

MARABELLA



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

July 13, 2000

Ms. Helen Edgington
Chair
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board
c/o Mr. Lewis Unglesby
246 Napoleon Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I have known Larry Bankston for over twenty-five years. I have known Larry since his days as a law clerk for Judge Frank Foil when I worked for the District Attorney's office. Since that time, I have worked with Larry as he served as an Assistant Parish Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish and served with him for several years as elected members of the Louisiana House of Delegates for the Louisiana State Bar Association. As an attorney and private citizen, I dealt with Larry as a member of the East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council and as a member of the Louisiana State Senate.

Throughout the twenty-five plus years that I have known and worked with Larry Bankston, he has always been professional, fair, honest and ethical.

I was an attorney for a co-defendant in the trial in which Larry was convicted. I did not then, nor do I now, believe the government presented sufficient evidence to convict Larry. The jury, however, has spoken, and I accept that. Larry has also accepted that and has served a thirty-one month term of imprisonment.

I have always been taught that one can judge the character of a man by the way he handles adversity. During the course of that trial, which lasted over two months, I was extremely moved by Larry's compassion for not only his co-defendants, but for everyone involved in the turmoil of such a trial. I was touched by his devotion to his wife and his children. When the verdict was finally reached, after two weeks of deliberation, it was Larry who comforted not only his family, but the lawyers who were all devastated by what we considered to be an unfair verdict.

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I have seen Larry through good times and bad, and am proud to call him a friend.

I would hope that the Board would allow Larry to return to the practice of law very soon.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Marabella, Jr.

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cc: Mr. Larry S. Bankston