



Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics

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Executive Director

Alan S. Johnson

July 2, 2010

Lloyd A. Comiter, Esq.
9858 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33434



Re: RQO 10-007

Dear Mr. Comiter,

Your request for advisory opinion to the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics has been received and reviewed. The opinion rendered is as follows:

YOU ASKED, in your letter of June 28, 2010, if you, having contracted with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit through a County Civil Mediation Services Agreement and/or as a volunteer small claims mediator may continue to serve on the Palm Beach County Groundwater and Natural Resources Protection Board without violating s. 2-443(c) (Prohibited contractual relationships) of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics.

IN SUM, according to Palm Beach County Court Administration, your contract is with the State of Florida and not with Palm Beach County. The relevant section of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics states as follows:

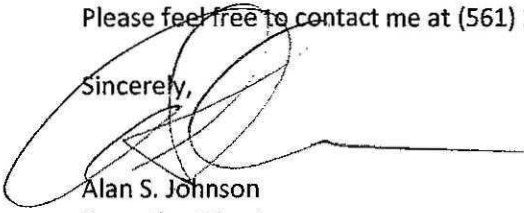
2-443(c) Prohibited contractual relationships. No official or employee shall enter into any contract or other transaction for goods or services *with the county*. (emphasis added)

Based on the information you provided to the Commission on Ethics you are contracted with the state and therefore no conflict of interest or prohibited contractual relationship exists. Your ongoing service to the county as member of the Groundwater and Natural Resources Protection Board does not, therefore, violate the county code of ethics.

This opinion construes the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics Ordinance, but is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Inquiries regarding possible conflicts under state law should be directed to the State of Florida Commission on Ethics.

Please feel free to contact me at (561) 233-0724 if I can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Alan S. Johnson
Executive Director
Commission on Ethics