

## Judicial Inquiry Commission

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September 27, 1996

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether a judge may write a letter to the State Bar Association at an attorney's request in response to a complaint filed against the attorney regarding the attorney's representation in a particular case. As you know, the Commission held in Advisory Opinion 89-390 that a judge may submit an assessment of an attorney's performance at a specific trial to the State Bar Grievance Committee at that attorney's request, providing information concerning the facts and circumstances of the case that are within the judge's own knowledge.

It is the opinion of the Commission that a judge may write such a letter to the State Bar at an attorney's request. However, the judge should not testify voluntarily as a witness to the attorney's character. Canon 2C. It is also the opinion of the Commission that it is generally the better practice for a judge not to give any testimony unless officially summoned to do so. See Advisory Opinion 96-615.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION