

September 23, 2002

Special Judge Stephen P. Sawyer
101 Northeast 2nd Street
Bentonville, AR 72712

RE: Case #02-176

Dear Judge Sawyer:

During the September 20, 2002 meeting, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission decided to issue a letter of admonition to you in complaint number 02-176. In that complaint the Commission found you violated the Code of Judicial Conduct.

At a probable cause hearing, the Commission reviewed its file and your reply to the Statement of Allegations. The Statement of Allegations stated that you unreasonably delayed the decision in the case of Concrete Construction, Inc. v. Mark Lunsford and Lori Lunford, Benton County Circuit No. CIR99-55-1 for approximately 20 months. That case was presented to you for decision after a non-jury trial on June 1, 2000. After several requests for a decision were sent to you and a writ for Mandamus was filed with the Supreme Court, you decided in the case on March 6, 2002.

The Commission found your delay in deciding the case of Concrete Construction v. Lunsford to be unreasonable and a failure to promptly dispose of the business of the Court in violation of Canon 3B(8) of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. You are therefore admonished for this violation.

This admonishment constitutes adequate discipline and no further action is warranted. This Commission action is public information.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

Sincerely

James A. Badami
Executive Director

cc: Clerk, Arkansas Supreme Court

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