1	State of Arkansas	A D:11	
2	84th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2003		SENATE BILL 303
4			
5	By: Senators Luker, Wilkinson	n	
6	By: Representatives Lamourer	ux, Bond, Hathorn	
7			
8			
9		For An Act To Be Entitled	
10	ARKANSAS	DISCLAIMER OF PROPERTY INTERESTS	ACT.
11			
12		Subtitle	
13		SAS DISCLAIMER OF PROPERTY	
14	INTER	ESTS ACT.	
15			
16		THE ACCEMENT OF THE CHAPTE OF A	DWANGA G
17	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GI	ENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF A	RKANSAS:
18	CECTION 1 Chang		
19		t title.	of Duonouty Intomosts
20		cited as the "Arkansas Disclaimer	of Property Interests
21 22	Act".		
23	SECTION 2. Defir	nitions.	
24	In this act:	ittions.	
25	·	t" means the person to whom a disc	claimed interest or
26		d had the disclaimer not been made	
27		interest" means the interest tha	
28		e disclaimer not been made;	
29	•	" means the refusal to accept an	interest in or power
30	over property;	·	<u> </u>
31	<u> </u>	means a personal representative,	trustee, agent acting
32		ney, or other person authorized to	
33		operty of another person;	_
34		ld property" means property held	in the name of two or
35	more persons under an a	arrangement in which all holders	have concurrent
36	interests and under whi	ich the last surviving holder is	entitled to the whole

1	of the property;
2	(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate,
3	trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture,
4	government; governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; public
5	corporation, or any other legal or commercial entity;
6	(7) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of
7	Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or
8	insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. The
9	term includes an Indian tribe or band, or Alaskan native village, recognized
10	by federal law or formally acknowledged by a state; and
11	(8) "Trust" means:
12	(A) An express trust, charitable or noncharitable, with
13	additions thereto, whenever and however created; and
14	(B) A trust created pursuant to a statute, judgment, or decree
15	which requires the trust to be administered in the manner of an express
16	trust.
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18	SECTION 3. Scope.
19	This act applies to disclaimers of any interest in or power over
20	property, whenever created.
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22	SECTION 4. Act supplemented by other law.
23	(a) Unless displaced by a provision of this act, the principles of law
24	and equity supplement this act.
25	(b) This act does not limit any right of a person to waive, release,
26	disclaim, or renounce an interest in or power over property under a law other
27	than this act.
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29	SECTION 5. Power to disclaim - General requirements, when irrevocable.
30	(a) A person may disclaim, in whole or part, any interest in or power
31	over property, including a power of appointment. A person may disclaim the
32	interest or power even if its creator imposed a spendthrift provision or
33	similar restriction on transfer or a restriction or limitation on the right
34	to disclaim.
35	(b) Except to the extent a fiduciary's right to disclaim is expressly
36	restricted or limited by another statute of this state or by the instrument

1 creating the fiduciary relationship, a fiduciary may disclaim, in whole or 2 part, any interest in or power over property, including a power of 3 appointment, whether acting in a personal or representative capacity. A 4 fiduciary may disclaim the interest or power even if its creator imposed a 5 spendthrift provision or similar restriction on transfer, or a restriction or 6 limitation on the right to disclaim, or an instrument other than the 7 instrument that created the fiduciary relationship imposed a restriction or 8 limitation on the right to disclaim. 9 (c) To be effective, a disclaimer must be in a writing or other record, declare the disclaimer, describe the interest or power disclaimed, be 10 11 signed by the person making the disclaimer, and be delivered or filed in the manner provided in Section 12. In this subsection: 12 (1) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible 13 14 medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable 15 in perceivable form; and 16 (2) "Signed" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt 17 a record, to: 18 (A) Execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or 19 (B) Attach to or logically associate with the record an 20 electronic sound, symbol, or process. 21 (d) A partial disclaimer may be expressed as a fraction, percentage, 22 monetary amount, term of years, limitation of a power, or any other interest 23 or estate in the property. 24 (e) A disclaimer becomes irrevocable when it is delivered or filed 25 pursuant to Section 12 or when it becomes effective as provided in Sections 6 26 through 11, whichever occurs later. 27 (f) A disclaimer made under this act is not a transfer, assignment, or 28 release. 29 30 SECTION 6. Disclaimer of interest in property. 31 (a) In this section: 32 (1) "Future interest" means an interest that takes effect in 33 possession or enjoyment, if at all, later than the time of its creation; and 34 (2) "Time of distribution" means the time when a disclaimed

(b) Except for a disclaimer governed by Section 7 or 8, the following

interest would have taken effect in possession or enjoyment.

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1	rules apply to a disclaimer of an interest in property:
2	(1) The disclaimer takes effect as of the time the instrument
3	creating the interest becomes irrevocable, or, if the interest arose under
4	the law of intestate succession, as of the time of the intestate's death.
5	(2) The disclaimed interest passes according to any provision in
6	the instrument creating the interest providing for the disposition of the
7	interest, should it be disclaimed, or of disclaimed interests in general.
8	(3) If the instrument does not contain a provision described in
9	subdivision (b)(2), the following rules apply:
10	(A) If the disclaimant is an individual, the disclaimed
11	interest passes as if the disclaimant had died immediately before the time of
12	distribution. However, if, by law or under the instrument, the descendants
13	of the disclaimant would share in the disclaimed interest by any method of
14	representation had the disclaimant died before the time of distribution, the
15	disclaimed interest passes only to the descendants of the disclaimant who
16	survive the time of distribution; and
17	(B) If the disclaimant is not an individual, the
18	disclaimed interest passes as if the disclaimant did not exist.
19	(4) Held by a person other than the disclaimant takes effect as
20	if the disclaimant had died or ceased to exist immediately before the time of
21	distribution, but a future interest held by the disclaimant is not
22	accelerated in possession or enjoyment.
23	
24	SECTION 7. Disclaimer of rights of survivorship in jointly held
25	property.
26	(a) Upon the death of a holder of jointly held property, a surviving
27	holder may disclaim, in whole or part, the greater of:
28	(1) A fractional share of the property determined by dividing
29	the number one by the number of joint holders alive immediately before the
30	death of the holder to whose death the disclaimer relates; or
31	(2) All of the property except that part of the value of the
32	entire interest attributable to the contribution furnished by the
33	disclaimant.
34	(b) A disclaimer under subsection (a) takes effect as of the death of
35	the holder of jointly held property to whose death the disclaimer relates.
36	(c) An interest in jointly held property disclaimed by a surviving

1	holder of the property passes as if the disclaimant predeceased the holder to
2	whose death the disclaimer relates.
3	
4	SECTION 8. Disclaimer of interest by trustee.
5	If a trustee disclaims an interest in property that otherwise would
6	have become trust property, the interest does not become trust property.
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8	SECTION 9. Disclaimer of power of appointment or other power not held
9	in fiduciary capacity.
10	If a holder disclaims a power of appointment or other power not held in
11	a fiduciary capacity, the following rules apply:
12	(1) If the holder has not exercised the power, the disclaimer takes
13	effect as of the time the instrument creating the power becomes irrevocable;
14	(2) If the holder has exercised the power and the disclaimer is of a
15	power other than a presently exercisable general power of appointment, the
16	disclaimer takes effect immediately after the last exercise of the power; and
17	(3) The instrument creating the power is construed as if the power
18	expired when the disclaimer became effective.
19	
20	SECTION 10. Disclaimer by appointee, object, or taker in default of
21	exercise of power of appointment.
22	(a) A disclaimer of an interest in property by an appointee of a power
23	of appointment takes effect as of the time the instrument by which the holder
24	exercises the power becomes irrevocable.
25	(b) A disclaimer of an interest in property by an object or taker in
26	default of an exercise of a power of appointment takes effect as of the time
27	the instrument creating the power becomes irrevocable.
28	
29	SECTION 11. Disclaimer of power held in fiduciary capacity.
30	(a) If a fiduciary disclaims a power held in a fiduciary capacity
31	which has not been exercised, the disclaimer takes effect as of the time the
32	instrument creating the power becomes irrevocable.
33	(b) If a fiduciary disclaims a power held in a fiduciary capacity
34	which has been exercised, the disclaimer takes effect immediately after the
35	last exercise of the power.
36	(c) A disclaimer under this section is effective as to another

1	fiduciary if the disclaimer so provides and the fiduciary disclaiming has the
2	authority to bind the estate, trust, or other person for whom the fiduciary
3	is acting.
4	
5	SECTION 12. <u>Delivery or filing.</u>
6	(a) In this section, "beneficiary designation" means an instrument,
7	other than an instrument creating a trust, naming the beneficiary of:
8	(1) An annuity or insurance policy;
9	(2) An account with a designation for payment on death;
10	(3) A security registered in beneficiary form;
11	(4) A pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or other employment-
12	related benefit plan; or
13	(5) Any other nonprobate transfer at death.
14	(b) Subject to subsections (c) through (l), delivery of a disclaimer
15	may be effected by personal delivery, first-class mail, or any other method
16	likely to result in its receipt.
17	(c) In the case of an interest created under the law of intestate
18	succession or an interest created by will, other than an interest in a
19	testamentary trust:
20	(1) A disclaimer must be delivered to the personal
21	representative of the decedent's estate; or
22	(2) If no personal representative is then serving, it must be
23	filed with a court having jurisdiction to appoint the personal
24	representative.
25	(d) In the case of an interest in a testamentary trust:
26	(1) A disclaimer must be delivered to the trustee then serving,
27	or if no trustee is then serving, to the personal representative of the
28	decedent's estate; or
29	(2) If no personal representative is then serving, it must be
30	filed with a court having jurisdiction to enforce the trust.
31	(e) In the case of an interest in an inter vivos trust:
32	(1) A disclaimer must be delivered to the trustee then serving;
33	(2) If no trustee is then serving, it must be filed with a court
34	having jurisdiction to enforce the trust; or
35	(3) If the disclaimer is made before the time the instrument
36	creating the trust becomes irrevocable, it must be delivered to the settlor

1	of a revocable trust or the transferor of the interest.
2	(f) In the case of an interest created by a beneficiary designation
3	made before the time the designation becomes irrevocable, a disclaimer must
4	be delivered to the person making the beneficiary designation.
5	(g) In the case of an interest created by a beneficiary designation
6	made after the time the designation becomes irrevocable, a disclaimer must be
7	delivered to the person obligated to distribute the interest.
8	(h) In the case of a disclaimer by a surviving holder of jointly held
9	property, the disclaimer must be delivered to the person to whom the
10	disclaimed interest passes.
11	(i) In the case of a disclaimer by an object or taker in default of
12	exercise of a power of appointment at any time after the power was created:
13	(1) The disclaimer must be delivered to the holder of the power
14	or to the fiduciary acting under the instrument that created the power; or
15	(2) If no fiduciary is then serving, it must be filed with a
16	court having authority to appoint the fiduciary.
17	(j) In the case of a disclaimer by an appointee of a nonfiduciary
18	<pre>power of appointment:</pre>
19	(1) The disclaimer must be delivered to the holder, the personal
20	representative of the holder's estate or to the fiduciary under the
21	instrument that created the power; or
22	(2) If no fiduciary is then serving, it must be filed with a
23	court having authority to appoint the fiduciary.
24	(k) In the case of a disclaimer by a fiduciary of a power over a trust
25	or estate, the disclaimer must be delivered as provided in subsection (c),
26	(d), or (e), as if the power disclaimed were an interest in property.
27	(1) In the case of a disclaimer of a power by an agent, the disclaimer
28	must be delivered to the principal or the principal's representative.
29	
30	SECTION 13. When disclaimer barred or limited.
31	(a) A disclaimer is barred by a written waiver of the right to
32	disclaim.
33	(b) A disclaimer of an interest in property is barred if any of the
34	following events occur before the disclaimer becomes effective:
35	(1) The disclaimant accepts the interest sought to be

