

ARKANSAS INSURANCE
HALL OF FAME
— ★ ★ ★ —

CLASS OF 2026 INDUCTEE

T. Ark Monroe III

J. D.



HOMETOWN

Magnolia, Arkansas

COMPANY

General Counsel, Union Life Insurance

PUBLIC SERVICE

Arkansas Insurance Commissioner

HONORS

James H. McKenzie Professionalism Award

— A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

T. Ark Monroe, III, built a distinguished career defined by public service, professional judgment and a deep commitment to the insurance industry in Arkansas. Over the course of more than 60 years, he served as Arkansas Insurance Commissioner, general counsel for a major Arkansas life insurance company and a respected insurance regulatory lawyer. In each role, Ark earned the trust of governors, legislators, regulators, clients and colleagues who relied on his steady counsel, thoughtful leadership and thorough understanding of the complex issues shaping the insurance marketplace. His work helped protect Arkansas insurance consumers while also supporting the strength, stability and growth of the state's insurance industry.

— ROOTS IN MAGNOLIA

A graduate of Hendrix College and the University of Arkansas School of Law, Ark started his legal career in his hometown of Magnolia by joining the law firm of Keith, Clegg & Eckert. In 1970, Ark's father, Archie Monroe, asked him to join him in the Magnolia

Insurance Agency, which was started by Ark's grandfather, Ark Monroe, in 1912. Ark joined the agency and continued his law practice. He graduated from the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company (USF&G) School of Insurance in 1971.

— INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Ark was appointed Arkansas Insurance Commissioner by Governor Dale Bumpers only five years after completing law school. His appointment reflected an extraordinary level of confidence in his ability, character and judgment at an early point in his career. Because state law required the commissioner to be at least 30 years old, his formal appointment was briefly delayed until he reached the required age. Once in office, Ark quickly demonstrated why that trust had been placed in him. He became a dedicated advocate for Arkansas consumers and an active leader in modernizing insurance regulation during a period of significant change for the industry.

As commissioner, Ark took on difficult issues with persistence and purpose. He challenged auto insurance rates in proceedings that reached the Arkansas Supreme Court, worked to address rising health insurance costs and pursued action against entities that claimed exemption from state insurance regulation under ERISA when they were not, in fact, exempt. He also played an important role in the passage of significant legislation, including the Insurance Holding Company Regulatory Act, the Unfair Trade Practices Act and the Health Maintenance Organization Act. These laws remain important parts of Arkansas's insurance regulatory framework today. Ark continued to serve as Arkansas Insurance Commissioner under Governor David Pryor and was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners from 1974 to 1976.

— WASHINGTON AND PRIVATE PRACTICE

When Governor Bumpers was elected to the United States Senate, Ark joined his staff as legislative director. He later continued to shape the insurance industry as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Union Life Insurance Company and through his legal practice at Mitchell Williams Selig Gates & Woodyard, where he focused on corporate and administrative law with particular emphasis on insurance and utility matters. He advised insurance companies on formations, mergers and acquisitions, reorganizations and approvals to operate in multiple states. He served as lead attorney for Arkansas's first licensed captive insurance company and represented insurance clients in matters involving holding company filings, regulatory approvals and legislative initiatives. His work also extended to electric cooperatives, business corporations, insurance companies and trade associations before state legislatures, Congress and state and federal regulatory bodies.

— HONORS AND SERVICE

In 2012, Ark received the James H. McKenzie Professionalism Award from the Arkansas Bar Association and the Arkansas Bar Foundation, an honor recognizing sustained excellence through integrity, character and leadership to the profession and the community. His service has also included leadership and advisory roles with the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History at the University of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, the Hendrix College Board of Trustees and the Arkansas Alumni Association. Ark was recently recognized as a 59-year member of the Second Presbyterian Church, where he has served as an Elder and a Sunday School teacher.

— A TRUSTED VOICE

Ark became widely recognized as a trusted advocate and respected voice for the Arkansas insurance industry. His experience as legislative director for United States Senator Dale Bumpers and as Arkansas Insurance Commissioner gave him valuable insight into both public policy and regulatory decision-making. Legislators, regulators and clients valued his ability to explain complex issues clearly, build confidence and guide important matters with integrity. His work with organizations such as the Arkansas Association of Life Companies reflected the confidence industry leaders placed in him to represent their interests responsibly and effectively.

Through his career in public office, private practice and community service, Ark Monroe has left a lasting mark on Arkansas insurance regulation and on the professionals and institutions that continue to benefit from his judgment, leadership and example.

