

September 23, 1997

*Honorable Larry Hayes
Municipal Court Judge
P.O. Box 28
Hoxie, Arkansas 72433*

RE: 94-273

Dear Judge Hayes:

At a hearing on September 19, 1997, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission reviewed a sworn complaint, your response, the results of it's investigation, and other material including your sworn testimony. In summary, it was alleged that you were acting as the sole witness, assisted in the locating and giving a traffic ticket to an individual, and later, presided at the trial of that same individual who was involved in the incident.

The facts developed showed that you have served and continued to serve as the Walnut Ridge Municipal Court Judge during the time of this incident. The facts showed that you witnessed an individual running a stop sign in Walnut Ridge. You called the local police and with a police officer, located the individual driver. You directed the police officer to issue a ticket for reckless driving. In the presence of others, you told the individual that his driver's license was suspended, and if he was caught driving, he would be put in jail and not released until the court date. You later presided at the individual's trial, and accepted his guilty plea. You convicted the individual of running a stop sign, and fined him \$100.00.

The Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission found that under the circumstances as described above, your actions denigrated 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. It is the judgement of the Commission that you be and you are hereby admonished.

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:

*James A. Badami
Executive Director*

cc: Sheriff Waymond Hutton