

Resolution Honoring Elana Cunningham Wills

Whereas Commissioner Elana Cunningham Wills served with distinction on the Arkansas Public Service Commission from January 2011 until January 2019;

Whereas Commissioner Wills also served with distinction as an Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court;

Whereas Commissioner Wills also served four different Attorneys General and built an encyclopedic knowledge of Arkansas law by leading the Opinions Section of the Office of Attorney General for many years;

Whereas during her time at the Arkansas Public Service Commission, Commissioner Wills developed a reputation as a prodigious editor of draft orders, completely intolerant of anything less than perfect grammar and usage, including a religious devotion to the Oxford Comma such that a more perfect “word nerd” has rarely walked the face of the earth;

Whereas since Commissioner Wills’ departure, her colleagues and associates at the Arkansas Commission have scrutinized every prose and punctuation usage and asked “What Would Elana Do?”

Whereas during her time at the Arkansas Public Service Commission, Commissioner Wills became known for treating all with decency and respect except when scaring the hell out of witnesses with tough questions during commission hearings;

Whereas many in the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners’ (“NARUC”) family did not have the privilege of knowing Commissioner Wills because her outstanding judicial temperament and desire to avoid even the remote appearance of impropriety kept her away from NARUC and other meetings where she could come into contact with parties and issues that might come before the Arkansas Commission;

Whereas Commissioner Wills’s complete devotion to ethical rules, even ethical suggestions and possibilities, has given her an unassailable reputation of complete integrity;

Whereas Commissioner Wills’s colleagues on the Arkansas Commission believe that had commissioners from other States had the opportunity to get to know her, they would have been equally impressed with her long career of public service; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its Winter Policy Summit in Washington D.C., commends Commissioner Elana Cunningham Wills for her years of outstanding service to the Arkansas Public Service Commission and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 13, 2019*