



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

PRESS RELEASE

POINT OF CONTACT: JDDC
PHONE: 501-682-1050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission takes this opportunity to honor Judge Kirk Johnson and Judge David Guthrie for their work with the Commission. Judge Johnson was appointed to the Commission in 2012. During his time, Judge Johnson served as both the Vice-Chair and Chairman of the Commission. Judge Guthrie was appointed to the Commission in 2016. Judge Guthrie served on an investigation panel throughout his time with the Commission. The JDDC thanks Judge Johnson and Judge Guthrie for their many years of faithful and dedicated service to the Commission.

Judge Tommy Fowler was elected the new Commission Chairman. Judge Fowler was first appointed to the Commission in 2017 and will continue to serve through 2025. Judge Fowler currently serves as a State District Court Judge in Craighead County. The positive changes Judge Fowler has implemented within the Courts have been honored by both the Arkansas Times and the Jonesboro Sun.

Judge Lee Harrod was elected the new Commission Vice-Chair. Judge Harrod was appointed to the Commission in 2018 with a term set to expire in 2025. Judge Lee

Harrod is a Circuit Judge in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit encompassing Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, IZard and Stone counties. Judge Harrod was elected to the bench in 2008 and re-elected in 2014. Harrod is unopposed in the 2020 election cycle and will start a new six-year judicial term on 1/1/2021.

Additionally, the JDDC takes this opportunity to welcome 2 new members to the Commission. The JDDC welcomes the following members to the Commission as newly appointed members: Judge Earnest Brown and Judge Andrew Bailey.

Judge Earnest Brown, Jr., received a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1991 and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1994. Brown currently serves as Circuit Judge for Sixth Division of the 11th Judicial District West (Jefferson and Lincoln Counties). Judge Brown was first elected in 2008 and was reelected in 2014 and 2020 and now beginning his third six year term. Judge Brown was formerly a State Representative for District 16 in Pine Bluff and was assistant speaker protem for the 4th District. While in the Arkansas legislature, he was a member of the Judiciary Committee, State Agencies and Governmental Affairs committee, co-chair of the Legislative Joint Auditing State Agencies sub-committee, alternate on the Joint Public Retirement and Social Security Programs committee, and Secretary for the Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge Brown served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the 11th Judicial District West Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Judge Brown formerly was the managing partner with Brown and McKissic Law Firm, where he practiced in the areas of criminal defense, domestic relations, personal injury, wrongful death, probate, business, and real estate law. Judge Brown was also an Adjunct Professor in the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff teaching the courses of Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Criminal

Procedure, Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement, and Legal Aspects of Corrections from Spring 2000 until Fall 2006.

Judge Brown is a member of the 2000 class of Arkansas Business Top "40 under 40". He is a past member of the Leadership Pine Bluff Board of Directors and the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and currently serves as President of the Delta Sigma Lambda Chapter. Judge Brown is currently a member of the Specialty Court, Nominating, Legislative, Juvenile, and Education committees of Judicial Council. Judge Brown currently chairs the Articles and Bylaws Committee and Judicial Resources Assessment Committee (JRAC), Brown has received a number of awards for his leadership and volunteerism.

Mr. Brown has been married for twenty one years and has three children. He and his wife and children are members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Pine Bluff.

Judge Andrew Bailey is a Circuit Judge in Arkansas' 14th Judicial District, which includes Baxter, Marion, Boone and Newton Counties. His docket includes primarily civil and domestic relations cases. He also oversees the 14th Judicial District Drug Court Program. He was first elected to the bench in 2018 and was reelected to a full six-year term in 2020. Judge Bailey is a resident of Mountain Home.