

SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

In re Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board

2026 Ark. 31 · Decided February 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Arkansas addresses the Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board’s noncompliance with rules governing membership and appointments. The court reappoints two members, appoints seven new members for staggered terms, confirms the applicable membership structure, and expresses appreciation to outgoing members.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Arkansas
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Arkansas
DECIDED	February 12, 2026
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Supreme Court of Arkansas issued an original administrative order addressing the membership, appointments, and terms of the Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published

TOPICS

- administrative law
- rulemaking

PRACTICE AREAS

- administrative law
- legal education regulation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- How should the Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board be reconstituted to comply with the court's rules governing board membership and appointments?
- How should the terms of the Board's reappointed and newly appointed members be structured to maintain staggered expirations?

HOLDINGS

1. Because the Board was out of compliance with the court's membership and appointment rules and only two members were eligible for ordinary reappointment, the court ordered the two eligible members reappointed and appointed seven additional members with staggered initial terms.
2. All terms of appointments to the Board shall thereafter expire on December 31 of the appropriate anniversary year, with initial terms of varying lengths used to maintain staggered appointments.
3. The Deans of the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville and the William H. Bowen School of Law, together with the Executive Director of the Arkansas Office of Professional Programs, shall continue to serve as ex officio, non-voting members.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Consistent with this Court’s longstanding intent that its boards and committees maintain staggered terms, so that only one or a limited number of appointments expire in any given year, it is therefore necessary to reappoint the two eligible members to full three-year terms and to assign initial terms of varying lengths to the newly appointed members.”

“Accordingly, all terms of appointments to the Board shall hereafter expire on December 31 of the appropriate anniversary year.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board has nine positions, seven of which were occupied by holdover members who were not eligible for reappointment. Because only two positions could be filled through ordinary reappointment, the court concluded that additional appointments with staggered initial terms were necessary to restore compliance with its rules. The court also continued the service of specified law-school deans and the Executive Director of the Arkansas Office of Professional Programs as ex officio, non-voting members.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court determined that the Board was out of compliance with the court's rules because seven of its nine members were serving in a holdover capacity and were ineligible for reappointment. The court directly reappointed two eligible members and appointed seven new members to staggered initial terms.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Cite as 2026 Ark. 31 SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS IN RE ARKANSAS CONTINUING
Opinion Delivered: February 12, 2026 LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD PER CURIAM The
Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board is currently out of compliance with this Court’s rules

governing board membership and appointments. Of the Board's nine positions, seven members are serving in a holdover capacity and are not eligible for reappointment.

Because only two positions may be reappointed, the Board cannot be restored to compliance through the ordinary reappointment process alone. Consistent with this Court's longstanding intent that its boards and committees maintain staggered terms, so that only one or a limited number of appointments expire in any given year, it is therefore necessary to reappoint the two eligible members to full three- year terms and to assign initial terms of varying lengths to the newly appointed members.

Accordingly, all terms of appointments to the Board shall hereafter expire on December 31 of the appropriate anniversary year. As provided by this Court's custom and practice, the Deans of the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville and the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, as well as the Executive Director of the Arkansas Office of Professional Programs, shall continue to serve as ex officio, non-voting members.

The appointment procedures and membership structure set forth in Rule 1 of the Arkansas Rules for Minimum Continuing Legal Education shall otherwise be followed in full. Effective immediately, the following individuals are reappointed to the Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board for an additional three-year term expiring December 31, 2028: – Katherine C. Campbell of Fayetteville, Statewide at-large; and – Susan K. Kendall of Rogers, Statewide at-large.

The following individual is appointed to the Board for an initial three-year term expiring December 31, 2028: – Tyler D. Mlakar of Fayetteville, Third Congressional District. The following individuals are appointed to the Board for an initial two-year term expiring December 31, 2027: – Addisyn M. Bryant of Bryant, Second Congressional District; – Brian G. Thomas of Fayetteville, Statewide at-large; and – Danielle A. Essary of Lowell, Statewide at-large.

The following individuals are appointed to the Board for an initial one-year term expiring December 31, 2026: – Hon. Alex S. Bigger of Pocahontas, First Congressional District; – Hon. James A. Riner of Mena, Fourth Congressional District; and – Jenna L. Beck of Morrilton, Statewide at-large. 2 The Court expresses its appreciation to the newly appointed and reappointed members for their willingness to serve on this important Board.

The Court further extends its gratitude to the following outgoing members, whose terms have expired, for their years of valuable service: Hon. Laurie A. Bridewell of Lake Village, Amber W. Bagley of Little Rock, Kelsey K. Bardwell of Harrison, Brandon C. Cogburn of Texarkana, Hon. Tjuana C. Byrd Manning of Little Rock, Daveante Jones of Little Rock, and Melissa McJunkins Duke of Little Rock.

