## Judicial Inquiry Commission 800 SOUTH MCDONOUGH STREET

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November 15, 1996

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether a judge is disqualified from presiding over cases handled by members of a certain law firm where the judge currently is a witness in litigation concerning a prenuptial agreement due to his representation, prior to assuming the bench, of one of the parties in the drafting and execution of the agreement. The law firm in question represented the opposing party both at the time the agreement was prepared and executed and in the current litigation.

It is the opinion of the Commission that a judge is not disqualified from hearing cases handled by the opposing law firm that are unrelated to the prenuptial agreement litigation. There is no applicable specifically listed ground of disqualification under Canon 3C(1), and the described circumstances do not provide a basis for reasonably questioning the judge's impartiality.

Yours truly,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION