

Biography of
THE HONORABLE STEVE HARRELSON
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



CHAIRMAN – SENATE COURT AND CIVIL LAW
SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATE DISTRICT 21

Senator Steve Harrelson serves District 21, which comprises Lafayette, Little River and Miller counties and parts of Columbia, Hempstead and Sevier counties. He is currently serving his first term in the Senate and previously served terms in the House of Representatives in 2005, 2007 and 2009. He served as House Majority Leader during the 86th and 87th General Assemblies.

During the 88th General Assembly, Senator Harrelson serves as chairman of the Senate Court and Civil Law Subcommittee and vice-chairman of the Senate Efficiency Committee. He holds membership on several committees and subcommittees: Joint Budget; Legislative Joint Auditing; JBC-Peer; Joint Performance Review (JPR); Senate Judiciary; Senate City, County, and Local Affairs; and Legislative Joint Auditing-State Agencies.

During the 87th General Assembly, then-Representative Harrelson was particularly proud of his sponsorship of Act 697 of 2009, which created the Arkansas Cigarette Fire Safety Standard Act, and Act 781 of 2009, which called for the reorganization of the State Athletic Commission regarding toughman contests. During the 86th General Assembly, he sponsored legislation creating the Electronic Recording Act, implementing tax cuts and incentives for certain manufacturers for energy usage and overhauling the District Court system.

In the 85th General Assembly, he sponsored Joshua's Law, an expansion of newborn screening programs, and Act 272, which gave law enforcement officers from adjoining states the authority to discharge duties in Arkansas under specific circumstances.

Nationally, he serves as vice-chairman of the Legislative Effectiveness Standing Committee for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Civically, he serves on the board of directors for many local nonprofits, including Opportunities Inc., CASA of Texarkana, Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Arkansas Coalition for Excellence. He also serves on the Supreme Court of Arkansas Child Support Committee and the Supreme Court Task Force on Court Security.

Senator Harrelson has been recognized by many organizations and groups:

- In 2009 he received the Super Lawyers Rising Star Award for his work with the Mid-South, the Friend of the Year Award from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Breath of Life Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Arkansas and a fire safety award from the Texarkana Fire Department.
- In 2008 he was awarded the First Branch by the Arkansas Judicial Council, Attorney of the Year Award by the Texarkana Bar Association and a community service award from the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission.
- In 2007 he was recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Arkansas District Judges Council, received the Outstanding Legislator Award from the Arkansas Circuit Clerk's Association, a leadership award from the City of Texarkana and the Human Relations Citizen Award from the Arkansas Education Association.
- In 2005 he received the Citizens Certificate of Merit Award from the Texarkana Police Department.

Senator Harrelson is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is licensed to practice law in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. He received a Certificate of Comparative Law from Oxford University and an Executive Education Certificate from Harvard University. He is a lifelong resident of Texarkana and a member of the First Methodist Church of Texarkana.