

NAQUIN & WARD

14 July 2000

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

Re: Larry S. Bankston

Dear Helen:

I have recently spoken with Larry Bankston and have learned that he is applying for reinstatement of his license to practice law. I am writing you on behalf of Larry, as I have known him for over thirty (30) years and believe that he has very much to offer as an attorney.

Larry has always acted very professionally and honestly in representing his clients. Moreover, it has always been my impression that he has sincere compassion for the people involved in legal matters in which I have observed him, on both sides.

Without commenting on the appropriateness of his conviction, it is my feeling that Larry is very remorseful about the factual scenario leading up to his conviction. No doubt, he has learned very much from this experience, and I think that will contribute to him being an even finer member of the bar than he was previously.

Please accept this correspondence as my recommendation for the reinstatement of Larry Bankston to once again practice law in the State of Louisiana. It is my belief that Larry can be an asset to our legal community.

Sincerely yours,



C. John Naquin, Jr.

CJNjr/jd

July 21, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Larry Bankston. and to convey my support for his regaining his law license. It was always my impression that Larry had a good reputation among his peers and had never been the subject of any disciplinary action. He has been an active member of the Baton Rouge community and has always been a person who was interested in helping others.

The time that Larry spent at the federal detention facility, the loss of his Senate seat, and the hardships on his family and he have been more than enough punishment for the crime for which he was convicted. He has so much to offer to the community, I would hope that the board would see fit to let Larry get back his law license and once again become a productive member of society.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Nugent". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Linda Nugent  
3964 Country View Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

**Diane A. O'Quin**  
**7026 Frontier Drive**  
**Greenwell Springs, Louisiana 70739**  
**(225) 261-4862**

July 12, 2000

Ms. Helen Edgington, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
C/O Lewis Unglesby  
246 Napoleon Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: Larry S. Bankston

Dear Ms. Edgington:

It is my understanding that the Attorney Disciplinary Board will meet on July 26, 2000 to determine the status of the law license of Larry Bankston. I feel very strongly that Larry's license should not be revoked.

Over an eight-year period I had the opportunity to see Larry in action on the floor of the State Senate. He was by far one of the most respected members of the body. The members and staff of the Senate knew him for his honesty and integrity. He was one of the brightest members of the body and was sought out for advice and leadership on nearly every important issue that was debated.

His contributions to the state in the volume and quality of important legislation will not be surpassed. He was considered the leader for support of higher education in the Senate. The massive increase in funding to higher education is due in large part to his efforts.

I would like to convey to the committee the personal side of Larry Bankston. He was viewed with respect by all of the staff because he treated the staff with respect. Even after his conviction, the opinion of staff has certainly not changed. He is the kind of person you

can count on for help regardless of the situation. I am proud to call him a friend. I must tell you that returning him to the practice of law will greatly benefit this state.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane O'Quin".

Diane O'Quin



# LOUISIANA MID-CONTINENT OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

801 NORTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 201, BATON ROUGE, LA 70802-5727  
TELEPHONE (225) 387-3205 ♦ FAX (225) 344-5502 ♦ E-MAIL  
LMOGA@LMOGA.com

July 13, 2000

Helen Edgington, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
C/O Lewis Unglesby  
246 Napoleon Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Ms. Edgington:

It is my understanding that a hearing will be held on July 26, 2000 with respect to the possible disbarment of Larry S. Bankston. I write this to encourage the Board to select suspension of Mr. Bankston's law license rather than disbarment and to allow Mr. Bankston to return to the practice of law at the earliest possible date.

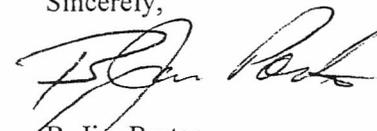
I understand that suspension is an option open to the Board and that mitigating factors may be considered in your deliberations. As you know, Mr. Bankston has had a long career in public service. This public service includes two terms on the East Baton Rouge Metro Council and two terms in the Louisiana State Senate. In addition to this elected public service, he has been involved in numerous civic activities, which include: founding board member and president of the Baton Rouge Battered Woman's Shelter; board member, EBR Mental Health Association; board member, B.R. Chapter of the American Red Cross; and, board member, EBR Commission on the Needs of Women.

