

ARKANSAS ETHICS COMMISSION

Post Office Box 1917
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1917
(501) 324-9600 Fax (501) 324-9606
Toll Free (800) 422-7773

Graham F. Sloan
Director

Jill Rogers Barham
Drew Blankenship
Kristen Callahan
Jeremy L. Nixon
Staff Attorneys

Julie Dorobek
Jennifer Mooney
Teresa J. Jones
Directors of Compliance

Scott Irby
Chairman
Wendy L. Johnson
Vice Chairman

John Pitts
Miguel Lopez
Jason Tolbert
Commissioners



April 2, 2024

Honorable Terry Rice, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Honorable Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: Quarterly Report

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:

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 first quarter of 2024. For purposes of comparison, the data from the corresponding quarter of the two preceding calendar years, i.e., 2023 and 2022 is also included.

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	<u>1st Q 2024</u> <u>(Election Year)</u>	<u>1st Q 2023</u> <u>(Non-Election Year)</u>	<u>1st Q 2022</u> <u>(Election Year)</u>
Total number of Citizen Complaints filed	15	9	40
Number of Citizen Complaints outside of the AEC's jurisdiction	4	4	1
Percentage outside of the AEC's jurisdiction	27%	44%	2.5%

The foregoing data reflects that the actual number of complaints filed with the AEC involving matters not under its jurisdiction remained the same in the first quarter of 2024 as it was in the first quarter of 2023. That number was four times higher than it was in 2022. As a general rule, more Complaints get filed in election years. During the pandemic, the number of cases was lower than normal.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Graham F. Sloan
Director