COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
28TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
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SOMERSET, KENTUCKY 42502
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JEFFREY T. BURDETTE
CIRCUIT JUDGE

LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT
PULASKI CIRCUIT COURT
ROCKCASTLE CIRCUIT COURT

IN RE: Ernie Fletcher, in his official capacity as
Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
v.
Honorable William L. Graham, Judge
Franklin Circuit Court
and
Gregory D. Stumbo, in his general capacity
as Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Statement from Circuit Judge Jeffrey T. Burdette
28th Judicial Circuit (Lincoln, Pulaski and Rockcastle counties)
March 14, 2006

I filed an order today to decline the appointment as a special justice in this case. I want to be very clear that I am doing so only because of a **perceived** conflict of interest, not because I have any doubts about my ability to render an impartial opinion. I cannot imagine a scenario in which I would ignore the law, rather than apply it.

Before coming to this decision, I conducted extensive legal research and sought the advice of the Judicial Ethics Committee. Throughout this process of disclosure, nothing has indicated that there would be any **actual** conflict in serving on this case, when reviewing the facts as they truly exist, as opposed to how they have been surmised or reported.

Under my unique circumstances, I believe that to step aside is to eliminate any perception of partiality, ensure the integrity of the judiciary, and prevent any taint whatsoever upon the ultimate decision of the Supreme Court of Kentucky.