Mr. Bankston has been continuously involved in the practice of law since 1977. Prior to entering private practice he clerked for Judge Frank Foil. He has served as an assistant parish attorney and as general counsel for the Department of Public Works for the Parish. He was twice elected to the Louisiana House of Delegates for the state bar association. He has been in private practice since 1977 and received a "BV" rating in Martindale and Hubbell from his fellow attorneys.

In light of these many mitigating factors, I would urge the Board to consider favorably rejecting disbarment of Mr. Bankston from the practice of law. It is my belief that, considering the background of this case and the significant involvement of Mr. Bankston in the Baton Rouge community, suspension would be the more appropriate remedy.

I hope my views are helpful in your deliberations. Thank you for the opportunity to present them as part of the record of this hearing.

Sincerely,



B. Jim Porter  
President

**R. James Ray  
358 Huntington Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810**

July 22, 2000

**Ms. Helen Edgington, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
C/O Lewis Unglesby  
246 Napoleon Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

*Re: Disciplinary Hearing, Larry S. Bankston*

**Dear Ms. Edgington:**

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Larry S. Bankston. It is my opinion that Mr. Bankston should be permitted to practice as a licensed attorney.

I have dealt with Mr. Bankston, both on a professional and personal level, for over 20 years. In all legal matters, I have found him to be very competent and a credit to the legal profession. I have also witnessed numerous instances where he has extended personal help and assistance to needy individuals, regardless of their station in life.

I have dealt with individuals from various disciplines (doctors, dentists, contractors, pharmacists, etc) who have encountered obstacles in their professional lives. In each instance, that individual addressed his or her problem, paid the consequence, and went on to achieve a productive and exemplary professional career. All that any of them required was an avenue to prove themselves.

I am convinced Mr. Bankston does no less deserve the opportunity for a second chance than these other professionals. Permit his future success to hinge upon his ability to attract, serve, and retain clients. Speaking for myself, I intend to utilize him as my legal advisor and representative.

In closing, I again urge you to permit Mr. Bankston to practice as a licensed attorney.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,  
*R. James RAY*  
R. James Ray

Copy: Larry S. Bankston

# WAGUESPACK, SEAGO & CARMICHAEL

(A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION)  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

8126 ONE CALAIS AVE., SUITE 2-C  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809

DAVID A. WAGUESPACK  
JOHN E. SEAGO  
PETER G. CARMICHAEL

TELEPHONE  
(225) 766-5805  
TELECOPIER  
(225) 766-5812

July 11, 2000

Helen M. Edgington, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
c/o Louis Unglesby  
246 Napoleon Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Larry Bankston

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I wanted to take this opportunity to write a letter of support on behalf of Larry Bankston's efforts to maintain his license to practice law in the State of Louisiana. I have known Larry for over 25 years, both personally and professionally. I have worked with his family and him on many projects outside the practice of law. I know of nothing in Larry's character which would prevent him from being an outstanding lawyer and know him to represent his client with the highest standard of professional conduct. When Larry first commenced his practice in Baton Rouge, he was a member of our law firm. He always conducted himself in a very professional manner and represented his clients to the best of his ability. At no time during our professional association did we have any complaints concerning Larry's representation of our clients. He was very compassionate in his representation of our clients and always worked very hard to do the best he could for them.

I have spoken with Larry and know that he is very eager to begin his professional career having gained immensely from his past experiences. I know Larry has personally expressed remorse for his mistake which resulted in his conviction. However, I do not believe his mistake for which he has paid dearly should reflect on his ability to continue in our profession. To the contrary, his conviction did not involve any actions involving the practice of law, nor does it reflect on his character. The mistake Larry made in judgment, he has acknowledged, and has determined to assure such mistakes do not happen again.

