

Michael A. Cross

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July 20, 2000

Ms. Helen Edgington, Chair
La. Attorney Disciplinary Board
c/o Lewis Unglesby
246 Napoleon St.
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I am writing to you on behalf of my friend and former colleague Larry S. Bankston. In addition to knowing him on a personal basis for many years, I served with Larry for eight years in the Louisiana State Senate. In considering the disciplinary sanctions to be applied in this case, I urge you to take the following factors into account. Larry has an outstanding record of service to his community and the practice of law. In addition, his conviction did not involve the practice of law nor was there any loss of funds by clients. Furthermore, Larry does not have a prior disciplinary record. He has served a 41 month prison sentence and has shown remorse and contrition for his actions. In light of these mitigating factors, I believe that the imposition of permanent disbarment would not be in the best interest of justice.

I feel confident that there is no risk to the integrity of the attorney disciplinary system if Larry is allowed to resume practicing law after a specified period of suspension. I ask you to carefully consider your recommendation, which will affect not only Larry but his wife and children as well. To permanently deny him the means to support his family would be unduly harsh considering the circumstances surrounding his case.

Thank you for your time in carefully reflecting on the future of this man whose contributions to our community far outweigh the transgression that brings him before you now.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Cross