



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

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

June 22, 2020

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2020-15

Dear Judge :

Your recent request for an advisory opinion was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. You are selling your home and want to know if you can prepare your own deed to the buyer.

To address your question, the Commission has reviewed Rule 3.10 of the Code of Judicial Conduct which provides:

A judge shall not practice law. A judge may act *pro se* and may, without compensation, give legal advice to and draft or review documents for the judge's family, but is prohibited from serving as the family member's lawyer in any forum.

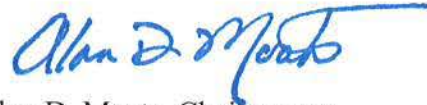
Comment [1] to the Rule states:

A judge may act *pro se* in all legal matters, including matters involving litigation and matters involving appearances before or other dealings with governmental bodies. A judge must not use the prestige of office to advance the judge's personal or family interests.

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission is of the opinion that you may prepare the deed since you would be acting *pro se*, without compensation, and the matter is not one

that could be construed as you using the prestige of your office to advance any personal or family interests. It is hoped that this opinion fully addresses the issue raised by you. If there is any further question regarding this matter do not hesitate to contact the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alan D. Moats". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Alan D. Moats, Chairperson
Judicial Investigation Commission

ADM/tat