

April 17, 2007

Ms. Cathleen V. Compton  
Dudley & Compton  
114 South Pulaski St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

**Advisory Opinion 2007-02**

Dear Ms. Compton:

Your letter to Colonel James Badami, Executive Director of the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission has been sent to me, as I am a member of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee. In response to your proposed question dated April 6, 2007, whether or not you can still honor a commitment made to a Campaign Committee prior to your announcement as a candidate for a judicial office?

Cannon 5 of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct states that: a Judge *or judicial candidate* shall refrain from inappropriate political activity. Section 5A(1)(b) states all judges and candidates for election or appointment for judicial office shall not publicly endorse or publicly oppose a candidate for any public office. Finally, Section 5A(1)(e) states you should not solicit funds for, pay an assessment to or make a contribution to a political party or candidate.

Based upon restrictions in the Canons of Judicial Conduct, we are of the opinion that you have no choice but to disavow the campaign promise made prior to your announcing your candidacy for a judicial position.

Sincerely,

John B. Plegge  
For the Committee