

*ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS*

MARTY SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR



*"Supporting Courts,
Ensuring Justice"*

JUSTICE BUILDING
625 MARSHALL STREET
SUITE 1100
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201

September 30, 2024

Hon. Senator Terry Rice, Co-Chair
Hon. Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas General Assembly
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:

As we approach the scheduled constitutional offices budget hearing, I am writing on behalf of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to respectfully present our biennial budget proposal.

In crafting this budget, we have adhered closely to the recommendations provided by the Department of Finance and Administration, making no changes other than routine general ledger adjustments and no requests for additional appropriation beyond the standard minimal salary and matching amounts. This decision reflects our commitment to being sound, conservative fiscal stewards of the relatively modest funding allocated to the AOC.

There are two primary reasons for our approach this biennium:

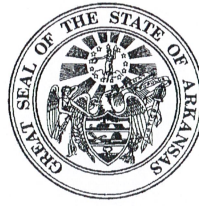
- **State Budget Concerns:** We fully understand and appreciate the current fiscal climate facing our state. In light of these concerns, we believe it is prudent to maintain our existing appropriation levels without seeking additional resources.
- **Upcoming Leadership Changes:** With the imminent election for Chief Justice and the anticipated transition in leadership, we believe it is appropriate to defer any consideration of changes until the new leadership is elected. This will allow for a more informed and comprehensive evaluation of the AOC's needs moving forward.

Fiscal responsibility and sound financial management are cornerstones of the AOC. The Arkansas Judiciary plays a critical role in maintaining civil society by providing fair and impartial courts to ensure justice, enforce the rule of law, and administer forums for citizens to settle legal disputes peacefully. Our courts fulfill these essential obligations at low cost to the taxpayer by accounting for less than one percent of the State budget.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and understanding, and we are committed to working closely with the Joint Budget Committee to ensure the efficient operation of our court system.

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Thank you for your attention to our budget proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.

My best,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "M. Sullivan".

Marty Sullivan

Cc: Chief Justice John Dan Kemp
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
President Pro Tempore Bart Hester
Speaker of the House Matthew Shepherd
Speaker of the House-elect Brian Evans