

Judicial Inquiry Commission

800 SOUTH MCDONOUGH STREET
SUITE 201
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

November 2, 1983

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning whether a municipal judge may represent clients in criminal cases before the district courts, circuit courts and appellate courts.

It is the Commission's opinion that the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics do not prohibit a part-time municipal judge from representing criminal defendants in the district or circuit courts of any county or in the appellate courts. This is true even if members of the police force of the municipality, where he is judge, testify as witnesses in the case. However, the municipal judge should not act as an attorney in any case involving a matter when it or a closely related matter has come before or is likely to come before his court.

Yours very truly,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION