



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:55 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
I am in Favor of NO Gifts and Holding Judges Accountable and Ethical.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2		
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:21 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

We strongly support House Bill 3423 because it takes significant steps to uphold the integrity, impartiality, and transparency of Missouri's judiciary. By explicitly prohibiting judges from presiding over cases involving individuals who have provided them with anything of value, this bill both prevents conflicts of interest and ensures justice remains impartial. The bill further strengthens Missouri's ethics laws by expanding financial disclosure requirements for judges and state officials, ensuring these individuals act in the public's best interest rather than in response to personal or private influences. Additionally, by making violations of these provisions grounds for denial of judicial retirement benefits, HB 3423 sends a powerful message about the seriousness of judicial ethics. This legislation demonstrates a clear commitment to enhancing public trust in our courts and government by promoting accountability at all levels of public service. Therefore, we urge you to support and pass HB 3423.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JARED HANKINSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 149			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2246	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI		TITLE: VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 3234 W TRUMAN BLVD			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: msmith@aimo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:57 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: ANDY BRISCOE		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: THE MISSOURI BAR		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 326 MONROE STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: BROUCK JACOBS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-540-3050
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO CIRCUIT JUDGES ASSOCIATION		TITLE: JUDGE/ORG PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 104 W. BRADLEY RD		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID J KLARICH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-560-1616	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL ATTORNEYS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 438 GATEFORD DRIVE			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63021
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RANDY SCHERR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-6200	
REPRESENTING: MO. ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 E HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 9:41 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The following notice is submitted to identify foreseeable constitutional conflicts arising from House Bill 3423 and to preserve a legislative record regarding those concerns.

HB 3423 modifies statutory provisions governing judicial recusal, financial disclosure obligations, and judicial retirement eligibility.

While the bill appears intended to strengthen judicial ethics standards, several provisions raise significant constitutional concerns under both the Missouri Constitution and established separation-of-powers doctrine.

1. Separation of Powers – Missouri Constitution Article II, Section 1; Article V

The Missouri Constitution vests the judicial power of the state in the courts and grants the Missouri Supreme Court authority to regulate judicial administration and discipline. Judicial recusal standards, judicial conduct rules, and disciplinary procedures have historically been governed by Supreme Court rule and the constitutional framework established in Article V.

HB 3423 creates statutory recusal mandates and attaches retirement-benefit penalties to alleged violations of those mandates. By attempting to dictate judicial disqualification standards and impose disciplinary consequences through statute, the bill risks intruding upon powers constitutionally assigned to the judiciary.

Missouri courts have repeatedly recognized that legislative enactments may not materially interfere with the judiciary’s constitutional authority over court administration and judicial discipline.

2. Vagueness Concerns – Due Process (U.S. Const. amend. XIV; Mo. Const. art. I, §10)

HB 3423 prohibits a judge from presiding over proceedings involving a party who has given the judge “anything of value.”

This phrase is not defined in the statute and could encompass:

- lawful campaign contributions
- reimbursements for professional activities
- educational honoraria
- bar association travel reimbursements

- nominal gifts permitted under existing ethics rules

Because the provision lacks clear statutory boundaries, it may create a vague recusal trigger that is difficult to administer consistently. Laws that impose penalties or mandatory disqualification based on undefined terms raise due process concerns under the void-for-vagueness doctrine.

3. Structural Concerns Regarding Judicial Financial Disclosures

HB 3423 alters the filing structure for judicial financial disclosure statements by directing filings to the Missouri Ethics Commission. The Missouri Constitution assigns supervisory authority over the judiciary to the Supreme Court. Reallocating elements of judicial oversight to an executive-branch ethics body may raise structural separation-of-powers questions depending on how the provisions are implemented.

4. Potential for Strategic Litigation Manipulation

Because the recusal trigger is tied to the undefined phrase “anything of value,” litigants could potentially create grounds for mandatory recusal through lawful interactions such as campaign donations. This could produce systemic instability in court assignments and encourage strategic attempts to disqualify judges.

While policy considerations are for the General Assembly to determine, statutory frameworks that enable manipulation of judicial assignments may raise constitutional concerns if they materially interfere with the judiciary’s ability to administer cases.

Conclusion:

HB 3423 raises substantial constitutional questions involving separation of powers, judicial administration, and due process vagueness concerns. These issues should be carefully evaluated to ensure that statutory revisions to judicial ethics provisions do not conflict with the constitutional framework governing Missouri’s judiciary.

This notice is submitted to preserve the legislative record regarding these potential constitutional conflicts.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3423		DATE: 3/9/2026	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC D. JENNINGS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-526-4726	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF MISSOURI		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 207 WEST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			