



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

JUDGE THOMAS F. BUTT
Chairman

WILLIAM S. ARNOLD
Vice-Chairman

Justice Building
625 Marshall Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1050

JAMES A. BADAMI
Executive Director

November 24, 1992

Honorable Bill Watt
Little Rock Municipal Judge
600 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Case # 92-155, 92-159, 92-164

Dear Judge Watt,

At a hearing on November 20, 1992, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission reviewed an anonymous complaint, two sworn complaints, your response, the results of its investigation, and other material including your sworn testimony. In summary, the allegations were that you were acting as the sole witness and arresting official in an incident and later presided at the criminal trial of the three individuals who were involved in that incident.

The facts showed that you observed two teenagers in front of the Little Rock slain police officers' memorial making an obscene gesture and a third was taking their picture. You directed the three teenagers, one who was 16 years old, into the police station to be charged with a misdemeanor, disorderly conduct. (One of the teenagers was wanted on an arrest warrant). You directed the camera being used to be seized and the film developed by the Little Rock Police Department. You also directed that the three appear in your court, Little Rock Municipal Traffic Court, the following week. You presided at their criminal trial and then directed they perform community service work. Upon successful completion of the community service work, the charges were dismissed and the records expunged. The Commission found the evidence substantiated the allegations.

The Commission found, under the circumstances of this case as described above, your actions denigrated the public confidence of the judiciary and was inconsistent with maintaining the high standards of conduct essential in preserving the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. This constitutes a violation of Canons 2A, 2A, and 3C of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. It is the judgment of the Commission that you be and you are hereby admonished.

*This public admonition constitutes adequate discipline and no further action is warranted.
The Commission indulges the expectation that this conduct will not be repeated.*

This Commission action is public information.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:



*James A. Badami
Executive Director*

*/cc/ Michael Rogers
Larry Smith*