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July 19, 2000

Helen Edgington
Chairperson
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board
c/o Lewis Unglesby
246 Napoleon Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: Larry S. Bankston;
Louisiana State Bar Disciplinary Hearing

Dear Ms. Edgington:

Please allow this letter to introduce myself to you and the Louisiana State Bar Attorney Disciplinary Board. I am Gregory J. Barro, Attorney at Law, and currently enjoy a (BV) rating by my fellow attorneys from Shreveport as published in Martindale-Hubbell. I have known Larry Bankston for over ten (10) years and became close to Larry while serving with him in the Louisiana State Senate between 1991-1995. This letter is my request that the Board simply suspending Larry's license to practice law for some reasonable period of time as opposed to disbaring him. I believe there are many material mitigating factors which warrant suspension.

Larry's conduct which lead to his conviction did not arise from the practice of law. No client and no client funds were put at risk or jeopardized by Larry's conduct. I believe these two (2) factors alone warrant suspension as opposed to disbarment and are very significant as mitigating factors. As a respected lawyer for over 23 years, Larry attained a (BV) rating in Martindale Hubbell, which as you know is determined by the opinion of his legal colleagues in his community. In 23 years, Larry has never had a disciplinary matter come before this Board. Before, his incarceration, Larry had an outstanding record and reputation in both the legal and social/public service community in and around Baton Rouge.

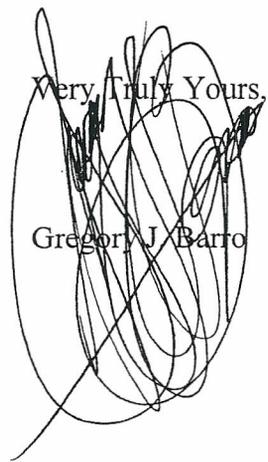
Equally important in my opinion as an attorney, the Board should consider the scant evidence presented to convict Larry on two (2) counts of his multi count indictment. The Board may recall that Larry was accused of many wrong doings (none of which were true and none of which he was found guilty) and his conviction was based on two (2) interstate telephone calls made by other individuals concerning his condominium in Alabama. Of course he was acquitted of the most

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serious counts; hardly the basis for a federal case and certainly not the basis to deny an otherwise fine man and attorney his privilege to practice law.

Although Larry was convicted on what can only be described as "weak" evidence on "weak" counts, Larry has paid a heavy debt to society; 31 months of federal incarceration. Larry has paid his debt to society and should not be asked to pay more through disbarment. It would be truly regretful to extract further reprimand from him. To disbar Larry would not serve justice and would not right any wrong.

Please consider the foregoing in your considerations of Larry's future. Should you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Very Truly Yours,

Gregory J. Barro

GJB/clc
cc: Mr. Larry S. Bankston *(via facsimile and regular mail)*