

**Arkansas Access  
To Justice Commission**

Dean Charles Goldner  
*Chair*

January 16, 2007

Judge Jim Spears  
*Vice Chair*

Bill Brown

Judge Waymond Brown

Justice Annabelle  
Clinton Imber

Nate Coulter

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Judge Craig Hannah

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Senator Jim Luker

Martha McCaskill

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Danyelle Walker

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Jean Carter

Michael Mullane

Kelly Olson

Susie Pointer

Lee Richardson

Ron Lanoue  
*Secretary*

303 West Capitol Ave.  
Suite 200  
Little Rock, AR 72201

501.376.3423  
501.376.3664 FAX  
rlanoue@  
arlegalservices.org

The Honorable Jim Hannah  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Arkansas  
625 Marshall Street, Justice Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Arkansas Access to Justice Commission

Dear Chief Justice Hannah:

I write in my capacity as Chair of the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission. The Commission, which as you know was created by the Court upon petition of the Arkansas Bar Association, has been working diligently to carry out the charge given to it by the Court at the time of the Commission's creation.

Part of that charge is to learn what resources are currently available for the provision of legal services to the poor and the working poor in Arkansas, and to educate both attorneys and the public about the obligation of attorneys under Rule 6.1 to provide pro bono services. After careful study, the Commission unanimously decided that it would be appropriate to ask the Court to collect information from each attorney about how many hours of pro bono service the attorney provides in each year. Recognizing that attorneys could have divergent views about the necessity or desirability of this reporting requirement, the Commission appeared before the Board of Governors of the Arkansas Bar Association and then, upon the recommendation of the Board of Governors, before the House of Delegates of the Arkansas Bar Association in June 2006. As you will see from the enclosed excerpt of the minutes of that House of Delegates meeting, the House of Delegates overwhelmingly approved a motion that the Delegates support the Commission's request for attorneys to report pro bono hours annually, provided that any data released is in the aggregate.

I am also enclosing the Memorandum that was delivered to the Arkansas Bar Association Board of Governors which spells out our proposal in more detail.

On behalf of the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, I respectfully request that the Supreme Court amend the attorney's annual reporting form to include collection of this information and that the data be made available to the Commission or others only in the aggregate.

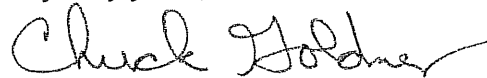
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I will be happy to answer any questions or to appear before the Court if you request.

Very truly yours,



Charles W. Goldner, Jr.

Chair, Arkansas Access to Justice Commission

Enclosures: as stated

c: Access to Justice Commission  
Ron Lanoue  
Don Hollingsworth  
Jim Sprott  
Rick Ramsay

Chris Thomas  
Leslie Steen