



FILED
MAY 04 2011
Clerk of the Courts

**THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY**

511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37243-067
JUDGES OF THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

May 4, 2011

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk
100 Supreme Court Building
401 Seventh Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
615-253-1470

Don R. Ash
Presiding Judge
Timothy R. Discenza
Disciplinary Counsel
Patrick J. McHale
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Michael W. Catalano, Clerk
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1407

Chris Craft
David M. Cook
Angelita Blackshear Dalton
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Christy R. Little
Richard A. Manahan
Paul Neely
Pamela L. Reeves
Kathy McMahan
Mary Martin Schaffner
Steve Stafford
Jean A. Stanley
Dwight E. Stokes
D. Michael Swiney
Thomas T. Woodall

RE: Public Reprimand
Judge Jim T. Hamilton
File Number: 10-4316

Dear Mr. Catalano,

Enclosed for filing is the original Public Reprimand in the above-referenced matter. Please let me know if you need anything further.

With Kindest Regards,

Merry Peach Martin
Judicial Assistant to Judge Don R. Ash

/mpm
Enclosure as stated



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FOR PUBLIC PRESS RELEASE

The Honorable Jim T. Hamilton
22 Public Square, Suite 3
P.O. Box 413
Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0413

RE: Complaint of Mike Bottoms
File No. 10-4316

Dear Judge Hamilton:

This shall serve as a letter of reprimand pursuant to your agreement with the investigative panel of this court.

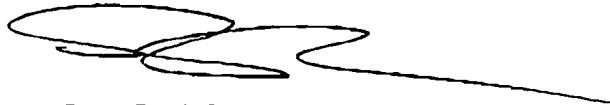
This reprimand relates to your handling of certain cases in 2006 and 2007, in which you signed ex-parte orders of dismissal and ex-parte orders expunging convictions.

Upon receiving notice of the complaint from the Disciplinary Counsel to the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, you responded and admitted that you had entered these orders without first personally determining that they had been presented to, and first approved by, the appropriate District Attorney General. You have further indicated that you now are aware these orders were not authorized under the current law, and that you did not exercise appropriate diligence in determining the correctness of the orders prior to entering them. You have indicated that you intend to ensure that all orders entered are in fact approved or known to all parties prior to their entry and that you will be diligent in ascertaining that all orders signed by you are appropriate under the law.

Hamilton Public Reprimand
May 4, 2011
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The entry of improper ex-parte orders in this case is a violation of Canon 2A which requires that a "Judge shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary." Canon 3B (2) also requires that "A judge shall be faithful to the law and maintain professional competence in it." Accordingly, this letter constitutes a public reprimand for your actions. In the future, you are to continue to follow the Code of Judicial Conduct in regards to the signing and entry of orders submitted to you for your approval.

Sincerely yours,



Don. R. Ash
Presiding Judge

DRA/mpm
cc: Disciplinary Counsel
Investigative Panel
Mike Bottoms