

After my arrest on July 18, 2008, I made a public statement, saying that I very much regretted what had happened and that I would defer to and respect the legal system set up to handle matters of this type. That process has now come to an end.

I have accepted full responsibility for my actions and have this afternoon entered a plea of guilty to Count I of the Information, Operating While Intoxicated as a Class A Misdemeanor. I have been assured by my legal counsel and others that the sentence I have received is the same sentence as is customarily imposed by the courts in Marion County for first-time offenders. The terms of the sentence include payment of a fine and costs, one year of probation and a 90-day driver's license suspension. But nothing contained in the Court's sentence has been, is or will be as difficult to endure as the dishonor I have brought upon myself and my family.

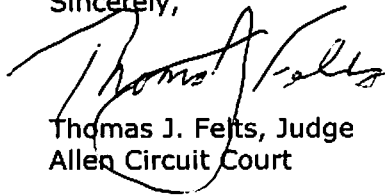
Throughout my life, particularly in my years as Judge of the Allen Circuit Court and through my church and other community involvements, my sole focus as a husband, father, judge and citizen has been to uphold the highest ethical and personal standards and to earn the trust of those around me. I remain committed to those standards of personal and professional behavior and the higher standard to which I am held by virtue of the honor and privilege of being a judge - however, on July 18th, I failed to live by those standards by engaging in the very behavior that I and others have worked so hard to prevent and discourage.

It is a profound understatement to say that I am disappointed in myself. But more importantly, I am pained to the core at having disappointed my family, my community and the people with whom I have worked to uphold the law. Being a judge is a tremendous honor and privilege.

I am aware there will be an investigation by the Indiana Judicial Qualifications Commission and I have already advised the Commission that I will cooperate fully with it. Throughout this process I have not presided over any criminal cases - I will continue this practice until a proper time that I will determine after consultation with those who give me appropriate counsel.

I offer no excuse for what I did. While my actions may be forgiven, they cannot be excused. I offer only the profoundest apology possible to my community, those citizens who come before me in the Courtroom, my colleagues on the bench and the legal profession, for actions such as those in which I engaged certainly show a complete lack of respect and compliance with the law and a failure to uphold and promote the public's confidence in the integrity of the judiciary. For that, I owe the citizens of Allen County an apology and a promise to re-earn your trust.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Felts, Judge
Allen Circuit Court