



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

JAMES A. BADAMI
Executive Director

JUDGE THOMAS F. BUTT
Chairman

Tower Building - Suite 1060
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1050

November 23, 1993

Honorable Jack Lewis
Municipal Judge
P.O. 368
Clinton, AR 72031

RE: Case # 92-142

Dear Judge Lewis,

At a probable cause hearing on November 19, 1993, 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 in your attorney capacity, you were representing a Mr. Sid Branscum in a civil action against the complainants Wayne and Sheila Pruitt and in the past had represented Mr. Don Galbreath. In your judicial capacity in January, 1992, you refused to sign a request for an arrest warrant against Mr. Don Galbreath which was initiated by the affidavits of complainants Wayne and Sheila Pruitt. You forwarded this request to a circuit court judge as an apparent conflict of interest on your part. In your judicial capacity in April 1992, you signed a warrant of arrest against the complainant Sheila Pruitt which was initiated by the affidavit of your client's wife, Dorothy Branscum. The Commission found evidence to substantiate this allegation.

The Commission found, under the circumstances of this case as described above, your actions demerated 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 3C(1) of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct.

It is the judgment of the Commission that you be and you are hereby admonished.

It was also alleged that some years ago you presided at your own trial on a DWI charge. The Commission dismissed this second allegation.

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:

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James A. Badami
Executive Director

/cc/ Wayne & Sheila Pruitt