Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

JUDGE LEON N. JAMISON
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DAVID A. STEWART
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 21, 2008

Honorable Mary McGowan
9th Division Circuit Court
401 W. Markham, Rm, 320
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: LETTER OF REPRIMAND, Case #05-150; Case #08-290

Dear Judge McGowan:

The Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission has considered the allegations and the results of its preliminary investigation in case #05-150 and case #08-290. In both of these complaints, the Commission has now made the following findings and dispositions which you do not dispute.

In case #08-290, the Commission found that you were an elected circuit court judge at all times relevant to the matter under consideration. The Commission also found that in several cases in the past, you failed to decide matters promptly and did not accurately calculate the length of time that several matters had been on your docket ready for adjudication by the court. In approximately 7 instances, you failed to report cases that had been pending for more than 90 days as required under Administrative Order #3. All of these pending cases are either now closed or the previously pending motions have been adjudicated and need not be reported on your 90 day list. You have pledged to comply with Administrative Order #3 in the future. This letter resolves any and all known failures and lapses of prompt and efficient disposition of your cases to date.

In case #05-150, the Commission found that on several occasions prior to May 2005, you had lapses in demeanor while on the bench. Specifically, you were not always patient and courteous to litigants and lawyers and others with whom you deal in an official capacity in violation of Canon 3(B)(4).

For your conduct in violating the above provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct, it is the decision of the Commission that you be reprimanded. This public reprimand constitutes adequate discipline and no further action is warranted. Further discipline may occur if the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission finds similar violations in the future. This Commission action is public information.

BY DIRECTION OF THIS COMMISSION:

David A Stewart
Executive Director