

JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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

March 1, 2016

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2016-07.

Dear

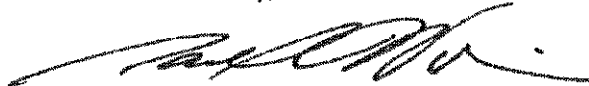
Your request for an advisory opinion to Counsel was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission at its February 26, 2016 meeting. You want to know if a member of your court staff is permitted to have a bumper sticker on his/her car that says

To address the question which you have raised, the Commission has reviewed Rules 2.12(A) and 4.1(A)(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Rule 2.12(A) states that "[a] judge shall require court staff, court officials, and others subject to the judge's direction and control to act in a manner consistent with the judge's obligations under this Code." Rule 4.1(A)(3) provides that "a judge or judicial candidate shall not publicly endorse or oppose a candidate for any public office."

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission is of the opinion that your employee cannot have a bumper sticker that states _____ on her automobile because it would constitute opposition to a candidate for public office in violation of Rule 4.1(A)(3).

The Commission hopes that this opinion fully addresses the issues which you have raised. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission should you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald E. Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald E. Wilson, Chairperson
Judicial Investigation Commission

REW/tat