



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

JUDGE THOMAS F. BUTT
Chairman

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

JAMES A. BAC
Executive Direc

WILLIAM S. ARNOLD
Vice-Chairman

February 20, 1991

Honorable Scott Adams
Municipal Judge
P.O. Box 174
Morrilton, AR 72110

Re: Case # 90-129

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Judge Adams,

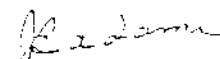
The Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission has reviewed its file, your reply to Mr. Ronnie Grable's sworn complaint and your testimony before the Commission on February 15, 1991. This letter concerns the complaint that you unreasonably delayed the decision in the case of Hagen's Dodge v. Ronnie Grable for approximately 19 months. The case was tried on June 19, 1989 and the attorney's brief filed with the court on July 13, 1989. You received a copy of the complaint from the Commission by letter of March 14, 1990. You decided the case and had judgment entered on February 15, 1991.

The Commission found your delay in deciding the case of Hagen's Dodge v. Ronnie Grable to be unreasonable and a failure to promptly dispose of the business of the court in violation of Canon 3A(5) of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. You are therefore admonished. You are also directed to keep better records of pending cases to insure this type of delay does not happen again. By May 19, 1991, you will inform this Commission by letter, of the procedures you will institute to correct this type of irregularity. Your procedure will, to the extent possible, adhere to the time guidelines set forth in the Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order number 3, dated November 19, 1990, a copy of which is enclosed.

This Commission action is public information.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

Sincerely,


James A. Badami
Executive Director

cc: Ronnie Grable

June 19, 1991

Case 90-129

REPORT OF JUDGE'S ACTION

The Commission directed a public admonishment be issued to Municipal Court Judge Scott Adams for his delay in deciding the case Hagen's Dodge v. Ronnie Grable. Part of the letter of admonishment stated, "You are also directed to keep better records of pending cases to insure this type of delay does not happen again. By May 19, 1991, you will inform this Commission by letter, of the procedures you will institute to correct this type of irregularity. Your procedure will, to the extent possible, adhere to the time guidelines set forth in the Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order number 3, dated November 19, 1990, a copy of which is enclosed."

By letter dated May 17, 1991 Judge Adams responded. In part he stated, "The Commission is hereby informed that the following procedures have been or will be instituted:

- 1. The Clerk of the Court and Deputy Clerk have been instructed to prepare a report of all cases, both civil and criminal, which have been pending for more than 30 days. At the completion of the report, all pending cases will be disposed.*
- 2. The Clerks have further been directed to calendar any case taken under advisement for review within 15 days.*
- 3. The Court has instituted the policy that all briefs of counsel will be due within 30 days of the hearing date in any particular case. Time for submission of briefs will only be extended upon showing of special circumstances warranting same. Extensions will only be granted upon written motion or hearing before the Court."*

No further action appears necessary.