



# Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

Tower Building - Suite 1060  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-1050

JAMES A. BADAMI  
Executive Director

October 26, 1994

Honorable Francis T. Donovan  
607 4th Street  
Conway, Arkansas 72032

Dear Judge Donovan,

On November 16, 1990 the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission issued two letters of admonishment to you. (Copies attached.) The first admonishment (as part of complaint 90-146) was based on the allegation that you were arrogant, disrespectful, and downright rude to attorneys, jurors, and defendants, and that you did not run a courtroom in an even fair-minded judicious manner. The Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission found that at times your conduct violated Canon 3A(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The second admonishment, (as part of complaint 90-146 and complaint 90-147) was based on the allegation that as part of your campaign for re-election in the spring of 1990, your platform contained the provision, "no plea bargaining". You circulated a campaign card stating, "I promise to stop "plea bargaining" if elected Circuit Judge. I keep my word. Help me keep "NO PLEA BARGAINING". " Ads in the local newspapers and campaign material re-stated this promise. The Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission found that your campaign activities noted above violated Canon 7B(1)(c) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

In the amended judgment and order in the case of Francis T. Donovan et al. v. The Arkansas Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission, et al. the US District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas found the second admonishment issued to you on November 16, 1990 concerning your campaign for re-election was unconstitutional. The court directed that admonishment be rescinded. Accordingly that second admonishment is rescinded.

Sincerely,

*Original signed*  
James A. Badami  
Executive Director

2 Enclosures: as stated

cc: Clayton R. Blackstock  
John L. Burnett  
Melissa K. Rust