

November 29, 2004

Honorable Edwin J. Alford
PO Box 1588
Nashville, AR 71852

RE: Case #04236

Dear Judge Alford:

The Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission held a Probable Cause hearing on November 19, 2004 to review a Statement of Allegations, your response and the results of the Commission investigation in case #04236. In summary, it was alleged that while serving as the district court judge for Nashville/Howard County, you were not an attorney in good standing because you were suspended from the practice of law for failing to pay your annual attorney license fees by March 1, 2004.

The facts developed show that you have continuously served as the Nashville/Howard County District Court Judge since 1995. Arkansas Supreme Court Rules require Arkansas attorneys to pay an annual attorney's license fee by March 1 of each year to remain in good standing. As a result of your failure to pay your 2004 annual attorney's license fee until June 4, 2004, you were in violation of Rule VII of the Rules governing Admission to the Arkansas Bar.

Paragraph VII C of the rules governing admission to the Arkansas Bar states that failure to pay the annual license fee shall automatically suspend the delinquent lawyer from the practice of law in Arkansas according to this rule. It appears that your delinquent payment of license fees resulted in a suspension of your license making you not an attorney in good standing from March 1 to June 4, 2004. Arkansas state law requires all attorneys serving as district court judges be licensed to practice law in good standing within the state.

The Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission found that under the circumstances of this case as described above, you failed to respect and comply with the law. Your actions denigrate the public confidence of the judiciary and was inconsistent with maintaining the high standards of conduct essential in preserving the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. This constitutes a violation of Canons 1 and 2A of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. It is the judgment of the Commission that you be and hereby are admonished.

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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.

Sincerely

James A. Badami
Executive Director

cc: Attorney Freddy Long Alford