

Judicial Inquiry Commission

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July 23, 1993

This is in response to your request for an advisory opinion from the Judicial Inquiry Commission. Your question is whether you may contribute a recipe to a cookbook consisting of recipes supplied by football fans of the University of Alabama. Your photograph would appear along with your recipe in the book.

It is the opinion of this Commission that such a contribution is not prohibited by the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics. Canon 5A provides, in pertinent part: "A judge may write, lecture, teach, and speak on nonlegal subjects, and engage in the arts, sports, and other social and recreational activities, if such avocational activities do not detract from the dignity of his [or her] office or interfere with the performance of his [or her] judicial duties."

In Advisory opinion 93-466, this Commission held that an incumbent judge may place an advertisement in a local school annual yearbook or football program in which the judge is identified as a judge and is pictured in his or her judicial robe. Any advertisement must maintain the dignity appropriate to the judicial office. See also Advisory Opinion 90-396 (a judge may contribute quarterly articles to a newspaper for publication).

This opinion has been considered by the Commission and is the opinion of the Judicial Inquiry Commission.