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disclaimed;

1	(2) The disclaimant voluntarily assigns, conveys, encumbers,
2	pledges, or transfers the interest sought to be disclaimed or contracts to do
3	so; or
4	(3) A judicial sale of the interest sought to be disclaimed
5	occurs.
6	(c) A disclaimer, in whole or part, of the future exercise of a power
7	held in a fiduciary capacity is not barred by its previous exercise.
8	(d) A disclaimer, in whole or part, of the future exercise of a power
9	not held in a fiduciary capacity is not barred by its previous exercise
10	unless the power is exercisable in favor of the disclaimant.
11	(e) A disclaimer is barred or limited if so provided by law other than
12	this act.
13	(f) A disclaimer of a power over property which is barred by this
14	section is ineffective. A disclaimer of an interest in property which is
15	barred by this section takes effect as a transfer of the interest disclaimed
16	to the persons who would have taken the interest under this act had the
17	disclaimer not been barred.
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19	SECTION 14. <u>Tax qualified disclaimer.</u>
20	Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if as a result of a
21	disclaimer or transfer the disclaimed or transferred interest is treated
22	pursuant to the provisions of Title 26 of the United States Code, as now or
23	hereafter amended, or any successor statute thereto, and the regulations
24	promulgated thereunder, as never having been transferred to the disclaimant,
25	then the disclaimer or transfer is effective as a disclaimer under this act.
26	In order for a disclaimer made under the provisions of this act to be
27	effective as a tax qualified disclaimer pursuant to the provisions of Title
28	26 of the United States Code, the disclaimer must be made within the time
29	periods set out in Title 26, Section 2518 of the United States Code.
30	(Generally within 9 months from the day that the interest being disclaimed
31	was created.)
32	
33	SECTION 15. <u>Disclaimer of interest in real property; Recording of</u>
34	disclaimer.
35	(a) If real property or an interest therein is disclaimed, a copy of
36	the disclaimer shall be recorded in the office of the circuit clerk of the

1 county in which the property or interest disclaimed is located. 2 (b) If an interest in or relating to real property is disclaimed and 3 recorded as provided in this section, the spouse of the person entering the 4 disclaimer, if the spouse has consented to the disclaimer in writing, shall 5 be automatically debarred from any dower or curtesy interest in the real 6 estate to which the spouse would have been lawfully entitled except for the 7 disc<u>laimer</u>. 8 (c) Failure to file, record or register the disclaimer does not affect 9 its validity as between the disclaimant and the person to whom the property 10 interest or power passes by reason of the disclaimer. 11 SECTION 16. Minor, incompetent, or deceased beneficiary. 12 13 A guardian of the property or an executor or administrator of the estate of a minor, incompetent, or deceased beneficiary may, if the fiduciary 14 15 deems it to be in the best interest of those concerned with the estate of the 16 beneficiary and of those who will take the beneficiary's interest by virtue 17 of the disclaimer and is not detrimental to the best interest of the beneficiary, with or without an order of the court having jurisdiction, shall 18 19 execute and file a disclaimer on behalf of the beneficiary within the time 20 and in the manner in which the beneficiary himself could disclaim if he were 21 living, of legal age, or competent. 22 23 SECTION 17. Relation to electronic signatures in global and national commerce act. This act modifies, limits, and supercedes the federal 24 25 Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. Section 26 7001, et seq.) but does not modify, limit, or supersede Section 101(c) of 27 that act (15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c)) or authorize electronic delivery of any 28 of the notices described in Section 103(b) of that act (15 U.S.C. Section 29 7003(b)). 30 SECTION 18. Uniformity of application and construction. 31 In applying and construing this act, consideration must be given to the 32 33 need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter 34 among states that enact it. 35

SECTION 19. Effective date.

1	This act takes effect on September 1, 2003.
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3	SECTION 20. Repeals.
4	Arkansas Code §§ 28-2-101 through 28-2-109 are repealed.
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6	28-2-101. Right to disclaim interest in property.
7	(a) A person or a representative of a deceased, incapacitated, or
8	incompetent person to whom any property or interest therein devolves, by
9	whatever means, may disclaim it in whole or in part by delivering a written
10	disclaimer under this chapter.
11	(b) Λ disclaimer may be of a fractional share or any limited interest
12	or estate.
13	(c) The right to disclaim granted by this chapter shall exist
14	irrespective of any limitations imposed upon the interest of the disclaimant
15	in the nature of an expressed or implied spendthrift provision or similar
16	restriction.
17	(d) This chapter does not abridge the right of any person to waive,
18	release, disclaim, or renounce property or an interest therein under any
19	other statute.
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21	28-2-102. Waiver and bar.
22	The right to disclaim property or an interest therein is barred by:
23	(1) An assignment, conveyance, encumbrance, pledge, or transfer
24	of the property or interest, or a contract therefor;
25	(2) A written waiver of the right to disclaim;
26	(3) An acceptance of the property or interest or a benefit
27	thereunder;
28	(4) A sale of the property or interest under judicial sale made
29	before the disclaimer is effected.
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31	28-2-103. Minor, incompetent, or deceased beneficiary.
32	A guardian of the property or an executor or administrator of the
33	estate of a minor, incompetent, or deceased beneficiary may, if the fiduciary
34	deems it to be in the best interest of those concerned with the estate of the
35	beneficiary and of those who will take the beneficiary's interest by virtue
36	of the disclaimer and is not detrimental to the best interest of the

1 beneficiary, with or without an order of the court having jurisdiction, shall 2 execute and file a disclaimer on behalf of the beneficiary within the time 3 and in the manner in which the beneficiary himself could disclaim if he were 4 living, of legal age, or competent. 5 6 28-2-104. Joint interests. 7 (a) A surviving joint tenant or tenant by the entireties may disclaim 8 as a separate interest any property or interest therein devolving to him by 9 right of survivorship. 10 (b) A surviving joint tenant or tenant by the entireties may disclaim 11 the entire interest in any property or interest therein that is the subject 12 of a joint tenancy or tenancy by the entireties devolving to him, if the joint tenancy or tenancy by the entireties was created by act of a deceased 13 14 joint tenant or tenant by the entireties and the survivor did not join in 15 creating the joint tenancy or the tenancy by the entireties. However, if the 16 survivor did join in creating the joint tenancy or the tenancy by the 17 entireties, then the survivor may disclaim only the incremental interest acquired by the survivor by virtue of the death of the deceased joint tenant 18 19 or tenant by the entireties. 20 2.1 28-2-105. Agents or attorneys. A disclaimant may, if he desires, execute and file a disclaimer by 2.2 23 agent or attorney lawfully empowered. 24 2.5 28-2-106. Form of disclaimer. 26 The disclaimer shall describe the property or interest disclaimed, 27 declare the disclaimer and extent thereof, and be signed by the disclaimant. 28 29 28-2-107. Time of disclaimer - Delivery. 30 (a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (c), if the property or 31 interest has devolved to the disclaimant under a testamentary instrument or 32 by the laws of intestacy, the disclaimer shall be delivered, as to a present interest, not later than nine (9) months after the death of the deceased 33 34 owner or deceased donee of a power of appointment and, as to a future 35 interest, not later than nine (9) months after the event determining that the 36 taker of the property or interest has become finally ascertained and his

