

Benton County District Court Judge Rodney Owens

On December 12, 2001 Judge Owens was arrested and charged with a felony. It is alleged that Owens attempted to evade or defeat the payment of sales tax and personal property tax on a 1989 Motor Coach (RV) motor home. Owens allegedly purchased the RV in Oklahoma and titled and registered the RV in Oregon while at the same time he was a resident and taxpayer in Arkansas. The purpose of this registration in Oregon was to allegedly avoid paying Arkansas state sales tax and to avoid paying the appropriate personal property tax.

Judge Owens is currently represented by Attorney Drew Miller. Effective December 17, 2001 Owens, by his attorney, has agreed not to preside as judge in any capacity until this matter is fully resolved.

A copy of the letter setting forth the judge's decision not to serve in a judicial capacity follows.

Sean T. Keith
Andrew R. Miller
Stephen W. Butler
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DISABILITY COMMISSION

December 17, 2001

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Mr. James A. Badami
Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission
323 Center Street, Suite 1060
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Rodney Parker Owens, District Judge, various District Courts

Dear Mr. Badami:

This letter is to inform you that Rodney Parker Owens will not be presiding as a judge, in any capacity, until this matter is fully resolved. This intent is effective immediately.

He has made arrangements to hopefully accommodate the judicial system, prosecutors and defendants included, regarding the various district courts he presided over. I do not possess enough facts in advising him of any future outcome regarding his ability to be a judge.

Please consider this an entry of appearance on his behalf. I would request all further communication and correspondence be directed to my office.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



Andrew R. Miller
Keith, Miller, Butler
& Webb, PLLC

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