

## Judicial Inquiry Commission

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This is in response to your request for an advisory opinion from the Judicial Inquiry Commission.

Canon 4A, Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics specifically authorizes a judge to “speak, write, lecture, teach, and participate in other activities concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice” if in doing so he “does not cast doubt on his capacity to decide impartially any issue that may come before him.” In teaching on a legal subject, a judge should not “substitute his concept of what the law ought to be for what the law actually is, and . . . [should] express himself in a manner that promotes public confidence in his integrity and impartiality as a judge.” In re Gridley, 417 So.2d 950, 954 (Fla. 1982). In Advisory Opinion 91-433, this Commission held that a full-time elected judge may teach a law related course on a part-time basis so long as 1) in doing so he does not cast doubt on his capacity to decide impartially any issue that may come before him, and 2) does not detract from the dignity of his office or interfere with the performance of his judicial duties.

It is the opinion of this Commission that, with the above cautions, you may ethically teach courses on Alabama Drug Laws and Moot Court at the Southwest Alabama Police Academy.

This opinion has been approved and adopted by the Judicial Inquiry Commission and is the opinion of the Commission.