

T. DENNIS BICKHAM, III

**1856 South Columbine Court
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-5227**

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July 19, 2000

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

RE: Larry S. Bankston

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I am writing to urge you and the board to not disbar Mr. Bankston from the practice of law in Louisiana.

I have known Larry since 1983 when my sister and I obtained his services for representation in my father's succession. Through his hard work and perseverance we were able to obtain a fair settlement of my father's estate. Along the way several issues had to be litigated. Never once did I doubt the his honesty, commitment or competence while representing us. We were extremely successful on the matters we had to litigate. One issue was argued by Larry before the Louisiana Supreme Court and is now taught in most Family Law and Civil Procedure classes at the four Louisiana law schools. (*In the Matter of the Succession of Talmadge D. Bickham, Jr.*, 518 So.2d 482 (La. 1988))

In addition to representing me in my father's succession, Larry has represented me in dozens of other cases in my business. From personal injury to multi million dollar loan closings to large real estate transactions, Larry has always been outstanding in his representation. I challenge anyone to allege that he is not competent in his legal knowledge and representation.

Because of Larry, I decided to return to school at the age of thirty-three and obtained a law degree. While I do not practice, because of Larry, I have furthered my education which has been extremely useful to me.

In addition to Larry serving as my attorney, I had the pleasure of working with him in the Louisiana Senate from 1988 until 1996. I served as his legislative assistant, aide, and committee clerk at various times. I know first hand the reputation he has and the fairness he exhibited when dealing with people. Despite his unfortunate conviction, the people he worked with still hold him in the highest of regard.

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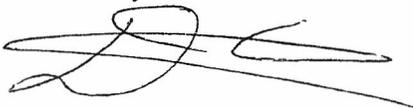
While I could go on for pages about the political motivations which led to his conviction, the fact is that it had nothing do with his law practice. Even after his indictment he had a good practice with other attorneys and individuals referring him work. That is the type of respect and admiration his peers and business associates have for him. I would have no reservations about having Larry represent me or referring him other legal matters. I urge you to also consider that he has taken responsibility for his conviction and has repaid his debt to society by paying fines and serving a prison sentence. This should be sufficient and I urge you and the committee to allow him to return to the practice of law so that he might not only support his family but so that people like me that know and respect him and his talent will not be deprived of his representation.

Having been to law school and having taken the MPRE, I am well aware that character plays a part in determining who will and will not be allowed to practice law in Louisiana. I am understand that a felony conviction does not abode well for ones character. However, as I am sure you are aware there are numerous cases where attorneys have not been disbarred even though they have a felony conviction. I urge you and the committee to consider these cases.

In closing, I urge the committee to consider some other form of punishment other than disbarment which in this case would be extreme and unnecessary. If clients had been defrauded or his legal work was inadequate perhaps disbarment would be in order, but in this case it would be an excessive and unnecessary punishment.

Should you have any questions, or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



T. Dennis Bickham, III

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