



Supreme Court

STATE OF LOUISIANA
400 ROYAL STREET
SUITE 1190
New Orleans
70130-8101

CHIEF JUSTICE
HELENETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR
TIMOTHY F. AVERILL, J.D., M.P.A.

TELEPHONE (504) 310 2500
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April 29, 2013

Personal and Confidential

Via U.S. Mail

*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

Is it ethically permissible for a judicial candidate to respond to a questionnaire from the Louisiana Right to Life Project and/or similar questionnaires which ask the opinion of the judicial candidate on a number of disputed legal and/or political issues?

Please be further advised that, by unanimous vote, the Committee, pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, responds in the affirmative, provided that (1) the candidate clearly indicate that the responses do not constitute a promise that the candidate will rule a certain way in a case and reflect only the candidate's personal views on the matter; (2) the candidate clearly acknowledges the obligation to follow binding legal precedent anywhere it exists; (3) the candidate does not appear to endorse any other individual who is likely to stand for election to or retention in any public office or any platform of a political party; (4) any commentary on past judicial decisions is analytical, informed, respectful, and dignified; (5) the candidate note that s/he will keep an open mind and carry out judicial duties faithfully and impartially; and (6) the

candidate's responses comply with the pledges, promises, and commitments clause of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy F. Averill". To the right of the signature, there are initials "TFA" written in a similar cursive style.

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