

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 part-time municipal court judge may serve as Vice Chairman of the United Way Campaign for a county. It is understood that after a year's service as Vice Chairman, the judge will move up to the Campaign chairmanship. The United Way Campaign has as its primary purpose the solicitation of funds for a number of worthy charitable causes.

It is the opinion of the Commission that the judge should not participate in the described activity.

A judge's civic and charitable activities are governed by Canon 5B of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics. That Canon, under Section 5B(2), specifically discourages a judge's participation in fund raising or solicitation. Under the Compliance Section of the Canons, a part-time judge is not exempt from compliance with Canon 5B. There being no exemption, a part-time judge must comply with these provisions.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION