

Judicial Inquiry Commission

800 SOUTH MCDONOUGH STREET
SUITE 201
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

October 3, 1997

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning whether, under the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics, a judge may participate as a canvasser in the Stewardship Campaign at his church. As part of the campaign the judge's photograph accompanied by two paragraphs describing the judge's support for the church and its ministries will appear in a pamphlet which will be sent to all church members along with a pledge card. All other canvassers will also appear in the pamphlet.

It is the opinion of the Commission that the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics discourage participation by judges in fund-raising activities for charitable or religious institutions.

A judge's charitable activities are governed by Canon 5B of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics. That canon provides in pertinent part "(2) [i]t is desirable that a judge not solicit funds for any ... religious, ... organization, or institution, or use or permit the use of the prestige of his office for that purpose."

Yours very truly,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION