



JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

WV Judicial Tower - Suite 700 A
4700 MacCorkle Ave., SE
Charleston, West Virginia 25304
(304) 558-0169

August 5, 2024

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2024-15

Dear Judge :

Your request for an advisory opinion was recently reviewed by the Commission. CASA has asked two other judges and you to present at their GALA event by speaking on the issue of the status of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. According to you, the set up would allow you to answer questions and have discussions more one on one with attendees of the event with the purpose being to educate those in attendance about the systems. You want to know if you may speak at the gathering.

To address your question the Commission has reviewed Rule 3.1(C) of the Code of Judicial Conduct which states that “[a] judge may engage in extrajudicial activities, except as prohibited by law or this Code. However, when engaging in extrajudicial activities, a judge shall not participate in activities that would appear to a reasonable person to undermine the judge’s independence, integrity or impartiality.”

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission finds that you may speak at the event as long as your comments are procedural in nature, are strictly designed to educate the public about the systems and/or are neutral and detached and do not create the impression that you are biased in favor or against CASA. For example, it would be wholly improper for you to talk about specific cases,

Thank you for your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission should you have any further questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Alan D. Moats", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan D. Moats, Chairperson
Judicial Investigation Commission

ADM: tat