FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Arkansas Bar Association President Eddie H. Walker, Jr. Appoints a Task Force on Maintaining a Fair and Impartial Judiciary**

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS (March 11, 2016) – The Association’s House of Delegates voted to support President Walker’s appointment of a task force to examine issues with the current judicial election process. He specifically asked that the task force address the following issues:

1. Whether Judges in Arkansas should continue to be elected or whether an appointment process would be more appropriate.

2. If an appointment process is recommended, should it apply to all Judges or only Appellate Judges?

3. If an appointment system is recommended, how should the appointment process be structured?

4. Should some specific level of financial contribution to a Judge's campaign cause automatic recusal of that Judge regarding cases involving the contributor?

5. What safeguards can be used in order to best protect the judicial election process from the influence of "dark money"?

It is anticipated that the Task Force will present their recommendations to the House of Delegates at their June 18, 2016 meeting. The Task Force members are listed below.

Jon Comstock, Chair

Associate Dean Theresa Beiner

Robert Cearley

Bob Estes

Judge David Guthrie

Scott Hardin

Paul Keith

Professor Mark Killenbeck

Marie-Bernarde Miller

Brant Perkins

Troy Price

Brian Ratcliff

Representative Matthew Shephard

Judge Mary Spencer McGowan

Justin Tate

Guy Wade

David H. Williams

**About Arkansas Bar Association**

The Arkansas Bar Association is a voluntary, statewide organization with 5,000 members. Among its purposes are the advancement of the administration of justice and the fostering among its members of high ideals of integrity, learning and public service.

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**For More Information:**

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