

## Judicial Inquiry Commission

800 SOUTH MCDONOUGH STREET  
SUITE 201  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

February 4, 1977

In your request for an opinion from this Commission, you stated that you would become a District Judge on January 17, 1977, and that you operated a commercial printing business in Anniston, Alabama. You also stated that a portion of your business was with Calhoun County officeholders, particularly the Register's office and many lawyers in the County. You were concerned about the possible conflict of interest in being a District Judge and, at the same time, doing a printing business with county officeholders and lawyers.

The Canons of Judicial Ethics counsel a judge to avoid "impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all his activities," and that he "should refrain from financial and business dealings that tend to reflect adversely on his impartiality, interfere with the proper performance of his judicial duties, or exploit his judicial position." Canons 2 and 5C(l), Canons of Judicial Ethics.

After a careful study, the Commission concluded that doing a printing business with Calhoun County officeholders and area lawyers while a District Court Judge brings you within the letter and spirit of Judicial Ethics Canons 2 and 5C(l) and such activity should be avoided.

I trust that we have answered your questions.