Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee

MEMBERS:

Hon. Edwin Alderson
Municipal Judge Retired

Prof. Howard W. Brill

Hon. John Cole
Circuit Judge Retired

PRESS RELEASE

POINT OF CONTACT: DAVID J. SACHAR

501-682-1050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2014

The Arkansas Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee issued an Advisory Opinion to Ernest Sanders, Jr. of Little Rock, Arkansas.

The opinion is attached.

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March 6, 2014

Ernest Sanders, Jr., Esq.
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 326
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Re: Advisory Opinion 2014-02

Dear Mr. Sanders:

You have advised us that as of February 24 you will be an announced candidate for Circuit Judge of the 6th Judicial District. You stated that in 2010 you were appointed as Circuit Judge In Pulaski County to serve the remainder of a term after the judge was removed from office and that you have not served in any judicial office since December 31, 2010.

You are correct in your conclusion that you cannot refer to yourself on the ballot as "judge". Arkansas Code Ann 7-7-305 (c) (1) (B); Advisory Opinions 2002-03 and 2005-08. Your question pertains to the use of "former judge" in various aspects of your political campaign for judicial office. As examples you asked, "can I say "elect Ernest Sanders, a former judge, for Circuit Judge or "Former Judge Ernest Sanders for Circuit Judge".

We are of the opinion that you may let the public know who you are and your qualifications for office and that this includes the fact that you have held the office of Circuit Judge. Your having served as a Circuit Judge constitutes a part of your personal history and the public is entitled to know this. Additionally, we do not believe the use of the phrases in your examples would violate the Code of Judicial Conduct.

For the Committee,

Judge Edwin B. Alderson (retired)

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