



State of Arkansas
COURT OF APPEALS

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Rita W. Gruber
Chief Judge

February 24, 2020

Honorable Larry Teague, Chairman
Honorable Lane Jean, Chairman
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

The Arkansas Court of Appeals respectfully requests changes to our 2020-21 appropriation bill pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Section 16-12-108(f)(1), which reads: "Law Clerks for the Court of Appeals shall receive the same salaries as Supreme Court law clerks."

We have recently learned through the use of the Arkansas Transparency site that the Supreme Court has awarded significant raises to its law clerks. Effective January 2020, annual salaries for the 14 Supreme Court law clerks now range between \$85,000 and \$101,000. By contrast, current salaries for the 24 Court of Appeals law clerks range between approximately \$70,000 and approximately \$83,000. Consequently, salaries for the Court of Appeals law clerks are considerably lower than their Supreme Court counterparts, contrary to the dictates of section 16-12-108(f)(1).

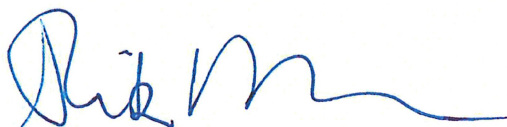
In order to achieve parity with the Supreme Court law clerks, the Court of Appeals requests that our Regular Salaries appropriation be increased by \$500,039, and that our Personal Services Matching Appropriation be increased by \$160,012:

Item No.		Fiscal Year 2020-2021	
(01)	Regular Salaries	\$3,105,106	\$3,605,145
(03)	Personal Services Matching	\$965,132	\$1,125,144

Please note that these dollar amounts include smaller raises for the Court of Appeals three Staff Attorneys and the Chief Staff Attorney, who are traditionally paid more than the law clerks. This will require a change in grade for the Chief Staff Attorney position as follows:

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Max. No. Employees	Max. Salary 2020-2021
(1)	Q017N	CA Chief Staff Atty	1	GS13 GS14

As always, we appreciate the work of the Committee. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.



Rita W. Gruber, Chief Judge
Arkansas Court of Appeals

Hall of the House of Representatives

92nd General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2020

Amendment Form

DRAFT

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1044

AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS COURT OF APPEALS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2020-2021 FISCAL
YEAR.

Amendment No. ___ to House Bill No. 1044

Amend House Bill No. 1044 as originally introduced:

Page 1, Line 30, delete "GRADE GS13" and substitute "GRADE GS14"

AND

Page 2, Line 23, delete "\$3,107,906" and substitute "\$3,605,145"

AND

Page 2,, Line 25, delete "\$965,779" and substitute "\$1,125,144"

AND

Page 2, Line 36, delete "\$4,805,758" and substitute "\$5,462,362".

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The Amendment was read _____
By: Joint Budget Committee
JAR/JAR - 04-03-2020 15:07:13
JAR124

Chief Clerk