Larry has always enjoyed a good reputation in his community as well as among his fellow attorneys. His character, except for this one mistake, has never been questioned. Apparently, Larry has learned a great deal from these past life experiences, and is determined to learn from his mistakes and become even a better family man, member of his community, and a better lawyer.

Helen M. Edgington, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
July 11, 2000  
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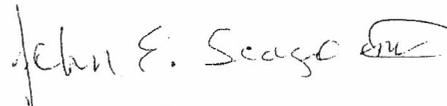
I hope this letter of support will give you some basis for considering extenuating circumstances in determining your disciplinary action. While I do believe it is very important that our profession maintain high standards of professionalism, I do not believe with this particular individual, the circumstances surrounding his mistake warrant this outstanding young man being excluded as a member of our profession. To the contrary, the severe penalty which he has served would appear to be punishment enough for this one mistake. Preventing Larry from assuming his profession would be even a harsher punishment and deny him the ability to provide for his family as well as our profession a very capable and honest attorney. This would seem a terrible injustice in light of the outstanding contributions this young man has made to his community, this state, and our profession. We hope you will consider all of these factors in making your decision.

If you should need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

WAGUESPACK, SEAGO & CARMICHAEL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Seago" followed by a stylized flourish or initial.

John E. Seago

JES/mtl

cc. Larry S. Bankston

July 12, 2000

Helen Edgerton, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
C/O Lewis Unglesby  
246 Napoleon Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Madam:

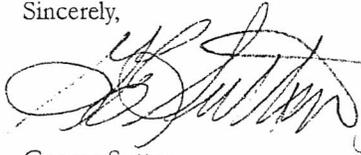
I am writing in regard to status hearing of Larry Bankston on July 26, 2000. It is my understanding that this hearing will determine the future ability of Mr. Bankston to resume the practice of Law.

In that regard, let me state that I am aware of the reasons for the suspension of his law license which was in no way related to the practice of law. As a matter of fact, I have had many occasions to hire Mr. Bankston for some of my clients, and in every case his work, and ethics, were above reproach.

Mr. Bankston's record is clear of any prior disciplinary actions, and he is still highly regarded in the community. It seems to me that the other penalties imposed on Mr. Bankston for offenses allegedly committed are quite enough for a situation in which he had minimum culpability.

It is my sincere hope that you will see fit to restore his license and allow him to once again become a complete member of his community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Sutton", written over a horizontal line.

George Sutton

# MONICA LYNNE THIBODEAUX

7415 MAIN STREET  
ZACHARY, LOUISIANA 70791

HOME: 225-654-4861

WORK: 225-342-2358

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Thursday, July 13, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I am sending this letter regarding a long-time friend of mine, Larry Bankston. I first met Larry Bankston in the early 1980's when he was running for Baton Rouge City Council. At the time I was a political consultant. I mention my career only to let you know that during my consultant years, I met many politicians -- some you like and, of course, some you don't like. I liked Larry from our first meeting. During that time, I received another offer to work on a larger campaign and I hesitated about accepting another position since I had committed to Larry. In discussing my dilemma with Larry, he counseled me to take the bigger campaign, citing the fact it was a better opportunity for me. How could you not like someone so unselfish?

Our paths crossed again in 1987 when I worked as a consultant for the Louisiana Trial Lawyers' Association in Baton Rouge; Larry's campaign for the Louisiana State Senate was one of several targeted by LTLA. In 1991, I worked for Larry in his reelection campaign to the Louisiana Senate. It was during this time that I got to know Larry much better as well as his family and friends. The better I knew Larry, the better I liked him. I have always respected Larry, but since 1991, I have considered Larry Bankston my friend.

I am sure you will receive many letter regarding Larry Bankston and I respect the fact that it remains your decision and the Board's to make the final determination concerning Larry's law license. However, I do want to express my support in favor of reinstating Larry Bankston's law license. On an unemotional level, Larry has served his sentence and any additional penalties seems excessive. His conviction was not the result of any misuse of his law license nor were his law clients affected by monetary loss. I

know he was a well-respected member of the Louisiana State Legislature during his tenure and I believe he served his constituents honestly and fairly.

In addition, on a very personal level, Larry has suffered and lost enough. My mother died just two years ago this past July 4, 2000. I mention this because Larry also lost his mother while serving his term. For me, it has not been easy to adjust to my loss even though I have had the benefit of family and friends everyday for the past two years, while Larry has not had the personal and daily contact with family and friends to help console him during his difficult time.

I realize that my loss or Larry's loss has nothing to do with law licenses, but to me, just getting up some days and going to work is still a struggle. Larry Bankston is in the process of putting his life back together and being allowed to resume his law practice would certainly strengthen his effort. I admire him for that courage. It is for this reason and the others stated in this letter that I ask you to make a favorable judgment and reinstate Larry Bankston's law license.

I do appreciate your time in reading this letter and I do hope if I can be of any further help, you will not hesitate to contact me. Thanking you in advance for your attention, I am ...

Very sincerely yours,



Monica Lynne Thibodeaux

# TOMENY & FISHER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FRANK TOMENY III \*†

BRYAN D. FISHER \*\*

ELESTE KRONENBERGER

JOSEPH D. BOULIGNY, JR.

\*A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

ALSO LICENSED IN TEXAS

\*\*A LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION

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July 21, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Larry S. Bankston in support of his July 26, 2000 status review with regard to his license to practice law in Louisiana. I have known Larry for over twenty years and have always considered him a mentor and friend.

In 1980 I met Larry in the early stages of his first campaign for public office. He met with me and I immediately dedicated all my energies to his successful election. As a Sophomore at LSU I was impressed with Larry's prior public service and genuine concern for the average working citizens of our Parish. I felt lucky he was willing to dedicate his valuable time to the City Council. After this election I became a "Yellow Dog Democrat" and remain one to this day. I subsequently worked in all of his campaigns through his election to the Senate. Larry was named Outstanding Freshman Senator by The Advocate and always made me proud to volunteer. He always maintained the highest integrity and never compromised his beliefs to get elected. I have the utmost respect for Larry's outstanding work in our community and would request that you consider this as a mitigating factor in your deliberations.

In 1983 I went to law school in large part because of the examples I had learned from Larry in getting to know him and his family. In the summer of 1985, after my second year of law school, I worked for Larry as a law clerk directly under his supervision. Larry became my mentor and patiently guided me through that summer and then the bar exam preparation. I went to law school out of state and needed a lot of help. After law school I worked with and against him on cases and called on him for advice when I had a tough ethical question. I can attest that he always followed the highest ethical and professional standards. I think it is important to note in your consideration that Larry's actions had nothing to do with the practice of law or loss of funds by clients and that he has no prior disciplinary record. I would ask that you consider these as mitigating factors in reaching your ultimate decision.

Ms. Helen Edgington  
July 21, 2000  
Page 2

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As you are aware, Larry received a 41 month sentence following his conviction. I cannot imagine how endured these last four years and has maintained such an optimistic attitude. He has paid a harsh price to society already and is deserving of a fresh start practicing law. I would be proud to work with or for him on any cases and would hope you would consider this in your deliberations.

Very truly yours,



Frank Tomeny III

/vlh

cc: Larry Bankston

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## Mary Tonore

7964 Old Hammond Highway  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
(225) 924-0171 E- mail Tonmar133@aol.com

July 17, 2000

Ms. June Edgington, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
C/O Mr. Lewis Unglesby  
246 Napoleon Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I am writing to you regarding Larry Bankston's license to practice law. I have been a personal friend of Larry's and his family for the past 12 years. I think that his life is testimony of how a person can turn tragedy into triumph by learning and growing from past mistakes. He has paid for the crimes committed through his lengthy prison sentence. I have observed how Larry has become a different and in many ways better man because of it. He has expressed remorse for past actions and has used his time while incarcerated to help others. He taught others the skills needed to obtain their G.E.D. so that they would be able to live a better life after returning home. He has and will continue to provide outstanding work now that he is back in the community.

If he were allowed to practice law again, I would not hesitate to use his services or to recommend him to someone else. Until this conviction, Larry had a spotless reputation of solid legal expertise and strong character. He has paid his debt and now is the time for him to begin anew professionally.

I hope that you will consider all of these mitigating circumstances at his hearing on June 26<sup>th</sup> and allow him to regain his law license.

Sincerely,



Mary Tonore

**Nancy Vicknair**  
**7550 Summer Place**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70811**

July 13, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Edgington,

I am writing to you on behalf of my friend, Larry Bankston. I also worked with Larry when he served in the Louisiana State Senate for eight years and where I am currently employed.

I understand you chair the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board which will be conducting a hearing concerning Larry's law license later this month. It is for this reason I am contacting you.

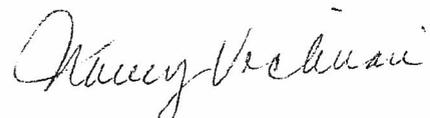
I believe Larry Bankston should be allowed to continue with his law practice. In my opinion, Larry has served his time and any further penalties imposed does not seem fair.

I corresponded with Larry Bankston and visited with him during his confinement. His attitude was upbeat and his concern for the welfare of his family and friends touched me.

While it is the decision of the Board to ultimately make the determination concerning Larry's license, I wanted to send this letter to express my personal feelings on your future ruling.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy Vicknair

July 14, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Edgington:

I am writing you concerning the Disciplinary Board's intentions with regard to Larry S. Bankston.

I have been a practicing attorney in the Baton Rouge area for almost twenty-five years. During that time I clerked for Federal Judge E. Gordon West and primarily practiced plaintiff personal injury law. I bring this issue to your attention because I feel I am a good judge of character as I have to use that facility on a daily basis.

I write to you as a colleague of Larry Bankston. I have known Larry since we were in a fraternity together at LSU in the early 70's. At that time I recall that he worked very hard and was dedicated to his part-time job while he worked his way through school. I also recalled that he missed many of the activities of the fraternity because of the demands of that job.

Since that time and until the mid 90's, I had little if any contact with Larry. These instances involved either attorney communication and interaction with Larry in his capacity as councilman and senator. At all times I have found him to perform those duties in a professional way acting promptly and professionally to assist his constituents.

About 1995, ( I am not exactly sure of the year) Larry and his wife Lynn moved into my neighborhood north of Zachary. At that point we rekindled an old friendship and got to know each other in a different light. I saw first hand the effect of a young man going to prison leaving behind his family, friends and practice.

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July 13, 2000

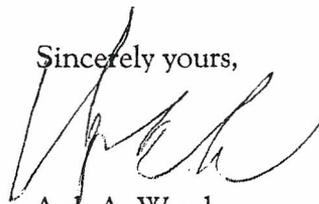
Larry was an exemplary attorney and public servant before the events that lead up to his going to federal prison. Anybody who knows Larry or has any contact with him knows that he has paid dearly in terms of both his career as an aspiring politician and attorney. He will have to resurrect his reputation in the community.

Issues which I hope you will consider in your determination of Larry's right to return to the practice of law is that he had no prior disciplinary proceedings. He was certainly a leader in the community, both as an attorney and public servant. The actions for which he went to federal prison did not involve either his practice of law or the funds of any of his clients. The penalty he suffered was very harsh for the circumstance for which he was charged and convicted of.

Larry is a man who made mistakes and has certainly paid a dear price . He would prove to be a very helpful member of the bar and it is my recommendation that you seriously consider returning Larry to the practice of law so that he can make a contribution both to the bar and his family.

Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Aub A. Ward

AAW/cp

*Randall G. Wells*  
L.L.M. (LABOR LAW)

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

ADMISSION TO PRACTICE  
LOUISIANA  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 18, 2000

717 S. FOSTER DR.  
SUITE 240  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806  
TELEPHONE (225) 927-3914  
FACSIMILE (225) 927-3917

Helen Edgington, Chair  
Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
C/O Lewis Unglesby  
246 Napoleon Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: Larry S. Bankston

Dear Ms. Edgington:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter in support of Larry Bankston. I have personally known Larry for thirty-two years.

Larry's leadership qualities were evident even when we first met at Louisiana Boys' State in 1968. I am aware of the numerous civic and charitable contributions Larry has made to the Baton Rouge community as well as to Louisiana in general.

Other than Larry's known conviction and incarceration, I have only words of praise for him. I have always appreciated his dedication to causes that have benefitted the unfortunate and the needy.

I met with Larry for about an hour on July 14, 2000. To me, there was a perceptible change in his demeanor from times when I had conversed with him prior to his conviction. I have never felt that Larry was arrogant or haughty. But last Friday, he appeared to be genuinely humbled by the experiences of the last four years.

As Larry now goes about rebuilding his life, I am convinced that he will do so with an even better appreciation for the true value of family and real friends. I would not hesitate to refer him legal work; I would be proud to co-counsel with him on cases, just like I have done with many other Louisiana lawyers over the last decade.

Larry has paid enough for his conviction. Disbarment would

Helen Edgington, Chair  
July 18, 2000  
Page Two

only add insult to injury, when such is not warrented.

I respectfully request that this letter be accepted by the Disciplinary Board, on Larry's behalf. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your courtesies.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall G. Wells". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Randall G. Wells

RGW/hs

cc: Mr. Larry S. Bankston



BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. 225 382-0045  
Post Office Box 374 Fax 225 382-1227  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

T. E. Williams  
Executive Director  
Corporate & External Affairs

July 14, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Edgington:

This is to express my strong support for granting Larry S. Bankston the approval to return to the practice of law.

I have known and worked closely with Larry for the past seventeen (17) years. On every occasion that we worked together, he conducted himself in a professional manner, was very knowledgeable as an attorney and was extremely helpful in reaching a successful conclusion on whatever the particular issue may have been.

There is no doubt in my mind that Larry will continue to work, in the future, with his clients in the same manner as mentioned above.

I urge and request that Larry be given the opportunity to do what he does "SO WELL".

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. E. Williams".

Executive Director

TEW:lbp

July 10, 2000

Hon. Helen Edgington, Chair  
**La. Attorney Disciplinary Board**  
c/o Unglesby & Koch  
246 Napoleon St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Subject: **Mr. Larry Bankston**  
Law License Review

Dear Mrs. Edgington, members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our personal support for Mr. Bankston in his quest to lift the suspension of his Law license. Our family has known Larry for many years and have the utmost respect for him as a State Senator, attorney and as a person. He is a man in our opinion who has many fine qualities, and one who should be able to practice his chosen profession.

As friends and interested bystanders, we followed the trial closely; needless to say, we were dumbfounded at the result. There appeared to be so many mitigating circumstances, nebulous charges, innuendo from personal phone conversations that it did not seem possible that Larry would be convicted. It was a miscarriage of justice and one we hoped would be reversed on appeal. There appeared to be no proof that Larry enjoyed any real personal gain or misused the trust of his office. In our opinion, he was found guilty of being a politician who listened to all sides, and one who supported legalized gambling - not always a popular choice. We know the extremely harsh conviction has been devastating on Larry and his family. He has been severely punished. The least one can do is consider the great person we know, let him make a living in the legal profession. and give him the benefit of the doubt.

We have never written a letter of support on behalf of someone. Since Larry is special to his friends and family, we gladly support his effort to return to the practice of Law. We know Larry will serve his profession in an honest and trustful manner, upholding the high standard of ethics the public expects from practicing attorneys.

Sincerely,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mitchell A. Wood RA EIT  
Principal

cc: George Bayhi.  
Larry S. Bankston



\_\_\_\_\_  
Simon Pham  
Associate

Audubon1