

## Judicial Inquiry Commission

800 SOUTH MCDONOUGH STREET  
SUITE 201  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

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The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning whether a judge may appear in his judicial robes at a charitable fund raiser and act as a judge over the mock trials setting mock fines at amounts which arrestees (local dignitaries) are required to raise for charity in order to be set free.

Canon 5B of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics governs a judge's civic and charitable activities. Specifically as to fund raising that Canon provides under 5B(2):

"It is desirable that judge not solicit funds for any educational, religious, charitable, fraternal or civic organization or institution, or use or permit the use of the prestige of his office for that purpose but he may be listed as an officer, director or trustee of such an organization or institution."

In the past, the Commission has held that these provisions do not provide an absolute prohibition against charitable fund raising activities by a judge. See Advisory Opinion 83-174. However, should a judge participate in the above-described fund raising activity he should be ever mindful of the provisions of Canons 1 and 2 and limit his activity so that he does not lend the prestige of his judicial office to the event. A judge is therefore discouraged from acting as the "judge" in the fund raiser. If he does participate, he should not appear in his judicial robes.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION