

# Memorandum

To : File

Date : Feb. 25, 1977

77-02-108

From : FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
Ken Finney

Subject: Telephone conversation with Judge Ruthberg, a Municipal Court Judge.

In a telephone conversation with Judge Ruthberg I answered the following questions concerning his Statement of Economic Interests. First, he wondered about what date he will have filed his Statement. I indicated that the Statement will be filed as of the date he gives it to the court clerk. Second, he inquired about performing wedding ceremonies and whether or not this will create a reporting obligation. I responded that if the fee charged is the standard rate, the fee is not a gift. Moreover, I indicated that in terms of determining whether to report such fees he does not have to cumulate all the various fees he gets from different couples.

The Judge's third question involved wedding gifts that he and his wife had received. I indicated to him that the reporting threshold for such gifts would be \$50 based on the Torres opinion. Fourth, I informed the Judge that with respect to wedding gifts from his parents there would be no reporting obligation since these are exempt pursuant to Section 82030(b).

The Judge also inquired about workmen's compensation payments to his wife. I indicated that these would not create a reporting obligation even if he had a community property interest in the payments because payments under an insurance policy are exempt under Section 82030(b). Finally, the Judge inquired about fees that he continues to receive from old clients for whom he performed work prior to being appointed to the bench. The Judge was a sole practitioner at the time. I indicated that if any fees that he recovers exceed \$250 they are reportable as income and that the source of income will be the clients.

KF:jo