

DISSENTING OPINION

_____I respectfully dissent. The Committee opines that a judge may prepare and transmit a personal letter on private stationery to friends and/or acquaintances of the judge, promoting the candidacy of another judge. The Committee requires a disclaimer be placed in each letter that such written endorsement should not be publicly disseminated to others or otherwise published in a manner resulting in a public endorsement. The written correspondence is for personal and private consideration only.

It is my opinion that if a judge must put a disclaimer upon private correspondence in order to protect himself/herself from possible breaches of the Code of Judicial Ethics under Cannon 2(B) and Cannon 5(A)(11)(b), the judge should not write the correspondence in the first place.

Brenda J. Waggoner, Judge
Knox County General Sessions
Court, Division IV