Supporting Information

Solvent-Dependent Transition from Concerted Electron-Proton to Proton Transfer in Photoinduced Reactions between Phenols and Polypyridine Ru Complexes with Proton-Accepting Sites

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Table of Contents

Section S1. Stern-Volmer Plots for Quenching of X(T) by p-Substituted Phenols .........................S4
Figure S1.1. Stern-Volmer lifetime plots for quenching of 2(T) by p-substituted phenols in MeCN .................................................................................................................................................................................................. S4
Figure S1.2. Stern-Volmer lifetime plots for quenching of 2(T) by p-substituted phenols in CH2Cl2 ..........................................................S5
Figure S1.3. Stern-Volmer lifetime plots for quenching of 1(T) by deuterated p-substituted phenols in CH2Cl2 ............................................................................................................................................................. S6

Section S2. Gas-Phase and Solution Thermochemistry of Phenols, their Radical-Cations, and Phenoxyl Radicals ...........................................................................................................................................S7
I. Gas-phase O-H bond dissociation free energy in phenols ...........................................................................S7
II. Solvation free energy of phenol and phenoxyl radical .................................................................................S7
Table S2.1. Values of $K_{PS}$, $K_{rad-S}$ and $\Delta \Delta g,G$ for p-substituted phenols in three solvents..............S9
III. Relationship between solution BDFE, reduction potentials, and acid dissociation constants ................................................................................................................................................................................................ S10
Table S2.2. Energetics of H2 solvation and proton reduction in various solvents at 25 °C..........................S12
IV. Thermochemistry of phenols, their radical-cations, and phenoxyl radicals in solution .................S13
Table S2.3. Thermochemistry at 25 °C of the O-H bond homolysis, Brønsted acidities ($pK_a$), and reduction potentials of p-substituted phenols ........................................................................................................S14
V. Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations of phenol’s BDE, BDFE, potentials, and Brønsted and HB acidities ..S15
Figure S2.1. Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations for $pK_a$(PhOH), BDFE and $E^0$(PhO$^{+}$/) of p-substituted phenols in MeCN ........................................................................................................S15
Figure S2.2. Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations of BDFE in gas-phase and CH$_2$Cl$_2$ for $p$-substituted phenols relative to MeO-PhOH ................................................................. S16

Figure S2.3. Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations of Abraham’s HB acidity constant $\alpha^l_2$............................... S16

Section S3. Thermochemical Results from Computational Studies ................................................. S17

I. EPT, PT, and ET pathways ............................................................................................................. S17

Table S3.1. Calculated $\Delta G_{EPT}^0$, $\Delta G_{PT}^0$, and $\Delta G_{ET}^0$ ..................................................... S18

Figure S3.1. The $\sigma_p$ dependencies of computed $\Delta G^0$ for PT and ET reactions relative to $\Delta G_{EPT}^0$ between $1(T)$, $2(T)$ and $p$-substituted phenols ........................................................................ S18

II. Phenols......................................................................................................................................... S19

Table S3.2. Substituent effects on computed BDFE of the O-H bond, Brønsted acidity, and reduction potential of $p$-substituted phenols ............................................................................. S19

III. Ru complexes............................................................................................................................. S20

Table S3.3. Calculated relative triplet excitation energy ($E_{00}$), BDFEs of the N-H bond, reduction potentials, and Brønsted acidities of complexes $1$ and $2$ ........................................................................ S20

Table S3.4. Room temperature photophysical and redox properties of complexes $1$ and $2$ in MeCN and CH$_2$Cl$_2$. ........................................................................................................ S20

Table S3.5. Energetics of ion pairing between protonated Ru complexes X(T)-H$^+$ and phenolates R-PhO$^-$ and between reduced Ru complexes X$^-$ and phenol radical cations R-PhOH$^+$ ................. S22

Figure S3.2. Adiabatic energy profiles along the N-H distance between the ligand’s quinoline N atom of $1(T)$ and phenolic proton ($r_{N-H}$) in the $1(T)$-methoxyphenol and $1(T)$-nitrophenol H-bonded exciplexes in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ and MeCN obtained through a series of constrained geometry optimizations .................... S23

Table S3.6. Computed structures of reactants and products in Figure S3.2 .......................................... S24

Figure S3.3. Optimized structure of the adiabatic proton transfer transition state in the H-bonded $1(T)$-nitrophenol exciplex ........................................................................................................ S26

Section S4. Energetics of Alternative Proton-Loss Electron Transfer Mechanisms ......................... S27

Table S4.1. Standard free energy changes for SPLET and CPLET in MeCN. ...................................... S27

Chart S4.1. Complexes $1$, $1i$ and $2$ ............................................................................................... S27

Section S5. H/D Isotope Effects ......................................................................................................... S28

Scheme S5.1. Nonadiabatic states associated with EPT from $p$-substituted phenols (R = MeO-, O$_2$N-) to $1(T)$ ............................................................................................................. S31

Figure S5.1A-G. Computed nonadiabatic energy profiles for reactant and product states of $1(T)$-methoxyphenol in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ at the proton donor–acceptor distances of 2.51 (A), 2.61 (B), 2.71 (C), 2.81 (D, equilibrium distance), 2.91 (E), 3.01 (F), and 3.11 Å (G) and proton/deuteron vibrational wave functions for the reactant and product states .......................................................... S32-S35
Figure S5.2A-G. Computed nonadiabatic energy profiles for reactant and product states of 1(T)-nitrophenol in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ at the proton donor–acceptor distances of 2.46 (A), 2.56 (B), 2.66 (C), 2.76 (D, equilibrium distance), 2.86 (E), 2.96 (F), and 3.06 Å (G) and proton/deuteron vibrational wave functions for the reactant and product states. ................................................................................................................. S36-S39

Figure S5.3. Energy profiles for the donor-acceptor mutual motion along the N-H-O axis in the 1(T)-methoxyphenol and 1(T)-nitrophenol H-bonded exciplexes ........................................................................................................... S40

Table S5.1. Dependence of computed H/D KIEs for EPT reaction between p-methoxyphenol and 1(T) in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ upon driving force and reorganization energy ......................................................................................... S42

Section S6. Products and Yields for Reactions of 1(T) with p-MeO-PhOH and p-O$_2$N-PhOH in MeCN and CH$_2$Cl$_2$ ........................................................................................................................................ S43

Figure S6.1. Absorption spectra of 1 in MeCN, 1-H$^+$ in MeCN, and 1-H obtained by sequential electron-proton addition to 1 using pulse radiolysis in water ......................................................................................... S43

Figure S6.2. Transient absorption spectra recorded after laser flash photolysis of complex 1 in: MeCN containing 200 mM of p-methoxyphenol; CH$_2$Cl$_2$ containing 7 mM of p-methoxyphenol; MeCN containing 800 mM of p-nitrophenol; CH$_2$Cl$_2$ containing 150 mM of p-nitrophenol .......... S44

Relative product yields ................................................................................................................................................ S45

Section S7. Kinetic Solvent Effect for Complex 2 ........................................................................................................... S46

Figure S7.1. Dependencies of KSE on phenol’s HB acidity for complex 2 and dependence of observed KSE on $\sigma_p$ ....................................................................................................................................................... S46

Section S8. References .................................................................................................................................................. S47
Section S1. Stern-Volmer Plots for Quenching of $X(T)$ by $p$-Substituted Phenols.

All decay kinetics were exponential. The Stern-Volmer plots for quenching of $I(T)$ by undeuterated $p$-substituted phenols in MeCN and CH$_2$Cl$_2$ appear in SI section S4 of our previous report.$^1$

Figure S1.1. Stern-Volmer lifetime plots for quenching of $2(T)$ by $p$-substituted phenols in MeCN ($\tau_0 = 430$ ns). The maximum concentration of $p$-phenylphenol was limited by solubility.
Figure S1.2. Stern-Volmer lifetime plots for quenching of 2(T) by \( p \)-substituted phenols (O-H black; O-D red) in CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\) (\( \tau_0 = 585 \) ns).
Figure S1.3. Stern-Volmer lifetime plots for quenching of 1(T) by deuterated p-substituted phenols in CH₂Cl₂ (τ₀ = 350 ns).
**Section S2.** Gas-Phase and Solution Thermochemistry of Phenols, their Radical-Cations, and PhenoxyRadicals.

I. Gas-phase O-H bond dissociation free energy (BDFE\(_g\)) in phenols.

These BDFE can be evaluated from the tabulated gas-phase O-H bond dissociation energies (BDE\(_g\)); that is,

\[
\text{BDFE}_g = \text{BDE}_g + T[S^0(\text{PhOH})_g - S^0(\text{PhO}^\prime)_g] - TS^0(\text{H})_g \quad (S2.1)
\]

The gas-phase entropy difference between phenol and its radical should be small, nearly zero, and the gaseous H atom entropy is accurately known, \(S^0(\text{H})_g = 27.417 \text{ cal/(mol K)} \).\(^2\) Thus,

\[
\text{BDFE}_g \approx \text{BDE}_g - TS^0(\text{H})_g \quad (S2.2)
\]

and BDFE calculated from this equation are included in Table 2 (main text) and Table S2.3.

II. Solvation free energy of phenol and phenoxy radical.

The solution BDFE can be estimated from the gas phase values and free energies of gas-to-solvent transfers, that is,

\[
\text{BDFE}_s = \text{BDFE}_g + [\Delta_{g\rightarrow s}G(\text{PhO}^\prime) - \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}G(\text{PhOH})] + \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}G(\text{H}) = \text{BDFE}_g + \Delta\Delta_{g\rightarrow s}G + \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}G(\text{H}) \quad (S2.3)
\]

where the subscript “s” indicates dissolved species, all (including H) in their standard states of 1 M ideal solution. To evaluate the \(\Delta\Delta_{g\rightarrow s}G\) term, consider equilibria shown in the following scheme.
Here, PhOH\(_f\) and PhO\(^{•}\)\(_f\) designate dissolved species that are “free” in the sense that they are not H-bonded to solvent. Thus, at equilibrium,

\[
[\text{PhOH}_f] = \exp\left(-\Delta_{g\to f}G(\text{PhOH})/RT\right)
\]  
(S2.4)

In the hydrogen bonding to solvent, phenol acts as an HB donor, and the distribution between the dissolved unbound and free phenol is described by,

\[
K_{P \cdot S} = [\text{PhOH}--S]/[\text{PhOH}_f]
\]  
(S2.5)

From which the total phenol concentration in solution is,

\[
[\text{PhOH}_s] = [\text{PhOH}_f] + [\text{PhOH}--S] = (1 + K_{P \cdot S})[\text{PhOH}_f]
\]  
(S2.6)

and the Henry’s law constant (in M/atm) for phenol is given by,

\[
K_h = [\text{PhOH}_s] = (1 + K_{P \cdot S})[\text{PhOH}_f] = \exp\left(-\Delta_{g\to s}G(\text{PhOH})/RT\right)
\]  
(S2.7)

Combining this equation with eq S2.4 we obtain,

\[
\Delta_{g\to s}G(\text{PhOH}) = -RT\ln K_h = \Delta_{g\to f}G(\text{PhOH}) - RT\ln(1 + K_{P \cdot S})
\]  
(S2.8)

In contrast to the hydroxyl group of a phenol, the oxyl group of a phenoxyl radical acts as an HB acceptor toward the solvent, and the distribution between the unbound and bound PhO\(^{•}\) is given by,

\[
K_{\text{rad} \cdot S} = [\text{PhO}^{•}--S]/[\text{PhO}^{•}_f]
\]  
(S2.9)

Repeating the same derivations as in eqs S2.4-S2.8, we obtain,

\[
\Delta_{g\to s}G(\text{PhO}^{•}) = \Delta_{g\to f}G(\text{PhO}^{•}) - RT\ln(1 + K_{\text{rad} \cdot S})
\]  
(S2.10)

From eqs S2.8 and S2.10, the difference between the free energies of solvation of phenoxyl and phenol is,

\[
\Delta\Delta_{g\to s}G = \Delta_{g\to f}G(\text{PhO}^{•}) - \Delta_{g\to f}G(\text{PhOH}) + RT\ln \frac{1 + K_{P \cdot S}}{1 + K_{\text{rad} \cdot S}}
\]  
(S2.11)

Assuming that all interactions, except for the hydrogen bonding, between the solvent and phenol are the same as between the solvent and phenoxyl; that is,

\[
\Delta_{g\to f}G(\text{PhO}^{•}) = \Delta_{g\to f}G(\text{PhOH})
\]  
(S2.12)

we can write,

\[
\Delta\Delta_{g\to s}G = RT\ln \frac{1 + K_{P \cdot S}}{1 + K_{\text{rad} \cdot S}}
\]  
(S2.13)

The magnitudes of \(K_{P \cdot S}\) and \(K_{\text{rad} \cdot S}\) can be estimated using a well substantiated, empirical, thermodynamic scale for the 1:1 hydrogen bonding between uncharged species in CCl\(_4\) developed
by Abraham and co-workers,\textsuperscript{3-5} according to which the HB strength is proportional to the HB acidity of the donor ($\alpha_2^H$) and HB basicity of the acceptor ($\beta_2^H$). Applying the Abraham scale, taking into account solvent molar concentration, [S], and adopting the suggestion of Ingold and co-workers that for a given HB donor-acceptor pair the H-bonding constant is essentially independent of the surrounding medium,\textsuperscript{6} we obtain for $K_{p,S}$,

$$logK_{p,S} = 7.354\alpha_2^H(\text{PhOH})\beta_2^H(S) + log[S] - 1.094$$  \hspace{1cm} (S2.14)

and for $K_{\text{rad-S}}$,

$$logK_{\text{rad-S}} = 7.354\beta_2^H(\text{PhO}^*)\alpha_2^H(S) + log[S] - 1.094$$  \hspace{1cm} (S2.15)

Table S2.1. Values of $K_{p,S}$ (eq S2.14), $K_{\text{rad-S}}$ (eq S2.16), and $\Delta\Delta g_{\rightarrow s}G$ (in kcal/mol, eq S2.13) for $p$-substituted phenols (R-PhOH) in three solvents. All values of $\alpha_2^H$ and $\beta_2^H$ are taken from the work by Abraham and co-workers,\textsuperscript{3-5} except for $\alpha_2^H$ of MeOC(O)-PhOH, which is derived from an interpolation in Figure S2.3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R- ($\alpha_2^H$)</th>
<th>In MeCN</th>
<th>In CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}</th>
<th>In H\textsubscript{2}O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\alpha_2^H = 0.09$; $\beta_2^H = 0.44$</td>
<td>$\alpha_2^H = 0.13$; $\beta_2^H = 0.05$</td>
<td>$\alpha_2^H = 0.353$; $\beta_2^H = 0.38$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$K_{\text{rad-S}} = 3.3$</td>
<td>$K_{\text{rad-S}} = 3.9$</td>
<td>$K_{\text{rad-S}} = 94$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_{p,S}$</td>
<td>$\Delta\Delta g_{\rightarrow s}G$</td>
<td>$K_{p,S}$</td>
<td>$\Delta\Delta g_{\rightarrow s}G$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeO- (0.573)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph- (0.595)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl- (0.670)</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeOC(O)- (0.730)</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC- (0.787)</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$O_2$N- (0.824)</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The values of $\alpha_2^H$ and $\beta_2^H$ for phenols and solvents used in this work are known, which allows evaluating $K_{P,S}$ through eq S2.14, and the results are summarized in Table S2.2. Although $\beta_2^H$ values for the PhO’ radicals are not known, Ingold and co-workers reasoned that the HB basicity of the oxyl in PhO’ can be well approximated by that of carbonyl.\(^7\) We have chosen acetophenone (PhC(O)Me; $\alpha_2^H = 0$, $\beta_2^H = 0.51$)\(^5\) as an H-bonding surrogate for all phenoxy radicals, which yields,

$$\log K_{rad-S} = 3.751 \alpha_2^H(S) + \log[S] - 1.094$$

(S2.16)

The values of $K_{rad-S}$ obtained through this equation are also included in Table S2.2 along with the $\Delta g \rightarrow s G$ values calculated from eq S2.13.

### III. Relationship between solution BDFE, reduction potentials, and acid dissociation constants.

Several variations of the following thermochemical cycle involving a solute with a dissociable hydrogen atom, have been in use for a long time for connecting the A-H bond dissociation free energy in solution with acidities and reduction potentials

\[
\begin{align*}
A-H_s &= A_s^- + H_s^+ & \Delta G &= b p K_a \\
A_s^- &= A_s^* + e^- & \Delta G &= a E^0(A_s^*/-)
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
H_s^+ + e^- &= \frac{1}{2} H_2(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) & \Delta G &= -a E^0(H_s^+/\frac{1}{2} H_2, g) \\
\frac{1}{2} H_2(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) &= H(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) & \Delta G &= \Delta G(H_g) \\
H(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) &= H_s & \Delta G &= \Delta g \rightarrow s G(H)
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\text{Net: } A-H_s = A_s^* + H_s & \text{ } & \Delta G &= \text{BDFE}_s \text{ } (S2.17)
\]

Here, both half-cell reduction potentials are measured against the same reference electrode.

Following Mayer and co-workers,\(^8\) we have chosen the ferrocenium/ferrocene (Fc\(^{+}/0\)) half-cell in organic solvents and the standard hydrogen half-cell (H\(^{+}/\frac{1}{2} H_2, g\)) in water. The coefficients $a = 23.06$ kcal/(mol V) and $b = 1.364$ kcal/mol serve to bring all $\Delta G$ values into the kcal/mol scale.

From the scheme above it follows that,

$$\text{BDFE}_s = a E^0(A_s^*/-) + b p K_a + \Delta G(H_g) + \Delta g \rightarrow s G(H) - a E^0(H_s^+/\frac{1}{2} H_2, g)$$

(S2.18)

or,

$$\text{BDFE}_s = a E^0(A_s^*/-) + b p K_a + C_G$$

(S2.19)
where,

\[ C_G = \Delta_G(H_g) + \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H) - aE^0(H_s^+/\frac{1}{2}H_2,g) \]  \hspace{1cm} (S2.20)

A similar cycle can be composed with the oxidized species, A-Hs•+,

\[
\begin{align*}
A-H_s^{++} &= A_s^+ + H_s^+ & \Delta G &= b p K'_a \\
A-H_s &= A-H_s^{++} + e^- & \Delta G &= aE^0(AH_s^{++}/0) \\
H_s^+ + e^- &= \frac{1}{2}H_2(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) & \Delta G &= -aE^0(H_s^+/\frac{1}{2}H_2,g) \\
\frac{1}{2}H_2(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) &= H(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) & \Delta G &= \Delta_G(H_g) \\
H(\text{ideal gas, 1 atm}) &= H_s & \Delta G &= \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H) \\
\end{align*}
\]

Net: \quad A-H_s = A_s^+ + H_s \quad \Delta G = \text{BDFE}_s

This cycle yields,

\[ \text{BDFE}_s = aE^0(\text{AHs}^{++}/0) + b p K'_a + C_G \]  \hspace{1cm} (S2.21)

Thus, eqs S2.19 and S2.21 can be combined to give,

\[ \text{BDFE}_s = aE^0(A_s^{+}/-) + b p K_a + C_G = aE^0(AH_s^{+}/0) + b p K'_a + C_G \]  \hspace{1cm} (S2.22)

The value of \( C_G \) in this equation depends on temperature, solvent, and the choices of reference electrode and standard states, but \( C_G \) is constant in the sense that it is independent of the chemical nature of A-H. The first term comprising \( C_G \), namely the free energy of formation for gaseous H atom at 25 °C and 1 atm, provides the largest contribution and is accurately known \( \Delta_G(H_g) = 48.585 \text{ kcal/mol} \). The other two terms are solvent-specific, and Table S2. gives their values along with \( C_G \). Since no experimental data are available for the free energies of H solvation, a generally accepted assumption is made here that \( \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H) = \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H_2) \) for all solvents except water; a more accurate evaluation is available for the latter.

There are non-trivial differences between our \( C_G \) values in Table S2. and their counterparts derived by Mayer and co-workers. We feel that the importance of eq 2.22 due to its widespread use in the field warrants a brief comment. We note that Mayer and co-workers use the same assumption of \( \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H) = \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H_2) \) and essentially the same data source for H2 solubility in MeCN, but arrive at \( \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H_g) = 5.12 \text{ kcal/mol} \) for MeCN, whereas our value that we use for calculating \( C_G \) is \( \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H_2) = 3.36 \text{ kcal/mol} \). Clearly, this discrepancy accounts for much of the disagreement in \( C_G \) for MeCN. It is easy to see that their \( \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}(H_2) \) value corresponds to...
\[ \Delta_{g \rightarrow s} G(H_2) = -RT \ln(x) \] with \( x = 1.8 \times 10^{-4} \) from Table S2., which would be correct for the standard state of dissolved H\(_2\) defined as the mole fraction of unity. It is clear from Table S2. that the same situation exists with DMSO, DMF, and MeOH.

**Table S2.2.** Energetics of H\(_2\) solvation and proton reduction in various solvents at 25 °C. Here, \( x \) is the mole fraction solubility of gaseous H\(_2\) at 1 atm and \( K_h \) is the Henry’s Law solubility constant \( K_h = x/\text{(partial solvent molar volume)} \). For all solvents, \( \Delta_{g \rightarrow s} G(H_2) \) is calculated either as \( \Delta_{g \rightarrow s} G(H_2) = -RT \ln(x) \) (if the standard state for dissolved H\(_2\) is defined as a hypothetical 1 solution) or as \( \Delta_{g \rightarrow s} G(H_2) = -RT \ln(K_h) \) (if the standard state for dissolved H\(_2\) is defined as hypothetical 1 M solution). The latter value (for 1 M standard state) was substituted to eq S2.20 in place of \( \Delta_{g \rightarrow s} G(H) \) to calculate \( C_G \), except for water, where eq S2.23 was used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>( 10^4 \times x )</th>
<th>( \Delta_{g \rightarrow s} G(H_2) ), kcal/mol</th>
<th>( 10^3 \times K_h ), M/atm</th>
<th>( \Delta_{g \rightarrow s} G(H_2) ), kcal/mol</th>
<th>( E^0(H_{s}^{+/\frac{1}{2}}H_2)^\text{aq}, V \text{ vs } Fc^{+/0} ) ((aE^0 \text{ kcal/mol}))</th>
<th>( C_G ), kcal/mol ((\text{Warren et al.}^8))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MeCN</td>
<td>1.80(^{12,13})</td>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>-0.028(^{14}) ((-0.65))</td>
<td>\textbf{52.6} ((54.9))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSO</td>
<td>0.76(^{15})</td>
<td>5.62</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>-0.732(^{16}) ((-16.88))</td>
<td>\textbf{69.5} ((71.1))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMF</td>
<td>1.47(^{12})</td>
<td>5.23</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>-0.69(^{16}) ((-15.91))</td>
<td>\textbf{68.2} ((69.7))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>1.61(^{15})</td>
<td>5.17</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>-0.501(^{16}) ((-11.55))</td>
<td>\textbf{63.8} ((65.3))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>( 10^4 \times x )</th>
<th>( \Delta_{g \rightarrow \text{aq}} G(H_2) ), kcal/mol</th>
<th>( 10^3 \times K_h ), M/atm</th>
<th>( \Delta_{g \rightarrow \text{aq}} G(H_2) ), kcal/mol</th>
<th>( \Delta_{g \rightarrow \text{aq}} G(H) ), kcal/mol</th>
<th>( C_G ), kcal/mol ((\text{Warren et al.}^8))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H(_2)O</td>
<td>0.1411(^{15})</td>
<td>6.62</td>
<td>0.781</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>4.78(^{11})</td>
<td>\textbf{53.4} ((57.6))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A more natural choice of the electrochemical reference for \( E^0(A_{\text{aq}}^{-}/A_{\text{aq}}^{+/0}) \) in aqueous solutions is the standard hydrogen electrode (SHE), so that \( aE^0(H_{\text{aq}}^{+/\frac{1}{2}}H_2, g) = 0 \) V by definition. Thus when \( E^0(A_{\text{aq}}^{-}/A_{\text{aq}}^{+/0}) \) is measured against SHE, the \( C_G \) term for water becomes

\[
C_G = \Delta_t G(H_8) + \Delta_{g \rightarrow \text{aq}} G(H) \tag{S2.23}
\]
Recently, the value of hydrogen atom hydration was critically evaluated to be $\Delta_{g\rightarrow aq}G(H) = 4.78 \pm 0.48$ kcal/mol. Using this value, we obtain $C_G = 53.4$ kcal/mol for water. Thus, in aqueous solutions

$$BDFE_{aq}(\text{kcal/mol}) = aE^0(A_{aq}^{-}; \text{SHE}) + bpK_a + 53.4 = aE^0(A_{aq}^{+0}; \text{SHE}) + bpK'_a + 53.4$$

(S2.24)

Our $C_G$ value for water in Table S2.1 is about 4 kcal/mol lower than that recommended by Mayer and co-workers. We can only explain 1.8 kcal/mol of this difference by their use of $\Delta_{g\rightarrow aq}G(H_2)$ as a surrogate for $\Delta_{g\rightarrow aq}G(H)$ and the choice of standard state $x = 1$ for H$_{aq}$, but we have no explanation for the remaining discrepancy, save for a typo or arithmetic error.

Although the standard states are often a matter of choice, we do not believe that the choice of $x = 1$ only for the H$_s$ standard state was deliberate by Mayer and co-workers because: (i) such a choice would definitely require explicit statement to this effect, (ii) it would be irrational, and (iii) it is impractical for the intended use of BDFE computed from eq S2.22, namely, evaluating the energetics of the H atom transfer from A-H in solution. Unfortunately, the use of incorrect $C_G$ values impacts on a significant amount of the thermochemical data tabulated in the Mayer and co-workers’ review; substantial corrections may be in order.

IV. Thermochemistry of phenols, their radical-cations, and phenoxy radicals in solution.

The thermochemical properties pertinent to the electron, proton, and H-atom transfers from phenols obtained using methodologies developed in subsections I-III above are collected in Table S2.3 below.

The solution BDFEs are estimated by combining eq S2.3 with S2.13, which gives,

$$BDFE_s = BDFE_g + RT\ln \frac{1+K_{P-S}}{1+K_{rad-S}} + \Delta_{g\rightarrow s}G(H)$$

(S2.25)

and by using the data from Tables S2.1 and S2.2. Comparison of BDFE calculated using eq 2.24 from $pK_a$(PhOH) and $E^0$(PhO$^{-}$) in water, the only solvent where these parameters have been measured, reveals a generally reasonable agreement with the solvation-based estimates through eq S2.25, which serves as a good justification of our use of the latter for deriving BDFE in MeCN and CH$_2$Cl$_2$. 

S13
Table S2.3. Thermochemistry at 25 °C of the O-H bond homolysis, Brønsted acidities (pKₐ), and reduction potentials (E°, V vs Fc⁺/₀ in MeCN and vs SHE in H₂O) of p-substituted phenols (R-PhOH). Also shown are the C_g values (from Table S2.) for water and acetonitrile and hydrogen bonding acidities (α₂H) and basicities (β₂H) derived by Abraham and co-workers.³⁵

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R- (α₂H)</th>
<th>Gas phase</th>
<th>Water (C_g = 53.4 kcal/mol)</th>
<th>MeCN (C_g = 52.6 kcal/mol)</th>
<th>CH₂Cl₂</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BDEᵃ kcal/mol</td>
<td>BDFEᵇ kcal/mol</td>
<td>BDFEᶜ kcal/mol</td>
<td>pKₐ (PhOH)¹⁷</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeO⁻ (0.573)</td>
<td>84.2 ± 1.6</td>
<td>76.0</td>
<td>81.2 (79.7)</td>
<td>10.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph⁻ (0.595)</td>
<td>86.7 ± 1.7</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>9.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl⁻ (0.670)</td>
<td>90.7 ± 2.1</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>88.0 (84.6)</td>
<td>9.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC⁻ (0.787)</td>
<td>93.0 ± 1.8</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>90.8 (90.1)</td>
<td>7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O₂N⁻ (0.824)</td>
<td>93.9 ± 1.6</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>91.8 (91.2)</td>
<td>7.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H⁻ (0.596)</td>
<td>86.7 ± 0.7</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>83.8 (85.2)</td>
<td>9.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ᵃFor unsubstituted phenol, BDE is taken from a critical re-evaluation by Ingold and co-workers.⁷ For all other phenols, multiple BDE entries in Luo’s compilation²¹ are averaged with the standard deviations shown; bComputed from eq S2.2 with S⁰(H)g = 27.417 cal/(mol K); cEstimated using eq S2.25. The values in parentheses are calculated using eq S2.24 from aqueous pKₐ(PhOH) and E°(PhO•⁻); dDerived using eq S2.22; eIrreversible CV peak potentials measured vs Ag/AgI;²²; fEstimated from pKₐ measurements in DMSO²² and a well-behaved correlation for non-ortho-substituted phenols, pKₐ(MeCN) = pKₐ(DMSO) + (10.1±0.1).²⁰
V. Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations of phenol’s BDE, BDFE, potentials, and Brønsted and HB acidities.

**Figure S2.1.** Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations for $pK_a(\text{PhOH})$ (green squares), BDFE (red diamonds), and $E^0(\text{PhO}^-)$ (blue circles) of $p$-substituted phenols in MeCN (A) and water (B) constructed from the data in Table S2.3. All quantities are relative to MeO-PhOH; that is, $\Delta pK_a(\text{R-PhOH}) = pK_a(\text{R-PhOH}) - pK_a(\text{MeO-PhOH})$. The BDFE (in kcal/mol) and $E^0$ (in V) values have been normalized to the same dimensionless decadic scale with $pK_a$; that is, $\Delta\text{BDFE}/1.364$ and $\Delta E^0/0.059$ are plotted. The dashed lines show linear fits with the slopes absolute values in (A) $\rho = 7.5 \pm 0.4$ (bottom), $7.7 \pm 0.7$ (middle), and $15.2 \pm 0.7$ (top); (B) $\rho = 2.8 \pm 0.3$ (bottom), $7.5 \pm 0.7$ (middle), and $10.2 \pm 0.7$ (top).
Figure S2.2. Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations of BDFE in gas-phase (A) and CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (B) for $p$-substituted phenols relative to MeO-PhOH (that is, $\Delta$BDFE(R-PhOH) = BDFE(R-PhOH) – BDFE(MeO-PhOH)) constructed from the data in Table S2.3. The dashed lines show the linear fits with the slopes 6.8 ± 0.7 (A) and 6.9 ± 0.7 (B).

Figure S2.3. Hammett $\sigma_p$ correlations of Abraham’s HB acidity constant, $\alpha_2^H$. The dashed line shows the linear fit with a slope of 0.26 ± 0.02 and intercept of 0.61 ± 0.01. These parameters along with $\sigma_p = 0.45$ for MeOC(O)-PhOH (Table 1, main text) have been used to estimate the previously unknown $\alpha_2^H$ of this phenol, which is shown as a red circle corresponding to $\alpha_2^H = 0.730$. 
Section S3. Thermochemical Results from Computational Studies.

The absolute free energies of \( p \)-substituted phenols (R-PhOH), their anions (R-PhO\(^-\)), radical cations (R-PhOH\(^{+}\)), and phenoxy radicals (R-PhO\(^{+}\)) as well as those of complexes 1 and 2 in their ground (X and X-H\(^{+}\)), excited (X(T) and X(T)-H\(^{+}\)), and reduced (X\(^-\) and X-H) states were computed at the M06 level of theory with the SMD continuum solvation model as detailed in the Computational methods (main text). These results were used to derive: (i) free energy changes for EPT, PT, and ET reactions (Table S3.1), (ii) relative O-H BDFE, acidities, and reduction potentials of phenols (Table S3.2), and (iii) relative N-H BDFE in X-H, acidities of X-H, X-H\(^+\), and X(T)-H\(^{+}\), and reduction potentials of X, X(T), and X(T)-H\(^{+}\) (Table S3.3).

I. EPT, PT, and ET pathways.

The computed standard free energy changes in the EPT, PT, and ET reactions for separated reactants and products (reactions 7-9 in the main text); that is,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{X(T)} + \text{PhO-H} &= \text{X-H} + \text{PhO}^- & \Delta_{\text{EPT}} G^0 \\
\text{X(T)} + \text{PhO-H} &= \text{X(T)-H}^+ + \text{PhO}^- & \Delta_{\text{PT}} G^0 \\
\text{X(T)} + \text{PhO-H} &= \text{X}^- + \text{PhO-H}^{+} & \Delta_{\text{ET}} G^0
\end{align*}
\]

are summarized in Table S3.1, and the values of \( \Delta_{\text{PT}} G^0 \) and \( \Delta_{\text{ET}} G^0 \) relative to \( \Delta_{\text{EPT}} G^0 \) are plotted in Figure S3.1.
Table S3.1. Calculated $\Delta_{EPT}G^0$, $\Delta_{PT}G^0$, and $\Delta_{ET}G^0$ (kcal/mol).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substituent</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>in MeCN</th>
<th>in CH$_2$Cl$_2$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$\Delta_{EPT}G^0$</td>
<td>$\Delta_{PT}G^0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeO-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>−11.9</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>−8.5</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>−8.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>−5.5</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>−6.3</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>−2.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeOC(O)-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>−3.0</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>−2.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O$_2$N-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>−0.9</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure S3.1. The $\sigma_p$ dependencies of computed $\Delta\Delta G^0$ for PT (squares) and ET (circles) reactions relative to $\Delta_{EPT}G^0$ ($\Delta\Delta G^0 = \Delta_{PT}G^0 - \Delta_{EPT}G^0$ and $\Delta\Delta G^0 = \Delta_{ET}G^0 - \Delta_{EPT}G^0$) between 1(T) (solid symbols and lines) and 2(T) (open symbols and dashed lines) and $p$-substituted phenols.
II. Phenols.

Various thermochemical parameters of $p$-substituted phenols relative to MeO-PhOH were computationally-evaluated. These quantities are collected in Table S3.2 and defined as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
R{-}PhO{-}H + \text{MeO-PhOH} & \rightarrow R{-}PhO^+ + \text{MeOPhOH} \quad \Delta G^0 = \Delta BDFE \\
\text{MeO-PhOH} + R{-}PhO^- & \rightarrow \text{MeOPhO}^+ + R{-}PhOH \quad \Delta G^0 = b\Delta pK_a(\text{PhOH}) \\
\text{MeO-PhOH}^+ + R{-}PhO^- & \rightarrow \text{MeOPhO}^+ + R{-}PhOH^+ \quad \Delta G^0 = b\Delta pK_a(\text{PhOH}^+) \\
\text{MeO-PhO}^- + R{-}PhO^+ & \rightarrow \text{MeOPhO}^+ + R{-}PhO^- \quad \Delta G^0 = a\Delta E^0(\text{PhO}^+/\text{PhO}^-) \\
\text{MeO-PhOH} + R{-}PhOH^+ & \rightarrow \text{MeOPhOH}^+ + R{-}PhOH \quad \Delta G^0 = a\Delta E^0(\text{PhOH}^{+0})
\end{align*}
\]

where $a = 23.06$ kcal/(mol V) and $b = 1.364$ kcal/mol.

**Table S3.2.** Substituent effects on computed BDFE of the O-H bond (kcal/mol), Brønsted acidity, and reduction potential (V) of $p$-substituted phenols. The highlighted italicized values in parentheses are derived from the empirical estimates in Table S2.3 and shown for comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R-</th>
<th>in MeCN</th>
<th>in CH$_2$Cl$_2$</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\Delta BDFE$ (PhO-H)</td>
<td>$\Delta pK_a$ (PhOH)</td>
<td>$\Delta E^0$ (PhOH$^-$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeO-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph-</td>
<td>3.0 (2.6)</td>
<td>$\Delta pK_a$ (PhOH)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl-</td>
<td>5.6 (6.9)</td>
<td>$\Delta pK_a$ (PhOH)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeOC(O)</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>$\Delta pK_a$ (PhOH)</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC-</td>
<td>9.8 (9.7)</td>
<td>$\Delta pK_a$ (PhOH)</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O$_2$N-</td>
<td>11.0 (10.8)</td>
<td>$\Delta pK_a$ (PhOH)</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where available, comparison of computed and experiment-based estimates in this table shows an average disagreement within 0.7 kcal/mol for $\Delta BDFE$, 1.3 units (1.8 kcal/mol) for $\Delta pK_a$, and 85 mV (2.0 kcal/mol) for $\Delta E^0$, which is comparable with the uncertainties of the empirical estimates themselves. Thus, we may expect our calculated relative $\Delta EPTG^0$, $\Delta PTG^0$, and $\Delta ETG^0$ for reactions of various phenols with the same $X(T)$ to be, on the average, within $\sim$2 kcal/mol of the actual values.
III. Ru complexes.

Various computationally-evaluated relative BDFE, reduction potentials, and pKa of complexes 1 and 2 as defined by the scheme below are summarized in Table S3.3.

![Scheme of Ru complexes](image)

**Table S3.3.** Calculated relative triplet excitation energy ($E_{00}$), BDFEs of the N-H bond, reduction potentials, and Brønsted acidities of complexes 1 and 2. The highlighted italicized values in parentheses are derived from the empirical estimates in Table S3.4 and shown for comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Δ[quantity] = [quantity for 2] – [quantity for 1]</th>
<th>in MeCN</th>
<th>in CH₂Cl₂</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Δ$E_{00}$, eV</td>
<td>0.25 (exp. 0.30)</td>
<td>0.30 (exp. 0.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔBDFE(X-H/X(T)), kcal/mol</td>
<td>−3.4</td>
<td>−4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔBDFE(X-H/X), kcal/mol</td>
<td>−9.1</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Δ$E^0(X(T)/X^-)$, V</td>
<td>0.09 (exp. 0.11)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Δ$E^0(X/X^-)$, V</td>
<td>−0.16 (exp. −0.19)</td>
<td>−0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Δ$E^0(X(T)-H^+/X-H)$, V</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Δ$E^0(X-H^+/X-H)$, V</td>
<td>−0.01</td>
<td>−0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔpKₐ(X-H)</td>
<td>−4.0</td>
<td>−5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔpKₐ(X(T)-H⁺)</td>
<td>−4.8</td>
<td>−5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔpKₐ(X-H⁺)</td>
<td>−6.5</td>
<td>−7.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The computed and experiment-based estimates for Δ$E_{00}$, Δ$E^0(X(T)/X^-)$, and Δ$E^0(X/X^-)$ in this table shows an average disagreement on the order of 30 mV (0.7 kcal/mol), which is better than the uncertainties of the empirical values (~2 kcal/mol). Thus, we may expect our calculated relative Δ$E_{PT}G^0$, Δ$PTG^0$, and Δ$ETG^0$ for reactions of the same phenol with 1(T) and 2(T) to be, on the average, within ~2 kcal/mol of actual values.
Table S3.4. Room temperature photophysical and redox properties of complexes 1 and 2 in MeCN and CH$_2$Cl$_2$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (abs.), nm$^a$</th>
<th>$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (emis.), nm$^b$</th>
<th>$\tau_0$(T), ns$^c$</th>
<th>$E_{1/2}(X/X^-)$, V$^d, e$</th>
<th>$E_0^0$, eV$^f$</th>
<th>$E_0^0(X/(T)/X^-)$, V$^{d, g}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complex 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeCN</td>
<td>528 ± 2</td>
<td>804 ± 5</td>
<td>190 ± 5</td>
<td>$-1.10 \pm 0.01^{23}$</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.60 ± 0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH$_2$Cl$_2$</td>
<td>525 ± 2</td>
<td>796 ± 5</td>
<td>350 ± 5</td>
<td>no data</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.1</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeCN</td>
<td>474 ± 2</td>
<td>680 ± 5</td>
<td>430 ± 5</td>
<td>$-1.29 \pm 0.01^{24}$</td>
<td>2.0 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.71 ± 0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH$_2$Cl$_2$</td>
<td>476 ± 2</td>
<td>671 ± 5</td>
<td>585 ± 5</td>
<td>no data</td>
<td>2.0 ± 0.1</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex 1i</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeCN</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>$-1.13^{23}$</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.57 ± 0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH$_2$Cl$_2$</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>no data</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.1</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$MLCT absorption band; $^b$Triplet emission; $^c$Triplet emission lifetime; $^d$In V vs Fc$^{+/0}$ in MeCN; $^e$Converted from values reported against SCE by subtracting 0.38 V; $^f$Energy difference between the lowest vibrational levels of the triplet and ground states estimated from the onset of triplet emission; $^g$Calculated from $E_0^0(X/(T)/X^-) = E_0^0(X/X^-) + E_0^0$. 

Table S3.5. Energetics of ion pairing between protonated Ru complexes X(T)-H⁺ (actual charge $Z_X = +3$) and phenolates R-PhO⁻ ($Z_P = -1$) and between reduced Ru complexes X⁻ (actual charge $Z_X = +1$) and phenol radical cations R-PhOH⁺ ($Z_P = +1$) The ion pairing equilibrium constants ($K_{IP}$ in M⁻¹) and its associated free energy ($\Delta_{IP}G$ in kcal/mol) were evaluated using the expression suggested by Fuoss for spherical ions,²⁷

$$K_{IP} = \frac{4\pi L r_0^3}{3000} \exp \left( -\frac{W(r_0)}{kT} \right), \quad \text{where } W(r_0) = \frac{Z_X Z_P e^2}{D r_0}$$

Here, $r_0$ is the center-to-center separation of ions, $L$ is the Avogadro number, $e$ is the electron charge, $D$ is the bulk dielectric constant of solvent, and the other symbols have their usual meanings. The value of $r_0$ can be roughly taken as the sum of the radii of equivalent spheres with volumes equal to the ions’ volumes. The latter were computationally estimated as the volumes of solvent cavities created by ions upon their solvation. The average radii are: 5.0 ± 0.2 Å for complexes 1 and 2, and 3.3 ± 0.1 Å for phenols.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ion pair</th>
<th>$Z_X$</th>
<th>$Z_P$</th>
<th>in MeCN; $D_{rel} = 35.94$²⁸</th>
<th>in CH₂Cl₂; $D_{rel} = 8.93$²⁸</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$K_{IP}$</td>
<td>$\Delta_{IP}G$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X(T)-H⁺/PhO⁻</td>
<td>+3</td>
<td>−1</td>
<td>$4 \times 10^2$</td>
<td>−3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X⁻/PhOH⁺⁺</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>$2 \times 10^{-1}$</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure S3.2. Energy profiles along the N-H distance between the ligand’s quinoline N atom of 1(T) and phenolic proton ($r_{N-H}$) in the 1(T)-methoxyphenol and 1(T)-nitrophenol H-bonded exciplexes in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ and MeCN obtained through a series of constrained geometry optimizations. The zero energy is assigned to the H-bonded reactant structures (React.) computed via unconstrained optimizations. Starting with these geometries, $r_{N-H}$ has been incrementally decreased by 0.05-0.10 Å, and the resulting structures were optimized to the lowest energy for each fixed $r_{N-H}$. The $r_{N-H}$ scanning continued until the product states (Prod.) were reached. The reactant and product structures with the unpaired spin density plots in Table S3.6 show that for 1(T)-nitrophenol in MeCN the reaction products correspond to PT (that is, 1(T)-H$^+$ and nitrophenoxide anion), whereas in all other cases the reaction products are those due to EPT (that is, 1-H and phenoxy radical).
Table S3.6. Computed structures with the unpaired spin density corresponding to the reactant and product states in Figure S3.2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>in CH$_2$Cl$_2$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Reactant: 1(T) – MeOPhOH" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Reactant: 1(T)–O$_2$NPhOH" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table S3.6 (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reactant</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1(T)−MeOPhOH</td>
<td>1-H−MeOPhO'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1(T)−O2NPhOH</td>
<td>1(T)-H⁺−O2NPhO⁻</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

in MeCN
Figure S3.3. Optimized structure of the adiabatic proton transfer transition state in the H-bonded 1(T)-nitrophenol exciplex. Color code: Ru, cyan; N, blue; O, red; C, gray; and H, white. The optimized transition state structures correspond to the PT activation free energy of 3.8 kcal/mol in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ and 2.1 kcal/mol in MeCN. For the deuterated phenols, the PT activation energies are 4.7 kcal/mol in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ and 3.0 kcal/mol in MeCN, which correspond to the respective PT KIEs of 4.7 and 4.8.

Standard free energy changes (kcal/mol) for the quenching step in a sequential proton-loss electron transfer (SPLET),

\[
X(T) + R\text{-PhO}^- = X^- + R\text{-PhO}' \quad \Delta_{\text{SPLET}} G^0 = 23.06 \times [E^0(\text{PhO}'^-) - E^0(X(T)/X^-)]
\]

and for a concerted proton-loss electron transfer (CPLET),

\[
X(T) + R\text{-PhOH} + CH_3CN = X^- + R\text{-PhO}' + CH_3CNH^+ \\
\Delta_{\text{CPLET}} G^0 = 23.06 \times [E^0(\text{PhO}'^-) - E^0(X(T)/X^-)] + 1.364 \times pK_a(\text{PhOH})
\]

Table S4.1. Standard free energy changes (kcal/mol) for SPLET and CPLET with complexes 1, 1i, and 2 (Chart S4.1) in MeCN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R-</th>
<th>pK_a(PhOH)</th>
<th>(E^0) (PhO'⁻)</th>
<th>Complex 1</th>
<th>Complex 1i</th>
<th>Complex 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(E^0(1(T)/1^-) = 0.60^{b,c})</td>
<td>(E^0(1i(T)/1i^-) = 0.57^{b,1})</td>
<td>(E^0(2(T)/2^-) = 0.71^{b})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(\Delta_{\text{SPLET}} G^0)</td>
<td>(\Delta_{\text{CPLET}} G^0)</td>
<td>(\Delta_{\text{SPLET}} G^0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeO-</td>
<td>29.2\text{g}</td>
<td>-0.48</td>
<td>-25.0</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>-24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph-</td>
<td>27.2\text{g}</td>
<td>-0.25</td>
<td>-19.6</td>
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<td>-18.9</td>
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<td>Cl-</td>
<td>25.4\text{g}</td>
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<td>-12.9</td>
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<td>-12.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC-</td>
<td>22.7\text{g}</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>-6.3</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>-5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O₂N-</td>
<td>20.9\text{g}</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>-2.8</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(a^{From Table S2.3}; b^{in V vs Fc+/0}; c^{From Table S3.4.}\)

Chart S4.1. Complexes 1, 1i (a structural isomer of 1 with sterically screened uncoordinated N atom, which exhibits no photoinduced reactivity toward phenols),\(^1\) and 2.
**Section S5.** Kinetic isotope effect on the EPT rate from DFT calculations for complex 1 in CH$_2$Cl$_2$.

**Nonadiabatic EPT rate constants.** The nonadiabatic EPT rate constants for a fixed proton donor-acceptor distance (between phenol’s O atom and ligand’s N atom of complex 1, $R_{NO}$) have been calculated using the following equation,$^{29}$

$$k_{\text{EPT}}(\Delta G_{00}; \lambda; R_{NO}) = \sum_{\mu} p_{\mu} \sum_{\nu} \frac{|V_{\text{el}}S_{\nu\mu}|^2}{\hbar} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\lambda k_{B}T}} \exp \left[-\frac{(\Delta G_{\nu\mu} + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_{B}T}\right]$$  \hspace{1cm} (S5.1)

where the double summation is over all pairs of reactant/product electron-proton vibronic states $\mu/\nu$, $p_{\mu}$ is the Boltzmann probability of a reactant vibronic state $\mu$, $V_{\text{el}}$ is the electronic coupling (taken as unity for the H/D isotope effect calculations), $S_{\nu\mu}$ is the overlap integral between the proton vibrational wave functions for $\nu$ and $\mu$, $\lambda$ is the reorganization energy, $k_{B}$ and $\hbar$ are the Boltzmann and Plank constants, respectively, $T$ is the bath temperature set to 298.15 K, and $\Delta G_{\nu\mu}$ is the EPT reaction free energy involving the reactant/product vibrational levels $\mu/\nu$; with $\mu = \nu = 0$, the $\Delta G_{00}$ value closely corresponds (but not exactly identical) to the conventional reaction free energy. In equation S5.1, all $p_{\mu}$, $S_{\nu\mu}$, and $\Delta G_{\nu\mu}$ are $R_{NO}$-dependent.

To account for the proton donor-acceptor thermal motion$^{30-33}$ and obtain the overall EPT rate constant, a series of $k_{\text{EPT}}(\Delta G_{00}, \lambda, R_{NO})$ calculated for a range of $R_{NO}$ have been numerically integrated; that is,

$$k_{\text{EPT}}(\Delta G_{00}; \lambda) = \int_{0}^{\infty} p(R_{NO}) k_{\text{EPT}}(\Delta G_{00}; \lambda; R_{NO}) dR_{NO}$$  \hspace{1cm} (S5.2)

where $p(R_{NO})$ is the temperature-dependent probability of sampling a specific $R_{NO}$ value, which serves as a weighting factor. Because $k_{\text{EPT}}(\Delta G_{00}, \lambda, R_{NO})$ is proportional to $S_{\nu\mu}^2$, KIE also changes with the square of the ratio of the vibrational wave functions overlaps for hydrogen and deuterium and is expected to increase as the overlaps decrease. However, the combined summation over all pairs of reactant/product vibronic states and the integration over $R_{NO}$ leads to a more complex behavior.
**Vibrational wave functions and diabatic proton potentials.** The diabatic potential energy surfaces were computed to generate the proton vibrational wave functions, which in turn have been employed to compute $S_{\nu\mu}$ terms in equation S5.1. The individual steps involved in these computations were as follows:\(^{34}\)

A. Structures corresponding to the saddle points on the adiabatic energy profiles along the N-H distance in the \(1(T)\)-phenol H-bonded exciplexes were obtained through a series of constrained geometry optimizations as described in the caption to Figure S3.2.

B. A series of structures were generated for several $R_{NO}$ in 0.1 Å increments around the equilibrium $R_{NO}$ distances of 2.76 and 2.81 Å in \(1(T)\)-nitrophenol and \(1(T)\)-methoxyphenol exciplex, respectively, using the approximate saddle point structures and translating \(1(T)\) and phenol molecules as rigid bodies along the donor acceptor axis. For each $R_{NO}$, an optimization of the proton position was performed, while holding the positions of all other atoms fixed. This was
done by initially placing the proton close to the phenol’s O atom or to the ligand’s quinoline N atom of 1(T) to obtain the reactant and product structures, respectively. This procedure is illustrated below,

C. For each pair of reactant and product structures obtained in step B for a specific $R_{NO}$ distance, a line connecting the reactant’s and product’s protons defined a proton coordinate axis whose origin was placed in the middle. The diabatic potential energy surfaces for the reactant and product states (with respect to electron transfer; Scheme S5.1) were generated on a one-dimensional grid with $\sim 0.05$ Å spacing along this axis using Q-Chem software package version 4.2.1.$^{35}$

![Diagram](image)

Specifically, constrained DFT (CDFT)$^{36}$ calculations at the M06 level of theory$^{37-39}$ with the IEFPCM continuum solvation model$^{40, 41}$ for CH$_2$Cl$_2$ using the Stuttgart [8s7p6d2f | 6s5p3d2f] ECP28MWB contracted pseudopotential basis set$^{42}$ on Ru and the 6-31G(d) basis set$^{43}$ on all other atoms were performed at each grid point for reactant and product states.

D. The resulting energies from step C were interpolated to generate smooth diabatic potential energy curves shown in Figures S5.2A-G and S5.3A-G, which have been used to determine the proton vibrational wave functions (also shown in Figures S5.2A-G and S5.3A-G) and compute the $S_{\mu\nu}^2$ values for the rate constant calculations via equation S5.1.
**Scheme S5.1.** Diabatic states associated with EPT from \( p \)-substituted phenols (\( R = \text{MeO}^-, \text{O}_2\text{N}^- \)) to 1(T). The reactants and products in terms of the electron transfer are shown on the left in blue and red, respectively, and the fragments employed in CDFT calculations are depicted on the right.
Fig. S5.1A, see caption on p. S35

$R_{NO} = 2.51\,\AA$

Fig. S5.1B, see caption on p. S35

$R_{NO} = 2.61\,\AA$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reactant states</th>
<th>Product states</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOH</td>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOD</td>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Fig. S5.1C, see caption on p. S35
$R_{NO} = 2.71 \, \text{Å}$

Fig. S5.1D, see caption on p. S35
$R_{NO} = 2.81 \, \text{Å}$

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Reactant states</th>
<th>Product states</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOH</td>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOD</td>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proton coordinate [Å]
Fig. S5.1E, see caption on p. S35
$R_{NO} = 2.91$ Å

Fig. S5.1F, see caption on p. S35
$R_{NO} = 3.01$ Å

<table>
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<th>Reactant states</th>
<th>Product states</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOH</td>
<td>1(T)-MeOPhOD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Graphs showing energy vs. distance for reactant and product states for 1(T)-MeOPhOH and 1(T)-MeOPhOD]
Figure S5.1A-G. Computed diabatic potential energy profiles for reactant and product states of 1(T)-methoxyphenol in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ at the proton donor–acceptor distances of 2.51 (A), 2.61 (B), 2.71 (C), 2.81 (D, equilibrium distance), 2.91 (E), 3.01 (F), and 3.11 Å (G) and proton/deuteron vibrational wave functions for the reactant and product states (I)-(IV) in Scheme S5.1.
**Fig. S5.2A**, see caption on p. S39
$R_{NO} = 2.46 \, \text{Å}$

**Fig. S5.2B**, see caption on p. S39
$R_{NO} = 2.56 \, \text{Å}$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reactant states</th>
<th>Product states</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="I(T)-O$_2$NPhOH" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="I(T)-O$_2$NPhOH" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="I(T)-O$_2$NPhOD" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="I(T)-O$_2$NPhOD" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. S5.2C, see caption on p. S39

\[ R_{NO} = 2.66 \text{ Å} \]

Fig. S5.2D, see caption on p. S39

\[ R_{NO} = 2.76 \text{ Å} \]
Fig. S5.2E, see caption on p. S39

$R_{NO} = 2.86 \text{ Å}$

Fig. S5.2F, see caption on p. S39

$R_{NO} = 2.96 \text{ Å}$
Figure S5.2A-G. Computed diabatic potential energy profiles for reactant and product states of 1(T)-nitrophenol in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ at the proton donor–acceptor distances of 2.46 (A), 2.56 (B), 2.66 (C), 2.76 (D, equilibrium distance), 2.86 (E), 2.96 (F), and 3.06 Å (G) and proton/deuteron vibrational wave functions for the reactant and product states (I)-(IV) in Scheme S5.1.
**Boltzmann probabilities, \( P(R_{NO}) \).** These temperature-dependent probabilities of finding the EPT donor and acceptor separated by \( R_{NO} \) appear in the equation S5.2 for \( k^{EPT}(\Delta G_{00}, \lambda) \) and are given by the classical harmonic probability distribution function,

\[
P(R_{NO}) = \frac{k_{eff}}{2\pi k_B T} \exp \left[-\frac{k_{eff}(R_{NO} - \bar{R}_{NO})^2}{2k_B T}\right]
\]  

(S5.3)

where \( k_{eff} \) is an effective force constant for the mutual motion of the H-bonded reactants along the N-H-O axis. The \( k_{eff} \) values were evaluated via the parabolic fits to the computed energy profiles in Figure S5.4, which gave 0.079 hartree/Å\(^2\) for 1(T)-methoxyphenol and 0.083 hartree/Å\(^2\) for 1(T)-nitrophenol in CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\).

**Figure S5.3.** Energy profiles for the donor-acceptor mutual motion along the N-H-O axis in the 1(T)-methoxyphenol (left) and 1(T)-nitrophenol (right) H-bonded exciplexes. Both \( \Delta E \) and \( \Delta R_{NO} \) are relative to the corresponding quantities at equilibrium. The computed \( \Delta E \) values (solid circles) were obtained through constrained optimizations of the H-bonded structures in CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\) via scanning along \( R_{NO} \). The force constants \( k_{eff} = 0.0790 \) hartree/Å\(^2\) for \( p \)-methoxyphenol and \( k_{eff} = 0.0830 \) hartree/Å\(^2\) for \( p \)-nitrophenol were evaluated from the parabolic fits (smooth lines).

**Reorganization energy and KIE.** The total reorganization energy for the EPT reaction, \( \lambda \), is the sum of the outer-sphere (solvent) reorganization energy \( \lambda_s \) and the inner-sphere (solute) reorganization energy \( \lambda_i \). We have evaluated \( \lambda_s \) for EPT in CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\) using the following equation,
\[ \lambda_s = \left( \frac{1}{2r_1} + \frac{1}{2r_2} - \frac{1}{R} \right) \times \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon_{op}} - \frac{1}{\epsilon_s} \right) \]  
\hspace{1cm} \text{(S5.4)}

where \( r_1 \) and \( r_2 \) are the radii of the equivalent spheres representing 1(T) and phenol, \( R \) is the distance between the centers of these spheres, and \( \epsilon_s \) and \( \epsilon_{op} \) are the static and optical dielectric constants of the solvent taken to be 8.93 and 2.028, respectively. Using \( r_1 = 5.50 \) Å, \( r_2 = 2.76 \) Å, and \( R = 7.90 \) Å estimated from the optimized geometries of 1(T)-methoxyphenol and 1(T)-nitrophenol H-bonded exciplexes, we calculated \( \lambda_s = 1.53 \) eV (35.2 kcal/mol). For calculating \( \lambda_i \), the standard expression,\(^{44,45}\)

\[ \lambda_i = \frac{1}{2} \left[ E_{ox}(R_{eq}^{red}) - E_{ox}(R_{eq}^{ox}) + E_{red}(R_{eq}^{ox}) - E_{red}(R_{eq}^{red}) \right] \]  
\hspace{1cm} \text{(S5.5)}

was used. Here, the individual terms are defined as follows:

- \( E_{ox}(R_{eq}^{red}) \): Electronic energy of PhO\(^{•} \) obtained on the optimized PhOH geometry via removing the phenolic hydrogen atom (proton and electron)
- \( E_{ox}(R_{eq}^{ox}) \): Electronic energy of PhO\(^{•} \) obtained on the optimized PhO\(^{•} \) geometry
- \( E_{red}(R_{eq}^{ox}) \): Electronic energy of 1-H obtained on the optimized 1(T) geometry via placing a hydrogen atom (proton and electron) on to the ligand’s quinoline N atom of 1(T); the optimization of the proton position was performed while holding the positions of all other atoms fixed
- \( E_{red}(R_{eq}^{red}) \): Electronic energy of 1-H obtained on the optimized 1-H geometry

These electronic energies were calculated at the M06 level of theory using the def2-TZVPP basis set on Ru and the def2-TZVP basis set on all other atoms. The computed \( \lambda_i \) were 0.34 eV (7.9 kcal/mol) and 0.30 eV (6.8 kcal/mol) for EPT reaction of 1(T) with \( p \)-methoxy- and \( p \)-nitrophenol respectively, which gives the \( \lambda = \lambda_s + \lambda_i \) values of 1.87 eV (43.0 kcal/mol) and 1.83 eV (42.0 kcal/mol) for EPT reaction of 1(T) with \( p \)-methoxy and \( p \)-nitrophenol, respectively.

With the computed \( \Delta G_{00} \) for the EPT reaction in CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\) (−13.5 kcal/mol for \( p \)-methoxyphenol and 1.9 kcal/mol for \( p \)-nitrophenol), these reorganization energies yield the deuterium KIE of 3.1 and 1.1 for EPT to 1(T) from \( p \)-methoxy- and \( p \)-nitrophenol, respectively. The sensitivity of computed deuterium KIEs to the magnitudes of \( \Delta G_{00} \) and \( \lambda \) can be evaluated from the data in Table S5.1, which shows a KIE invariance for \( p \)-nitrophenol in a wide range of these energies. For \( p \)-
methoxyphenol, the data in Table S5.1 suggest the KIE sensitivities of ~0.03 per kcal/mol in $\lambda$ and 
~0.2 per kcal/mol in $\Delta G_{00}$.

Table S5.1. Dependence upon driving force ($\Delta G_{00}$, kcal/mol) and reorganization energy ($\lambda$, 
kcal/mol) of computed H/D KIEs for EPT reaction from $p$-methoxy- and $p$-nitrophenol to 1(T) in 
CH$_2$Cl$_2$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\Delta G_{00}$</th>
<th>$\lambda = 35$</th>
<th>$\lambda = 40$</th>
<th>$\lambda = 45$</th>
<th>$\lambda = 50$</th>
<th>$\lambda = 55$</th>
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<tbody>
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**Section S6.** Products and Yields for Reactions of 1(T) with $p$-MeO-PhOH and $p$-O$_2$N-PhOH in MeCN and CH$_2$Cl$_2$.

**Figure S6.1.** Absorption spectra of 1 in MeCN (black line), 1-H$^+$ obtained by titrating 1 with HClO$_4$ in MeCN (blue line), and 1-H obtained by sequential electron-proton addition to 1 using pulse radiolysis in water$^{46}$ (green symbols and line).
Figure S6.2. Transient absorption spectra recorded at the indicated times after 2 ns, 532 nm laser flash photolysis of complex 1 in: (A) MeCN containing 200 mM of \( p \)-methoxyphenol; (B) \( CH_2Cl_2 \) containing 7 mM of \( p \)-methoxyphenol; (C) MeCN containing 800 mM of \( p \)-nitrophenol; (D) \( CH_2Cl_2 \) containing 150 mM of \( p \)-nitrophenol. The prompt spectra at 0 ns are due to the difference between the spectrum of 1(T) and that of 1 only. The final spectra correspond to the difference between absorptions by the separated products from the quenching reactions and that of 1 after the quenching completion, but before any subsequent second-order reactions between the products could occur. All solutions are Ar-purged.
Relative product yields.

In terms of Scheme 1 and eq 1-4 (main text), the aggregate yield ($\eta_{\text{prod}}$) of the nascent \{1-H/PhO$^-$\} and \{1(T)-H$^+$/PhO$^-$\} pairs resulting from the concurrent EPT and ET quenching of 1(T) by a phenol (caged RP and IP products in Scheme 1, main text) is given by,

$$\eta_{\text{prod}} = \frac{[\text{caged products}]}{[1(T)]_0} = \frac{k_0k_{\text{app}}^P [P]_0}{(1+k_{\text{app}}^P [P]_0)k_{\text{obs}}}$$

where \([1(T)]_0\) is the initial 1(T) concentration created by flash photolysis and [caged products] refers to \{1-H/PhO$^-$\} + \{1(T)-H$^+$/PhO$^-$\} generated over the course of 1(T) decay. Considering that under the experimental conditions of flash photolysis $K_{1-P}^\text{app} [P]_0 \ll 1$, we write,

$$\eta_{\text{prod}} = \frac{k_0k_{\text{app}}^P [P]_0}{k_{\text{obs}}} - \frac{k_0(k_{1-P}^P/k_0 - 1)k_{\text{app}}^P [P]_0}{k_0+k_{\text{obs}}^P [P]_0}$$

Because $k_{\text{obs}}^P [P]_0 > k_0$, and, as we have previously demonstrated,$^1 (k_{1-P}^P/k_0 - 1) < 1$, we can safely omit the second term on the right-hand side of the above equation and evaluate $\eta_{\text{prod}}$ only through experimentally-available lifetime in the absence of a quencher ($\tau_0$, Table S3.4) and bimolecular quenching rate constant ($k_{\text{obs}}^P$, Table 1, main text); that is,

$$\eta_{\text{prod}} = \frac{\tau_0k_{\text{obs}}^P [P]_0}{1+\tau_0k_{\text{obs}}^P [P]_0}$$

The so-obtained values of $\eta_{\text{prod}}$ for experiments presented in Figure S6.2 are: 0.55 for panel A, 0.76 for panel B, 0.57 for panel C, and 0.55 for panel D.

These values together with the 680 nm amplitudes of spectra in Figure S6.2 recorded at 0 ns that are due to promptly generated 1(T) have been used for normalizing the final spectra in that figure to the same \([1(T)]_0\) and $\eta_{\text{prod}}$. The results of this procedure shown in Figure 5, main text reflect the relative compositions and yields of separated products originating from the same \([1(T)]_0\) with the same chemical quenching efficiency.
Section S7. Kinetic Solvent Effect for Complex 2.

Figure S7.1. (A) Dependencies of $\log KSE$ on phenol’s HB acidity for complex 1: KSE predicted by eq 11, main text (circles and dashed line) and observed KSE from Table 1 (squares). (B) Dependencies of $\log KSE_{cor}$ (eq 12, main text; squares) and observed KSE (diamonds and dashed line showing a linear fit) on $\sigma_p$. The solid lines give the linear fits through the leftmost 4 data points. The dotted lines serve as the visual aids only.
Section S8. References.


