

*PRESS RELEASE*

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*CONTACT PERSON: JAMES A. BADAMI*

*PHONE: 682-1050*

*MARCH 22, 2000*

*The Arkansas Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission today announced the resolution of a complaint filed against Court of Appeals Judge Judith Rogers. The Commission accepted the proposed resolution submitted by Attorney Morgan E. "Chip" Welch on behalf of his client, Judge Rogers. The proposal provided that Judge Rogers would tender her early retirement to be effective by April 15, 2000. After the announcement of her retirement, the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission would issue a press release announcing the resolution of complaint number 96-119.*

*Based on a complaint received from Bill Myers, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission conducted an investigation into allegations made against Judge Judith Rogers. These allegations were that Judge Rogers:*

- C abused her judicial office in a landlord/tenant dispute by having two men arrested and jailed without any proper basis;*
- C improperly used judicial stationery for personal business;*
- C used judicial staff members for personal errands and personal business while they were on the court payroll.*

*In resolving this complaint, Judge Rogers generally denied any inappropriate conduct and*

*denied having anyone jailed on an improper basis. She admitted to using judicial stationery for personal and unofficial purposes after so marking the correspondence. She also denied having intentionally violated the Code of Judicial Conduct but understands that some of her actions might have given the “appearances” of having violated the Code of Judicial Conduct. She sincerely regrets that the integrity of her judicial office may have been called into question.*

*The Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission has not had a fact finding or Probable Cause Hearing in this matter. As Judge Rogers is retiring, no further action will be taken on this complaint by the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission.*

*m:\office\wpwin\data\press\rogers96.119*