

**ARKANSAS ETHICS COMMISSION**

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January 10, 2024

Honorable Kim Hammer, Co-Chair  
Administrative Rules Subcommittee  
of the Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Honorable Brian S. Evans, Co-Chair  
Administrative Rules Subcommittee  
of the Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

**Re: Quarterly Report**

Dear Senator Hammer and Representative Evans:

At the ALC Rules subcommittee meeting on November 16, 2023, the Arkansas Ethics Commission ("AEC") was asked to submit quarterly reports for purposes of tracking the number of Citizen Complaints which get filed with the AEC but do not involve matters under its jurisdiction. The genesis for this report was the passage of Act 753 of 2023, which provided that "the Arkansas Ethics Commission shall prepare a citizen complaint form and make it publically available on the Arkansas Ethics Commission's website."

Although the AEC has had a Citizen Complaint Form for at least 25 years, the Complaint form was not available on the AEC's website. Instead, it was furnished to any citizen who requested it. This gave the AEC's staff an opportunity to explain the AEC's jurisdiction to persons requesting the form and hopefully save resources from being spent on Complaints involving matters outside the AEC's jurisdiction.

In keeping with Act 753, the AEC placed the Citizen Complaint Form on its website on June 15, 2023. This letter serves as the Commission's report for the third and fourth quarters of 2023. For purposes of comparison, the data from the corresponding quarters of the two preceding calendar years, i.e., 2022 and 2021 is also included.

	<u>3rd Q 2023</u> <u>(Non-Election Year)</u>	<u>3rd Q 2022</u> <u>(Election Year)</u>	<u>3rd Q 2021</u> <u>(Non-Election Year)</u>
Total number of Citizen Complaints filed	25	10	16
Number of Citizen Complaints outside of the AEC's jurisdiction	16	0	1
Percentage outside of the AEC's jurisdiction	64%	0%	6.25%

	<u>4th Q 2023</u> <u>(Non-Election Year)</u>	<u>4th Q 2022</u> <u>(Election Year)</u>	<u>4th Q 2021</u> <u>(Non-Election Year)</u>
Total number of Citizen Complaints filed	13	27	3
Number of Citizen Complaints outside of the AEC's jurisdiction	9	5	0
Percentage outside of the AEC's jurisdiction	69%	18.52%	0%

The foregoing data reflects an increase in the number of Complaints filed with the AEC involving matters not under its jurisdiction, both in terms of the number of Complaints and percentage of Complaints filed. As a general rule, more Complaints get filed in election years. During the pandemic, the number of cases was lower than normal.

Honorable Kim Hammer, Co-Chair  
Honorable Brian S. Evans, Co-Chair  
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If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Graham F. Sloan  
Director