

January 11, 2001
Re: IO-00-184

You inquired whether you may participate in secondary employment for a local lawyer who has both a criminal and civil practice in the county. You are a police officer in your third year of law school and you have been offered the job of legal intern for this lawyer. You stated that you would not participate in any criminal matters, but would be employed exclusively in the civil side of the practice.

There is nothing in §3-105 of the Public Ethics Law, Article 9 of the Anne Arundel County Code that would prohibit this employment provided that you do not participate in criminal matters, and that you do not represent any clients in matters in which the county may have an adversarial or competitive interest. §3-105(c). You must refrain from using or disclosing any confidential information that you may acquire by reason of your public position. §3-107. The ethics commission will be glad to advise you as to any specific ethics issues that may arise in the course of your secondary employment.

You should be aware that this opinion in no way supersedes the authority of the police department to determine whether your secondary employment is permissible. You are still required to follow the appropriate protocol for approval of your secondary employment request.

Thank you for your inquiry. If you have other questions, please call any time, and please accept my apology for the delay in responding to your request. I hope that it did not cause you any inconvenience. Good luck in your last year of law school and with the bar exam.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director