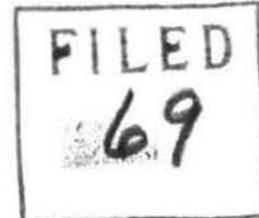


July 1, 1965



Mr. James L. Paul
Attorney at Law
Pineville, Missouri

Dear Mr. Paul:

This is in reply to your request for an opinion concerning the right of a bailbondsmen to require that a prisoner employ a particular lawyer as a condition of the bail agreement.

We find nothing which specifically prohibits the bondsman from making this requirement. However, the lawyer involved could be said to have violated the Canon of Ethics on the subject (Supreme Court Rule 4.28) and, because the bondsman is a participant or conspirator in that violation, he could not be said to be a "reputable person" as defined in the attached prior opinion of this office (to Honorable William A. Collet, February 15, 1961).

Since Supreme Court Rule 32.14 requires that a bailbondsmen be a "reputable person", the individual you describe could not qualify.

Very truly yours,

HLM:mje

NORMAN H. ANDERSON
Attorney General

Enclosure