



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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

August 24, 2017

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2017-19.

Dear

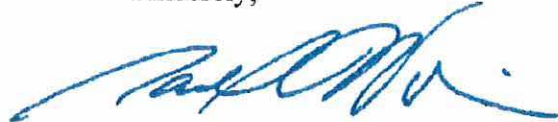
Your recent request for an advisory opinion to Counsel was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. You want to know if you are disqualified from handling cases where a party to a couple of civil suits donated \$500.00 to your judicial campaign last year. You indicated that you raised only a total of \$6,000.00 and you therefore believe this gentleman's contribution was "significant."

The Commission has reviewed your correspondence and the Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure regarding advisory opinions. Rule 2.13 of the Rules states that the Commission may render in writing such advisory opinion as it may deem appropriate. The Commission views this Rule as giving it discretionary authority on whether or not to issue an advisory opinion. After reviewing the information which you have provided and discussing the matter, the Commission felt that the correspondence was not appropriate for the issuance of an advisory opinion.

It would not be suitable for the Commission to base an advisory opinion concerning disqualification/disclosure simply on the amount of money contributed by an individual to your judicial campaign. In truth, you are the only person who really knows whether you may be influenced by the contribution or whether you should disclose the matter. However, the Commission would suggest that in the future, you should refrain from learning who contributed to your campaign in order to avoid further disqualification/disclosure issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission should you have additional questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ronald E. Wilson, Chairperson
Judicial Investigation Commission

REW/tat