

Judicial Inquiry Commission

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November 17, 1980

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has considered your request for an opinion concerning the propriety of a judge providing the owner of a business with a photograph of the judge to be displayed in a prominent place in the physical facility in which the business in question is conducted. The business in question is a bar or cocktail lounge.

Under the facts presented, the conduct in question is governed by Canon 2 of the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics. Canon 2 provides that:

“A judge should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all his activities.”

More specifically, Canon 2 provides further that:

“ ... [A judge] should not lend the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of others; nor should he convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence him.”

It is the opinion of the Commission that a judge should not provide the owner of a business with a photograph for public display on the business premises.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION