

Judicial Inquiry Commission

800 SOUTH MCDONOUGH STREET
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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

March 4, 1987

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning whether under the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics a circuit court judge may participate as a member of the Attorney General's Task Force on Victims and Victims' Rights. The group will include members of the criminal defense bar, a district attorney, victims advocates, representatives of the Department of Corrections, the Crime Victims Compensation Commission, academia, members of the Legislature and others. The Task Force is designed to analyze and evaluate current laws and efforts relating to victims and victims' rights while protecting the rights of the accused.

It is the opinion of the Commission that service on the described Attorney General's Task Force is permitted under Canon 4 of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics. Canon 4 provides that:

"A Judge May Engage in Activities to Improve the Law, the Legal System, and the Administration of Justice.

A judge, subject to the proper performance of his judicial duties, may engage in the following quasi-judicial activities, if in doing so he does not cast doubt on his capacity to decide impartially any issue that may come before him: ...

- C. He may serve as a member, officer, or director of an organization or governmental agency devoted to the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice ...

Service on the Attorney General's Task Force falls well within those activities described in this Canon.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION