

**State of San Andreas Judiciary Office of the Chief Justice Kylian J. Clarkson** City Hall, Los Santos, San Andreas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, August 15, 2024 www.sacourts.gov/press Contact: Kylian J. Clarkson Phone: (832) 427-0290 E-mail: k.clarkson@sacourts.gov

## <u>CHIEF JUSTICE ADDRESSES THE STATE OF THE JUDICIARY AND ISSUES</u> <u>COMMENT ON RECENT REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE JACOB WHEELER</u>

**Rockford Hills, Los Santos (City Hall):** Chief Justice Kylian J. Clarkson is proud to announce that the state of the Judiciary is strong. "We are operating at peak efficiency and effectiveness, as evidenced by our performance metrics and public approval ratings," said Chief Justice Clarkson. "Criminal cases are being heard well within the 21-day time requirement, ensuring timely resolution and justice to everyone involved in our criminal justice system." According to the latest Politipoll by Shout News, the public has a 50% favorable view of the Judiciary. This is the highest satisfaction rating for the Judicial Branch in recorded history, and a testament to the confidence the public has in our system.

The Judiciary is fully staffed across all areas. From the benches of the District, Circuit and Supreme Courts, to the hard-working Court Clerks, this group of civic-minded public servants works together to uphold the rule of law, protect the rights of citizens, and maintain the integrity of our judicial process. The Supreme Court regularly engages in communication to ensure consistency and clarity in all matters before the courts, and takes a proactive approach to update the court procedures and the lawyer's ethics code when necessary.

Secretary Wheeler in his recent press release speaking in reference to a potential reform to the state's driver's license system said the Judiciary is not adequately prepared to manage an increased caseload. "I do not believe that our States [sic] Judicial [sic] system is currently set up or even capable of supporting the workload that this license point system would require ... without bringing the courts to a halt," the Secretary wrote. This statement is not true. "Let me be clear: the Judiciary is not overwhelmed, not in the slightest," said Chief Justice Clarkson. "In fact, we are underwhelmed by the lack of substantial caseload. Our courts are prepared and eager to serve the people of San Andreas, and our efficiency should not be mistaken for strain."

Furthermore, the Secretary's mention of the driver's license point system overlooks a critically important aspect of the original bill. The bill proposed the establishment of a new position within the Judiciary specifically dedicated to driving instructors. These instructors would serve as a vital resource for the state, ensuring that drivers are well-prepared and that our roads are safe. "The willingness for us to take on this burden reinforces our commitment to public service in every capacity," said Chief Justice Clarkson.

The Judiciary remains steadfast in its dedication to upholding the rule of law, ensuring justice is served swiftly, and maintaining the highest standards of integrity and public trust. We welcome continued collaboration with the Executive and Legislative branches and remain focused on serving The People.

With patience in short supply,

Chief Justice Kylian J. Clarkson Supreme Court of the State of San Andreas "I don't argue, I just explain why I'm right." – Aristotle, probably.