



## *Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission*

**JUDGE LEON N. JAMISON**  
CHAIRMAN

*323 Center Street • Suite 1060  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-1050 • Fax: (501) 682-1049  
E-Mail: [jddc@arkansas.gov](mailto:jddc@arkansas.gov)*

**DAVID A. STEWART**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### P R E S S   R E L E A S E

POINT OF CONTACT: DAVID STEWART

PHONE: 501-682-1050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2009

The Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission today announced that an agreed Letter of Reprimand has been issued to Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Jim Gunter.

A copy of the formal reprimand against Justice Gunter and a press release from Justice Gunter is attached. Inquiries may be directed to Justice Gunter's attorney, Nicholas H. Patton (903) 792-7080.



## *Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission*

**JUDGE LEON N. JAMISON**  
CHAIRMAN

323 Center Street • Suite 1060  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-1050 • Fax: (501) 682-1049  
E-Mail: [jddc@arkansas.gov](mailto:jddc@arkansas.gov)

**DAVID A. STEWART**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 16, 2009

Honorable Justice Jim Gunter  
Arkansas Supreme Court  
Justice Building  
625 Marshall  
Little Rock, AR

Re: Letter of Reprimand, Case #07-347

Dear Justice Gunter:

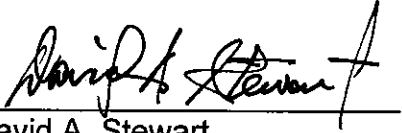
The Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission has considered the allegations and the results of the preliminary investigation in case #07-347. Your apology and statements of regret have been considered in determining the outcome of this case. The Commission made the following findings and disposition which you do not dispute.

While serving as an elected Justice on the Arkansas Supreme Court you were involved in an altercation with your sister, Janet Gibson. On September 2, 2007 an extra-judicial incident occurred in the home of J.H. Gunter in Hope, Arkansas. During the encounter your sister sustained bruises to her upper lip and lower back. This incident became a matter of public record due to a police report and the appointment of a Special Prosecutor. Although no criminal charges were filed, your conduct during the altercation gave rise to a complaint with the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission. The Canons of Judicial Conduct apply to extra-judicial conduct such as described in this paragraph and your conduct in the described incident is a violation of Canon 1 and Canon 2A. The Commission notes that you have stated that you regret your actions on the day in question, have pledged not to engage in such conduct in the future and accept the finding that your actions fall under prohibited behavior in Canon 1 and 2A.

Canon 1 states that a judge shall uphold the integrity of the Judiciary. Specifically "[a] judge should participate in establishing, maintaining and enforcing high standards of conduct, and shall personally observe those standards so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved." Canon 2A states that a judge shall avoid the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities. In furthering that end "[a] judge shall ... act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."

For your conduct in violating this provision of the Code of Judicial Conduct, it is the decision of the Commission that you be reprimanded. This public reprimand constitutes adequate discipline and no further action is warranted. Further discipline may occur if the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission finds similar violations in the future. This Commission action is public information.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Stewart", written over a horizontal line.

David A. Stewart  
Executive Director

## PRESS RELEASE

Justice Jim Gunter, of the Arkansas Supreme Court, today announced receiving a letter of reprimand from the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Committee.

Judge Gunter acknowledges that his conduct at his dad's house several months ago was inappropriate and has apologized to his family, and now apologizes to the public, with the assurances that such conduct will never occur again.