

September 23, 1997

*Honorable Scott Adams
Municipal Court Judge
P.O. Box 127
Morrilton, AR 72110-0127*

RE: 96-128

Dear Judge Adams:

At a hearing on September 19, 1997, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission reviewed a Statement of Allegations, your response, a court transcript of your testimony in the case of Christina M. Jones v. Jerry A. Jones, the results of it's investigation, and other material including your sworn testimony. In summary, it was alleged that while serving as Morrilton Municipal Court Judge you voluntarily appeared in the Jones case and testified as a character witness on behalf of Jerry A. Jones.

The facts developed showed that you have served and continued to serve as the Morrilton Municipal Court Judge since 1986. In December 1993, you voluntarily testified as a character witness on behalf of Jerry A. Jones. Canon 2B of the Code of Judicial Conduct in part states that, "a judge shall not testify voluntarily as a character witness". Such testimony is proscribed because to do so may lend the prestige of judicial office in support of the party for whom a judge testifies.

The Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission found that under the circumstances of this case as described above, you failed to comply with Canon 2B of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. 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: Sam Perroni