



BOBBY B. DELAUGHTER
CIRCUIT JUDGE
SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT

March 25, 2008

Luther T. Brantley, III, Esq.
Executive Director, Miss. Jud. Perf. Commn.

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Mr. Brantley:

In twenty-one years of public service to this State and my community, I have not, until recently, been the subject of any action regarding my professional ethics. During that length of service, however, I have become well aware of the invaluable place and service of the Judicial Performance Commission in reassuring the citizens that the judiciary of their State is dedicated to the principle that ours is a government of laws and not of men.

While I vehemently desire to dispute current media reports, I have declined further comment because I am of the opinion that judicial ethics require a judge to be circumspect concerning any investigation, even one concerning that judge. I will continue to take this high road and very much look forward to the day that I am afforded the opportunity by the Judicial Performance Commission to be fully heard in a setting where established rules of civil procedure and evidence apply, the goal of which is a search for the truth. I believe with all my heart in the system, and therefore, place complete trust in the commission and the Supreme Court to give these matters dispassionate and considered fair judgment, guided by the rules and the law. Once that is done, I will quietly and humbly abide by their decisions.

The complete truth cannot be known to the citizens until a hearing, separating fact from fiction. Until that time, I realize that public confidence cannot be reasonably expected to be restored. That confidence is critical to our judicial system and therefore very important to me as a person and as a judge. If the Judicial Performance Commission and Mississippi Supreme Court believe that my temporary suspension, pending a decision after a hearing, will in some measure restore that confidence, in a spirit of good faith and cooperation with the Judicial Performance Commission, I will not challenge that temporary suspension and I look with the greatest anticipation to my chance to be heard.

Sincerely,



BOBBY B. DeLAUGHTER