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

July 30, 2026

Re: JIC Advisory Opinion 2026-06

Dear :

Your request for an advisory opinion to Counsel was reviewed by the Judicial Investigation Commission. Your assistant is very active in a local church, and she directs the youth group. You want to know if she can be placed on the youth group's bank account in order to secure a debit card to use when she is taking the kids on trips or activities. She does not collect any money on behalf of the youth and will not be responsible for the actual accounting of the banking account. There is a separate treasurer over the bank account. As youth director, your assistant needs to be able to purchase hotel, food, gasoline, and pay for general expenses incurred in taking the youth group on activities. Rather than using thousands of dollars in cash, the bank has advised a debit card in your assistant's name would be the best option. You want to know if this move is permissible.

To address your question, the Commission has reviewed Rule 3.7(A) of the Code of Judicial Conduct which encourages judges and court employees to participate in educational, religious, charitable, fraternal and/or fraternal organizations with some caveats. Additionally, none of the exceptions to the Rule apply to your scenario.

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission is of the opinion that your assistant can be placed on the account for purposes of obtaining a debit card. However, she may not collect or deposit any money or serve as treasurer while concurrently serving as an assistant

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,



Alan D. Moats, Chairperson
Judicial Investigation Commission

ADM/tat