



TIM GRIFFIN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 6, 2020

Dear Members of the UALR Faculty Excellence Committee:

I am writing to recommend Professor Rob Steinbuch for the Faculty Excellence Award in Research. As the co-author of the authoritative work entitled *The Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)*, Professor Steinbuch's scholarly research has had an incredibly positive effect on our state. His book is routinely cited by Arkansas courts and practitioners as the definitive explication of the Arkansas FOIA. In fact, the Arkansas Supreme Court has relied on Professor Steinbuch's analysis in major decisions involving FOIA. This has led to his membership on the Arkansas Freedom of Information Task Force, a statutorily created body that advises the Arkansas legislature on FOIA amendments.

Professor Steinbuch's work isn't just academic theory. It has real life application, and he routinely provides exposition of his book to the bar, bench, press, and general public. He appears regularly in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* as well as other media platforms to discuss his research. Because he is a recognized expert in this topic, myself and other state officials routinely seek his guidance and input on matters related to FOIA. Many legislators have relied on him to help draft relevant legislation on this topic and to provide testimony before the legislature. Professor Steinbuch's research has even had a national impact. He has been published in several law journals at top law schools throughout the country.

Professor Steinbuch's research matters to Arkansans. Local and national news outlets rely heavily on robust transparency laws in order to provide accurate and newsworthy information. Citizens of all political ideologies have a right to know what their government is doing. Professor Steinbuch's research has contributed to the expansion of knowledge and the quality of life of for Arkansans, as well as encouraged additional research by practitioners and academics.

Thank you for your consideration of Professor Rob Steinbuch for the Faculty Excellence Award in Research at UALR. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (501) 682-2144 if I can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Griffin".

Tim Griffin  
Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas