

Judicial Inquiry Commission

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September 17, 1984

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning whether under the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics a judge may purchase printing supplies, i.e., stationery, forms etc. from his spouse, who is a distributor for a national printing company.

The Canons of Judicial Ethics do not specifically address a judge's purchase of office supplies from his spouse or a member of his household. However, it appears that such a purchase may be prohibited under the Alabama Ethics Law. See §36-25-5, Code of Alabama, 1975. If such a purchase does violate §36-25-5, then making the purchase would also be a violation of Canon 2A which provides that:

“A judge should respect and comply with the law and should conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.”

We regret that we cannot answer your question more fully. However, the opinion authority of this Commission is restricted to the proper application of the Canons of Judicial Ethics. The Alabama Ethics Commission is authorized to render opinions concerning the proper application of the Alabama Ethics Law. §36-25-1, et seq., Code of Alabama, 1975.

Therefore, to obtain a more complete answer to your question, you may wish to obtain an opinion from the Ethics Commission.