Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

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

November 24, 1992

Honorable Ray Hodnett
Barling Police Court Judge
522 Main Street
Van Buren, AR 72956

Re: Case # 92-104

Dear Judge Hodnett,

At a probable cause hearing on November 20, 1992, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission reviewed a sworn complaint, your response to that sworn complaint, the results of its investigation, and other material. This letter concerns the allegations that on January 3, 1992 at a hearing in the Barling Municipal Court, you reached across and grabbed a pack of cigarettes that were rolled in the sleeve of Mr. Douglas Anderson's tee shirt. In so doing, you tore off the sleeve of Mr. Anderson's tee shirt. It was also alleged that during the hearing, you used language towards Mr. Anderson that was inappropriate under the circumstances. The Commission found the evidence substantiated these 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 of the judiciary. This constitutes a violation of Canons 1, 2A, and 3A 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: Morril Harriman, Attorney
Douglas Anderson