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CONTACT: Jeff LeMaster

(501) 366-8008

jeff.lemaster@arkansasag.gov

Attorney General Griffin Praises Court Decision Clearing Way for Enforcement of Arkansas Library Law

Griffin: ‘The court’s ruling allows Arkansas to move forward in enforcing a law that protects children from obscene materials while increasing accountability for public-library curation decisions’

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin today praised a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit that clears the way for enforcement of key provisions of Act 372 of 2023, reversing a lower court ruling in *Fayetteville Public Library v. Crawford County*:

“I applaud the Eighth Circuit’s decision and its careful review of this case. The court’s ruling allows Arkansas to move forward in enforcing a law that protects children from obscene materials while increasing accountability for public-library curation decisions.

“The General Assembly passed Act 372 to address legitimate concerns about minors’ access to obscene materials and to establish a process for reviewing challenged content. The Eighth Circuit correctly concluded that Plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge one provision of the law and that another provision is neither unconstitutionally overbroad under the First Amendment nor unconstitutionally vague under the Due Process Clause.

“I am grateful to Solicitor General Autumn Hamit Patterson and the rest of my Solicitor General and Special Litigation Section team for their excellent defense of this duly passed law.”

To read the Eighth Circuit’s opinion, [click here](#).

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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