

September 22, 1998

Honorable Edwin Keaton
Municipal Court Judge
P.O. Box 524
Camden, Arkansas 71701

RE: Case # 98-112

Dear Judge Keaton:

During the September 18, 1998 meeting, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission decided to issue a letter of admonition to you in complaint number 98-112. In that complaint the Commission found you violated the Code of Judicial Conduct.

At a Probable Cause Hearing, the Commission reviewed its file, your reply to Roy Wayne Ross' sworn complaint and your testimony before the Commission. That sworn complaint concerned a number of allegations including the allegation that you unreasonably delayed the decision in the case of Roy Wayne Ross v. Kenneth Crain dba Crain's Auto Repair for approximately two (2) years. That case was tried before you on January 25, 1996. The evidence indicated you had been reminded on at least four (4) occasions that a decision was needed in the case, and that you had misplaced the court case file and your trial notes. You decided in the case on January 29, 1998.

The Commission found your delay in deciding the case of Roy Wayne Ross v. Kenneth Crain dba Crain's Auto Repair to be unreasonable and a failure to promptly dispose of the business of the Court in violation of Canon 3B(8) of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. You are therefore admonished for this violation.

This admonishment constitutes adequate discipline and no further action is warranted.

This Commission action is public information.

Sincerely,

James A. Badami
Executive Director

cc: Roy Wayne Ross

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