



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

PRESS RELEASE

Statement from the Executive Director

January 24, 2025

Little Rock, AR – The Arkansas Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission (JDDC) is aware of recent media attention involving the judiciary and references to JDDC investigations and appointments. As always, the JDDC remains steadfast in its commitment to performing its duty to enforce the Rules of Judicial Conduct with integrity, impartiality, independence, and respect for the judicial process.

The institution of the judiciary is a cornerstone of our democracy. Across our State, phenomenal men and women work within the judicial branch as judges, court staff, and in the many agencies that collaborate to administer the court system. Many have dedicated their careers to upholding justice and serving the public with honor. However, the judiciary is more significant than any individual or entity and requires accountability, competency, and the highest standards of ethical conduct to maintain the public's trust. The JDDC's work, often done with little attention, is vital to preserving this trust. We approach this responsibility with the seriousness it demands and are committed to treating all parties involved with fairness and dignity.

To our complainants and witnesses, your contributions and the information you share provides critical context and evidence that helps us carry out thorough and impartial investigations and hearings. Your courage and willingness to come forward are essential to our process. We are committed to ensuring that all witnesses are willing to share information without fear of retribution and understand the chilling effect that intimidation has upon the investigation process. Witnesses may feel helpless or unprotected when coming forward, and we take those concerns seriously. It is our duty to ensure that anyone who provides information to the JDDC can do so without fear of retaliation.

To the judges of the State of Arkansas, your adherence to ethical standards strengthens the judiciary and sets an example for all who interact with the justice system. Your candor, insights, and contributions to the JDDC and our investigations reflect your dedication to the rule of law and a reverence for the oath you took. All judges who are under investigation or who will be subject to a hearing deserve a fair process. We are mindful that many of the decisions you make are met with critiques, but your willingness to serve despite that scrutiny is vital to our system.

While we understand the public's interest in current matters regarding the Arkansas Judiciary, protecting the confidentiality of investigations and ensuring adherence to due process is fundamental to our agency. We will continue to comply with the requirements of the Constitution, statutes, and the Rules of Procedure of the JDDC while we complete the work entrusted to us.

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