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Judicial Ethics

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The May 12 Pearson and Anderson column under the subhead "Judicial Ethics," quotes Joseph Borkin, author of "The Corrupt Judge," as saying: "There is no law prohibiting a judge from engaging in private practice or taking a fee, so long as he does not practice against the United States."

It is incredible that Mr. Borkin could have made that statement with respect to Federal (United States) Judges—and it is such judges that were being discussed.

Section 454 of Title 28, United States Code, reads:

S. 454. *Practice of law by justices and judges*

Any justice or judge appointed under the authority of the United States who engages in the practice of law is guilty of a high misdemeanor.

And while on the subject, we might as well quote the next section, S. 455, titled *Interest of justice or judge*, reading:

Any justice or judge of the United States shall disqualify himself in any case in which he has a substantial interest, has been of counsel, is or has been a material witness, or is so related to or connected with any party or his attorney as to render it improper, in his opinion, for him to sit on the trial, appeal, or other proceeding therein.

I respectfully suggest you owe your lay readers clarification on this important point.

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