



Supreme Court

STATE OF LOUISIANA
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New Orleans
70130-8101

CHIEF JUSTICE
CATHERINE D. KIMBALL
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR
TIMOTHY F. AVERILL, J.D., M.P.A.

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October 11, 2011

Personal and Confidential

Re: *Your request for an ethics advisory opinion, Louisiana Supreme Court
Committee on Judicial Ethics*

Dear

Please be advised that the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics has carefully considered your request for an ethics advisory opinion on the following issues:

ISSUE 1

Is it ethically permissible for a candidate to establish a campaign committee more than two years before the primary election?

ISSUE 2

If the answer to Issue 1 is yes, is it ethically permissible for the campaign committee to immediately open a bank account?

ISSUE 3

If the answer to Issue 1 is yes, is it ethically permissible for the campaign committee to accept unsolicited campaign contributions more than two years before the primary election?

ISSUE 4

If the answer to Issue 3 is yes, is it ethically permissible for the campaign committee to immediately make use of any unsolicited campaign contributions?

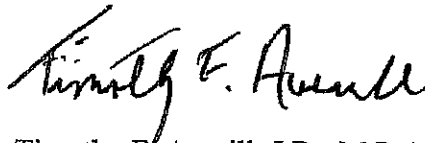
The foregoing issues arose in response to letters that you sent to local lawyers and former and current clients concerning your "grassroots campaign" and the two "spontaneous, unsolicited campaign contributions" that you received in response to those letters.

Please be advised that, by unanimous and majority vote, the Committee, pursuant to the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct, responds in the affirmative to Issues 1 and 2, respectively.

Please be further advised that, by a close majority vote, the Committee responds in the affirmative to Issues 3 and 4. Nevertheless, several committee members expressed concern about whether the letters you sent could be construed as a solicitation of funds.

The Committee's opinion is based solely on its interpretation of the Code of Judicial Conduct and does not address the applicability of any Louisiana Campaign laws, Campaign Finance laws, or any other laws.

Sincerely,



Timothy F. Averill, J.D., M.P.A.
Secretary and Member
Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics

TFA/bkb

cc: Chair and Members, Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Louisiana