity." Since your statement would not actually involve the type of political activity contemplated by the provisions of Canon 5 but merely addresses the potential impact of the first female senator in West Virginia history, you may discuss the situation with PBS.

We hope this opinion fully addresses the issue which you have raised. If there is any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ronald E. Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.

Ronald E. Wilson, Chairperson
Judicial Investigation Commission

REW/bjl