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Arkansas Access to Justice Commission Launches Website

Little Rock – The Arkansas Access to Justice Commission announces the establishment of a website, ArkansasJustice.org. Commission Chairman Dean Charles Goldner of the Bowen/UALR School of Law noted, “This website is the culmination of months of work to develop an online resource which reaches out to the public and practicing legal professionals. All our citizens must understand that access to justice is a fundamental principle of our democracy.”

The Commission was established in late 2004 by the Arkansas Supreme Court to “provide equal access to justice in civil cases to all Arkansans.” The Commission is comprised of judges, attorneys, legislators and civic leaders throughout the state who are developing plans to improve aspects of the justice system. The website provides philosophy and information about Commission goals, objectives and recommendations. The site also provides direct links to resources encouraging pro bono activities, access to statewide legal services through the HelpLine, and seeks feedback and support. Aspects of the site will soon be available in Spanish.

A study released in September 2005 by the Legal Services Corporation of the U.S. Justice Department quantified an 80% gap nationwide between the need for and ability to deliver civil legal services to low-income Americans. The work of the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission is to close this gap in Arkansas. ArkansasJustice.org is an important tool to achieve that end.

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