

*January 20, 1999*

*Honorable Tom Keith  
Circuit Judge, 1st Division  
Benton County Courthouse  
100 Northeast A Street, Suite 225  
Bentonville, AR 72712*

*RE: Case #98-201*

*Dear Judge Keith:*

*During the January 15, 1999 meeting, the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission decided to issue a letter of admonition to you in complaint number 98-201. In that complaint the Commission found you violated the Code of Judicial Conduct.*

*At a Probable Cause Hearing, the Commission reviewed its file, your reply to the Statement of Allegations and your testimony before the Commission. That Statement of Allegations notes that on November 20, 1997, the Arkansas Supreme Court issued a Writ of Mandamus directing you to act upon a Freedom of Information Act request. That writ was not acted upon for nearly six (6) months and then only after the petitioner filed a motion requesting the Supreme Court to compel action on the writ.*

*The Commission found your delay in responding to the Supreme Court mandate to be unreasonable and a failure to promptly dispose of the business of the Court in violation of Canons, 1, 2A and 3B(8) of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. You are therefore admonished for this violation.*

*At the Probable Cause Hearing, the Commission was pleased to learn that you have put programs into place to insure that this type of conduct does not happen again.*

*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. Leslie Steen*