

Judicial Inquiry Commission

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Clarification of 82-126

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered requests from various judges for a clarification of Advisory Opinion 82-126. Specifically, the clarification requested is whether a Circuit Judge may send commendatory letters to jurors at his own expense as long as he is not in conflict with Advisory Opinion 82-126.

It is the opinion of the Commission that a Circuit Judge may send commendatory letters to jurors at his own expense so long as his action does not conflict with Advisory Opinion 82-126. However, a judge should be ever mindful of the high standards set out in Canon 1 of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics. Under this Canon, in order to protect the integrity of the judiciary, such letters should be sent only to those jurors who participated in a proceeding over which the judge sending the letters presided; i.e., qualifying or striking a jury or a jury trial.

Very truly yours,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION