

Judicial Inquiry Commission

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March 30, 1981

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning whether under the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics a judge may serve as a member of a Criminal Justice Commission formed by a political action group. The purpose of the Commission is "to work for the safety, peace and tranquility" of the residents of Alabama by examining the state's criminal justice system and developing suggested solutions to problems which might be found to exist within that system. The members of the Criminal Justice Commission are to be state and local public officials involved in the various stages of the Criminal Justice Commission.

Under Canon 5G of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics, a judge may accept appointments to positions concerned with the improvement of the law, the legal system or the administration of justice. Also under Canon 7A(3) regarding political activities of judges, it is provided that:

"A judge may engage in political activity on behalf of measures to improve the law, the legal system or the administration of justice."

Thus, it is the opinion of the Judicial Inquiry Commission that the judge may serve on the panel in question.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION