1978 WL 35229 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina November 17, 1978

*1 Honorable Samuel Peay 5116 Fairfield Road Columbia, S.C. 29203

Dear Judge Peay:

In your letter of November 9, 1978 to this Office you asked whether there would be a conflict of interest involving your position as magistrate and the fact that your brother is employed by a bonding company which acts on occasion as a surety for defendants in Richland County, some of which have been required to be secured by bond by you as magistrate. In response to such, I am unaware of any provisions which absolutely forbid such a relationship. However as you are aware, your position as magistrate should not be used as means of generating business for a particular bonding company. This would include the obligation to release on personal recognizance and thus avoid the necessity for a bond in those situations meeting the requirements as set forth by Section 17-15-10, et seq., of the 1976 Code of Laws. I can only suggest that you use your discretion in any dealings you may have with this particular company and avoid any practices which could suggest impropriety.

With best wishes, I am Very truly yours,

Charles H. Richardson Assistant Attorney General

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