1 interest is indefeasibly vested. 2 (2) The disclaimer shall be delivered in person or mailed by registered or certified mail to any personal representative or other 3 4 fiduciary of the decedent or the donce of the power, to the holder of the 5 legal title to which the interest relates, or to the person entitled to the 6 property or interest in the event of disclaimer. 7 (3) A copy of the disclaimer shall be filed in the probate court 8 of the county in which proceedings for the administration of the estate of 9 the deceased owner or deceased donee of the power have been commenced. 10 (b)(1)(A) Except as provided in subsection (c), if the property or 11 interest has devolved to the disclaimant under a nontestamentary instrument or contract, the disclaimer shall be delivered, as to a present interest, not 12 13 later than nine (9) months after the effective date of the nontestamentary 14 instrument or contract and, as to a future interest, not later than nine (9) 15 months after the event determining that the taker of the property or interest 16 has become finally ascertained and his interest indefeasibly vested. 17 (B) If the person entitled to disclaim does not have actual knowledge of the existence of the interest, the disclaimer shall be 18 delivered not later than nine (9) months after he has actual knowledge of the 19 existence of the interest. 20 21 (2) The disclaimer shall be delivered in person or mailed by 22 registered or certified mail to the person who has legal title to or 2.3 possession of the interest disclaimed. 24 (c) In any case, as to a transfer creating an interest in the 2.5 disclaimant made after December 31, 1976, and subject to tax under chapters 26 11, 12, or 13 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, a disclaimer 27 intended as a qualified disclaimer must specifically so state and must be 28 delivered not later than nine (9) months after the later of either the date 29 the transfer is made or the day on which the person disclaiming attains age 30 twenty-one (21) years. 31 32 28-2-108. Effect of disclaimer generally. 33 (a)(1) If the property or interest devolved to a disclaimant under a testamentary instrument or under the laws of intestacy and the deceased owner 34 35 or donee of a power of appointment has not provided for another disposition,

it devolves as if the disclaimant had predeceased the decedent or, if the

1 disclaimant was designated to take under a power of appointment exercised by 2 a testamentary instrument, as if the disclaimant had predeceased the donce of 3 the power. 4 (2) Any future interest that takes effect in possession or 5 enjoyment after the termination of the estate or interest disclaimed takes 6 effect as if the disclaimant had died before the event determining that the 7 taker of the property or interest had become finally ascertained and his 8 interest is indefeasibly vested. 9 (3) A disclaimer relates back for all purposes to the date of 10 death of the decedent or of the donce of the power or the determinative event 11 as the case may be. 12 (b)(1) If the property or interest devolved to a disclaimant under a nontestamentary instrument or contract and the instrument or contract does 13 14 not provide for another disposition: 15 (A) It devolves as if the disclaimant had died before the 16 effective date of the instrument or contract; and (B) A future interest that takes effect in possession or 17 enjoyment at or after the termination of the disclaimed interest takes effect 18 as if the disclaimant had died before the event determining that the taker of 19 20 the property or interest had become finally ascertained and his interest 21 indefeasibly vested. 2.2 (2) A disclaimer relates back for all purposes to the effective 23 date of the instrument or contract or the date of the determinative event, as 24 the case may be. The effective date of a revocable instrument or contract is 25 the date on which the maker no longer has power to revoke it or to transfer 26 to himself or another the entire legal equitable ownership of the interest. 27 (c) The disclaimer or the written waiver of the right to disclaim is 28 binding upon the disclaimant or persons waiving and all persons claiming 29 through or under him. 30 31 28-2-109. Disclaimer of interest in real property. 32 (a) If real property or an interest therein is disclaimed, a copy of 33 the disclaimer shall be recorded in the office of the circuit clerk of the 34 county in which the property or interest disclaimed is located. 35 (b) If an interest in or relating to real property is disclaimed and duly recorded as provided in this section, the spouse of the person entering 36

1	the disclaimer, if the spouse has consented to the disclaimer in writing,
2	shall be automatically debarred from any dower or curtesy interest in the
3	real estate to which the spouse would have been lawfully entitled except for
4	the disclaimer.
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