Opinion Number: 08-13 (Elections\(^1\))
Date of Issue: May 28, 2008

**ISSUE**

May a judicial candidate, who has retired from the circuit bench and enjoys senior status, use the title "Judge" in campaign literature, media releases, printed ads, or other media venues?

**ANSWER:** No.

**FACTS**

A judicial candidate, who retired as a circuit judge several years ago, is seeking election to a circuit judgeship. The Judicial Candidate enjoys senior status and is eligible to serve as a judge in this capacity.

**DISCUSSION**

This inquiry is a follow-up to the inquiry in Florida Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee Opinion 08-10. The Inquiring Judicial Candidate enjoys the status of "senior judge" and is concerned about the use of the term "judge" in political ads.

For the reasons expressed in Florida Judicial Ethics Advisory Opinion 08-10, it would be improper to use the term "judge" in campaign literature, media releases, political ads, or other media venues. This would convey the impression that the candidate is currently a sitting judge and would be a misrepresentation of the candidate's status. However, use of the term "senior judge" is relevant and truthful and may be utilized by the candidate.

**REFERENCES**

Fla. JEAC Op. 08-10.

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\(^1\) The Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee has appointed an Election Practices Subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide immediate responses to campaign questions in instances where the normal Committee procedure would not provide a response in time to be useful to the inquiring candidate or judge. Opinions designated with the "(Election)" notation are opinions of the Election Practices Subcommittee of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and have the same authority as an opinion of the Committee.
Committee opinion as evidence of good faith. Id.

Participating Members:


For further information, contact: Judge Lisa Davidson, Chair, Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, The Moore Justice Center, 2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940

Copies furnished to:

Inquiring judge (Name of the Inquiring Judge deleted)
Justice Peggy Quince
Thomas D. Hall, Clerk of Supreme Court
All Committee Members
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