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**PRESS RELEASE**

**ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT RANKS SECOND IN NATION IN UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL STUDY.**

Little Rock, AR - May 29, 2008 - The Arkansas Supreme Court received high marks in a study that was made public in May as part of a University of Chicago Law School working paper series. The study examined state high court decisions from 1998 to 2000 and placed numerical values on three measures of court performance: productivity, independence, and opinion-quality. When the three measures of performance were placed in a composite ranking and given equal weight, the Arkansas Supreme Court ranked second in the nation. Moreover, after examining various ways of combining the three performance measures, the study cited Arkansas as one of the "top contenders" for best high court in the nation. Arkansas also ranked third in the number of opinions written by each justice per year, leading the study's authors to note that Arkansas is a "traditionally overlooked state" that "may deserve more credit."

"Which States Have the Best (and Worst) High Courts?" was authored by Professor Stephen Choi of New York University Law School, Professor Mitu Gulati of Duke University Law School, and Professor Eric Posner of the University of Chicago Law School. It can be downloaded from the Social Science Research Network Electronic Paper Collection (<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1130358>).

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