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January 7, 2003

King County Superior Court Executive Committee

The Honorable Richard D. Eadie
 The Honorable Deborah Fleck
 The Honorable James Doerty
 The Honorable Brian D. Galn
 The Honorable Bruce Hillyer
 The Honorable Dale B. Ramerman
 The Honorable Jeffrey Ramsdell
 The Honorable Michael Spearman
 The Honorable Michael Trickey
 The Honorable Cheryl Carey
 The Honorable Patricia Clark
 The Honorable Terry Lukens

Re: Commissioner Stephen Gaddis

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

Apart from legal matters, I wish to say that I am truly sorry for occasioning any of this. It has proven demanding on the court, and very hard on me personally. In looking back, there are three matters that I particularly want to acknowledge and express remorse for my involvement in.

CLE Preparation Dinner at the Brooklyn with James Degel and Lynn Fulp. This was a working dinner as the three of us were assigned to give a three-hour presentation at two upcoming King County Bar Association guardian trainings. Mr. Degel and I had presented the material before, but Ms. Fulp was new to the panel and was concerned about what her role and comments should be. It was not a social occasion. Mr. Degel and I had had bar business lunches previously, in which we alternated paying the bill. We were careful about this. The night of the dinner he insisted on paying. In return, six days later, I picked up the full tab at Spring Judicial Conference for appetizers and

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drinks for Mr. Degel and the entire panel that put on the Guardianship presentation. Later, this summer, I wrote Mr. Degel a check for my entire part of the dinner at the Brooklyn.

Believe me, I will not handle payment in this way again, bar activity or not. I am sorry that I even let him pay on that one dinner occasion. It had absolutely nothing to do with my in-court rulings -- in fact on the date cited in the court's letter (in which I approved three of Mr. Degel's accountings), Comm. Velategui approved six of his accountings without question. Few attorneys are as careful in their working papers as Mr. Degel is.

Mariners Tickets. On two occasions I accepted Mariners tickets. I mistakenly thought it was three, but I have now confirmed that one of the games was not involved at all, as it was a paid dinner/Mariner game special (I paid for) put on by the Harbor Club.

One of the times I had just finished writing two chapters of the Washington Guardian Manual, which had been assigned to a lawyer who backed out on the week of the publication deadline. Mr. Degel, as editor in charge, asked me if I could write the chapters. I spent all my evenings that week writing them. The next week he was leaving town the next day, and asked if I could use M's tickets, as they would go to waste otherwise. Remembering my efforts of the preceeding week, I said yes, and met him at lunch (that I paid for) to pick up the tickets.

Once again, I am truly sorry for having entered into such an arrangement, and have learned my lesson. I have no plans to go to an M's game again (or any sporting event or cultural activity) with an attorney who appears before me or to use "dumped" tickets. I see now how it appeared, and will never do anything like this again.

Relationship with Lynne Fulp. Ms. Fulp was new to the guardianship profession, and eager to learn, work, and join committees. She wanted eventually to start her own business. She sought me out and sought my assistance. In addition to attending KCBA guardianship meetings, she invited me and my wife to three social engagements over a two-year period, at which she ended up talking about her future plans. We reciprocated three times over the two-year period. She and my wife seemed to hit it off as friends. While I know that sometimes judicial officers even have attorneys as friends, as portrayed in the complaint, even that can look bad. After her agency got on its feet with new ownership, she seldom came to court. But appearances, however innocent, can be misleading, and I promise never to allow myself (or wife) to be in such a position again.

Simply stated, these are the basis of what is going on now. I am truly and profoundly sorry, and cannot emphasize enough how badly I feel, and the grief it has caused me

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these past seven months. Nor can I state what a learning experience it has been for me. Though I am pleased to have served the court with distinction for over twenty years, this matter has served to renew my efforts to be an exemplary judicial officer, in our fine court. There is not and will not be a day or an occasion which will go by when I will not remember the lessons I have learned.

Sincerely,

[dictated and sent without signature to avoid delay]

Stephen M. Gaddis