



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

P R E S S R E L E A S E

POINT OF CONTACT: EMILY ABBOTT

PHONE: 501-682-1050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2024

The Arkansas Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission (JDDC) announces that the resignation of Seventh Judicial Circuit Judge Chris Williams is effective March 30, 2024, and serves as a removal from office.

JDDC cases 22-328, 23-274, 23-275 and 24-116 are resolved. The investigations involved allegations of judicial misconduct related to Rules in Canons 1, 2, and 3 of the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Williams is no longer eligible to be elected, appointed, or otherwise serve in the judiciary of the State of Arkansas and has agreed that he will not seek or accept appointment to any other public office in the future.

The JDDC appreciates the cooperation of witnesses and the support of other government agencies that participated in the investigations.

Judge Williams has notified Governor Sanders of his resignation, and she will appoint his replacement. A copy of the letter to the Governor follows this release.

The Preamble to the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct states:

An independent, fair, and impartial judiciary is indispensable to our system of justice. The United States legal system is based upon the principle that an independent, impartial, and competent judiciary, composed of men and women of integrity, will interpret and apply the law that governs our society. Thus, the judiciary plays a central role in preserving the principles of justice and the rule of law. Inherent in all the Rules contained in this Code are the precepts that judges, individually and collectively, must respect and honor the judicial office as a public trust and strive to maintain and enhance confidence in the legal system.

Emily Abbott, Executive Director



Chris E Williams
Circuit Judge
Seventh Judicial District
First Division

Hot Spring County Courthouse
210 Locust Street
Malvern, Arkansas 72104

Email: cew7thjuddist@hotspringcounty.org

RECEIVED
24 MAR 27 PM 2:49
JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE
AND
DISABILITY COMMISSION

Telephone: (501) 337-7651
Fax: (501) 337-7744

Counties:
Hot Spring
Grant

Leca Ledbetter
Court Reporter

Allison Collie
Trial Court Assistant

March 15, 2024

Honorable Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of the
State of Arkansas
500 Woodlane St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Sanders:

I have this date resigned from my position as Circuit Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit. My resignation is the result of my negotiation with the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission, my health and my advancing age. By copy of this letter, I am notifying Director Abbott of my notification to you of my decision to resign.

As always, I would like to thank the fine people of Grant and Hot Spring County for allowing me to serve them. I have been truly blessed to have that privilege. It has been an honor to serve the 7th Judicial Circuit and the State of Arkansas during my over twenty years of service.

Governor, I trust you will make the right decision for the appointment of my replacement, as you do in all matters before you as the Governor of this fine state. I will continue to serve until March 30, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris E Williams".

Chris E Williams
Circuit Judge

cc: Ms. Emily Abbott
Executive Director
Arkansas Judicial Discipline
& Disability Commission
323 Center St., Ste. 1060
Little Rock, AR 72201