

## Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

JUDGE THOMAS F. BUTT Chairman

WILLIAM S. ARNOLD

Justice Building 625 Marshall Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501) 662-1050

JAMES A. BAD. Executive Direct

June 25, 1991

Honorable Lee Munson Pulaski County Courthouse, Room 301 401 West Markham Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Case # 90-136

Dear Judge Munson,

At a probable cause hearing on June 21, 1991, the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission reviewed a statement of allegations in lieu of a sworn complaint, your response to that statement of allegations, your testimony, the results of its investigations and other material. The allegations were that:

- 1. For the years 1984 through 1988, you failed to pay your personal property taxes until February 20, 1990.
- 2. As owner of a black Chevrolet Blazer purchased in May 1984, you failed to pay the license fee on the vehicle for license term May 1985 May 1986 through license term May 1989 May 1990, until February 20, 1990.
- 3. You failed to pay the sales tax on the black Chevrolet Blazer purchased in May 1984 until February 20, 1990.
- 4. You improperly and without authority displayed dealer's tags on your black Chevrolet Blazer during some of the time you did not obtain vehicle license tags.

The Commission also reviewed other parts of the anonymous complaint which included allegations of public bribery and dishonest financial dealings in exchange for favorable treatment of a litigant. The facts and circumstances surrounding these latter allegations, the anonymous complaint, your testimony, documents, and other evidence before the Commission were considered. Applying this material to the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Commission found there was insufficient cause to proceed as to these latter allegations.

The Commission found, under the circumstances of this case as described above, your failure to timely pay your personal property taxes, your failure to timely pay your car license fee, your failure to timely pay the sales tax and your improper display of dealer tags on your car denigrated the public confidence of the judiciary and was inconsistent with maintaining the high standards of conduct essential in preserving the integrity of the judiciary. This constitutes a violation of Canons I and 2A of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. It is the judgement 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 and suggests you make every effort to adhere to the provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

This Commission action is public information.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Badami Executive Director