

## Judicial Inquiry Commission

800 SOUTH MCDONOUGH STREET  
SUITE 201  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

December 3, 1984

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning whether, under the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics, a part-time municipal court judge may appear in commercial advertising for a specialty men's clothing store. The judge, who is a customer at the store, may or may not be identified in the commercial ad as "Judge". No compensation is involved.

Canon 2C of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics provides that a judge:

"... should not lend the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of others ..."

It is the opinion of the Commission that a judge's appearing as a judge in a commercial advertisement would constitute his lending the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of others. Therefore, such activity would violate this Canon.

However, the Canons do not prohibit the judge's appearance in these advertisements in his private capacity.

Very truly yours,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION