Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

MICHAEL R. GOTT
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JAMES A. BADAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 23, 2006

Honorable L. T. Simes
1st Division Circuit Court
PO Box 2775
West Helena, AR 72390

RE: Complaint #04206 LETTER OF ADMONISHMENT

Dear Judge Simes:

During its May 19, 2006 meeting, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission decided to issue a Letter of Admonishment to you in complaint #04206. At a Probable Cause Hearing the Commission considered the findings of the investigation, your response to a Statement of Allegations, and your testimony before the Commission. The Commission found that you violated Canons 1 and 5C(2) of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Commission also found Canon 5C(2) constitutional in its application to the facts as alleged.

The Commission found that you were an elected circuit judge at all times relevant to the matter under consideration. The Commission also found that during your 2004 reelection campaign you personally solicited campaign contributions from Attorney Tom Young and Attorney Mike Easley. During that time period Attorney Young appeared before you between one and four times a year. At the time of this solicitation he did not have any cases pending before you. Also during that time period Attorney Easley appeared before you about two or three times a quarter and had cases pending in your court at the time of the personal solicitation.

The Commission found that your making personal solicitations for campaign contributions was inappropriate and constituted a violation of Canons 1 and 5C(2) of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. It is the judgment of this Commission that you be hereby admonished.

This public admonishment constitutes adequate discipline and no further action is warranted. This final Commission action is public information.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION

Sincerely

James A. Badami
Executive Director

cc: Attorney Charles Halbert
Attorney Silas Brewer

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