

Judicial Inquiry Commission

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This is in response to your request for an advisory opinion from the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission. Your question is: May a full-time elected judge teach a law related course on a part-time basis so long as it does not conflict with his regular office hours?

Canon 4A of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics provides:

“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:

- A. He may speak, write, lecture, teach, and participate in other activities concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice.”

Therefore, the answer to your question is yes, a full-time elected judge may teach a law related course on a part-time basis so long as 1) in doing so he does not cast doubt on his capacity to decide impartially any issue that may come before him, and 2) does not detract from the dignity of his office or interfere with the performance of his judicial duties. See also Canon 5A.

The Commission thanks you for your inquiry and commends you for your effort to abide by the Canons of Judicial Ethics.

Respectfully,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION