



Friends OF THE COURT

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Supreme Court Swears in New Justices

The Arkansas Supreme Court held formal swearing-in ceremonies for Justice Josephine Linker Hart and Justice Cliff Hoofman in the Supreme Court courtroom of the Justice Building on January 8, 2013.

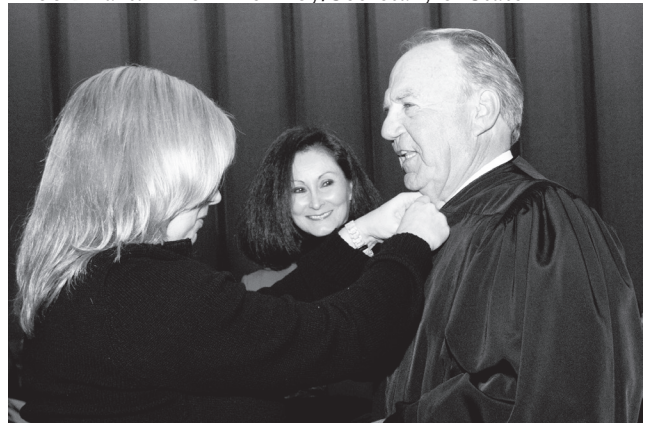
Surrounded by family, friends, and members of the public, both Justices joined the Court on the bench after taking the oath of office, administered by Chief Justice Jim Hannah. Jonesboro attorney John Belew introduced Justice Hart. Belew praised Justice Hart's work ethic and sense of duty. "This lady will uphold your tradition; she will be at least one seventh, if not more, of this court," he said. Justice Hart responded by promising to "ensure that the rights of the people are not transgressed by the state; a responsibility that rests heavily on this court."

Governor Mike Beebe, who introduced Justice Cliff Hoofman, said that Hoofman was "a model of what's possible in this country." After taking the bench, Justice Hoofman answered by thanking the Governor for the opportunity to serve and vowed that, "for the short time I serve on this court, I will do all that's in my power to seek justice and find fairness for those who have business in this chamber, so help me God."

The ceremony was followed by a reception, hosted by the Supreme Court, where the new Justices had an opportunity to meet with members of the Court, members of the public, family, and friends.



Justice Hart is sworn in with the help of her husband, Brook Hart. © Lori McElroy/Secretary of State



Justice Hoofman is helped into his robe by wife Debbie and daughter Ragan. © Lori McElroy/Secretary of State

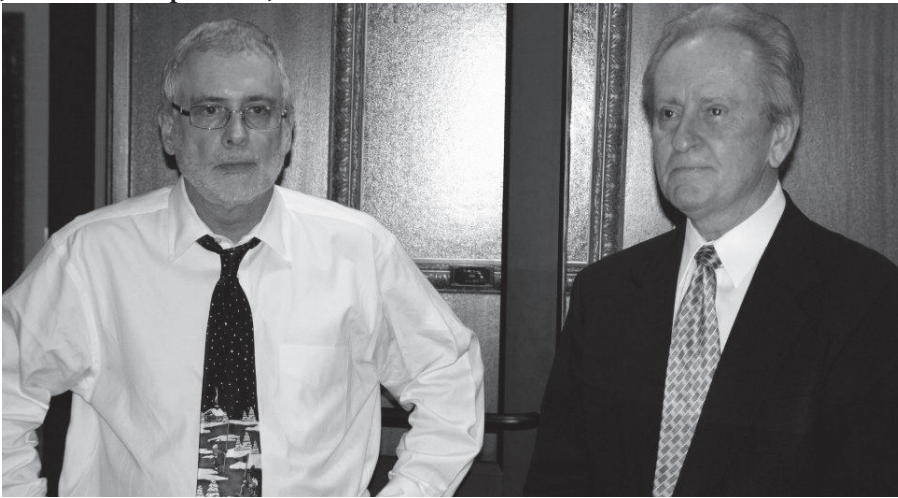


The new Justices take the bench after being sworn in. © Lori McElroy/Secretary of State

Members of Appellate Courts Honored



Justice Corben presents Justices Brown and Gunter with service awards.



Judge Vaught honors Judge Robbins with speech at ceremony.

Members of both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals were honored last month as they prepared to step down from the bench.

From the Supreme Court, Justice Robert Brown and Justice Jim Gunter retired. From the Court of Appeals, Judge John Robbins retired from the bench. Justice Cliff Hoofman and Justice Josephine Hart left the Court of Appeals to fill their new positions on the Supreme Court, previously held by Justices Brown and Gunter. Judge Raymond Abramson and Judge Doug Martin left the Court of Appeals after their appointments ended.

Present at both receptions were members of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, their staff, former members of the appellate courts, other Justice Building employees, family, and friends. Departing judges and justices were honored with plaques, awards, photographs, and words of appreciation for their service.

eFiling Mandatory in Pulaski County Circuit Court

Beginning March 19, 2013, licensed Arkansas attorneys filing new cases or filing to existing cases in the Pulaski County Circuit Courts must submit the filings through eFlex, the electronic filing system. Pulaski County Circuit Courts have been in the eFiling pilot phase since March 2012. Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Administrative Order 21, the one-year grace period will expire and eFiling will become mandatory in Pulaski County Circuit Courts.

In order for attorneys to participate, they must attend one hour of online training, mail a one-time account registration fee of \$100, payable to the "Bar of Arkansas", and request an account online at <http://efile.aoc.arkansas.gov>. A waiver of the electronic filing fee may be requested by individuals who are indigent, disabled, self-represented, and those with special needs.

For more information about eFiling and court automation, please visit <https://courts.arkansas.gov/administration/acap>.

For questions or for help with registration and training, please contact the Pulaski County Clerk's Office at (501) 340-8500. For technical assistance, contact the AOC at courts.efiling@arkansas.gov.

New Judges Attend Circuit Judge and District Judge Orientations



Group of new Circuit Judges at orientation. Left to right: Eddy Easley/7th Cir., Chip Welch/6th Cir., Cristi Beaumont/4th Cir., Will Feland/23rd Cir., Robin Carroll/13th Cir., Tom Smith/19th Cir., Patti James/6th Cir., Brad Karren/19th W. Cir., H.G. Foster/20th Cir.

Newly-elected and appointed Circuit and District Judges met in December for orientation programs. The Circuit Judge Orientation was December 5-7 at the Hampton Inn and Suites and the District Judge Orientation was held December 12-14 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Little Rock.

The three-day Circuit Judge program, which included an orientation for new Trial Court Assistants, touched on issues relating to civil cases, criminal

cases, probate, specialty courts, dependency-neglect, and case management.

The two-day District Judge program included sessions on smalls claims and civil, DWIs, traffic court, search and seizure issues, and alternative sentencing.

Each orientation included sessions on the District Judges Association, Judicial Council, Trial Court Assistants Association, and services available through the AOC.



Andy Gill/Perryville, Ray Bunch/Bentonville, and Paul Bridges/Rogers attend a session during orientation at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

New Faces in the Judiciary

AOC

Cheryl Thomas - Certified Sign Language Interpreter

Lynn Nathan - Data Entry Operator

James Tapscott - ADR Coordinator Assistant

Supreme Court

Justice Cliff Hoofman replaces Justice Robert Brown.

Justice Josephine Hart replaces Justice Jim Gunter.

Court of Appeals

Judge Robert Gladwin replaces Judge Larry Vaught as Chief Judge.

Judge Brandon Harrison replaces Judge John Robbins.

Judge Kenneth Hixson replaces Judge Doug Martin.

Judge Bill Walmsley replaces Judge Josephine Hart.

Judge Phillip Whiteaker replaces Judge Raymond Abramson.

Judge Rhonda Wood replaces Cliff Hoofman.

Circuit Court Judges

4th, Div. 2 - **Cristi Beaumont** replaces Chadd Mason.

4th, Div. 2 - **Doug Martin** replaces Kim Smith.

6th, Div. 11 - **Patricia James** replaces Beth Burgess.

6th, Div. 16 - **Chip Welch** replaces Ellen Brantley.

7th, Div. 2 - **Eddy Easley** replaces Ed M. Koon.

13th, Div. 4 - **Robin Carroll** replaces Searcy Harrell, Jr.

19th W., Div. 2 - **Brad Karren** replaces Mark Fryauf.

19th W., Div. 3 - **Thomas Smith** replaces Jon Comstock.

20th, Div. 1 - **H.G. Foster** replaces David Reynolds.

20th, Div. 5 - **Amy Brazil** replaces Rhonda Wood.

23rd, Div. 2 - **Will Feland** replaces Phillip Whiteaker.

Trial Court Assistants

23rd Cir. (Feland) - **Phyllis Moore**

6th Cir. (Welch) - **Debbie Waltermire**

13th Cir. (Carroll) - **Kaye Hux**

New Faces in the Judiciary *(continued)*

District Court Judges

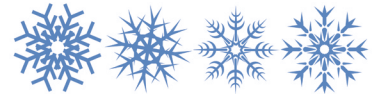
Arkansas County - **Jeremy Bueker** replaces J.W. Green.
 Benton County - **Ray Bunch** replaces John Skaggs and **Paul Bridges** replaces Brad Karren.
 Carroll County - **Tim Parker** replaces Marianne McBeth.
 Clay County - **Laura Bridewell** replaces David Gillison, Jr.
 Cleburne County - **Lance Wright** replaces Mike Irwin.
 Conway County - **Bart Virden** replaces Howard Yates.
 Craighead County - **Curt Huckaby**.
 Crittenden County - **Fred Thorne** replaces Mike Stephenson.
 Dallas County - **Ronnie Phillips** replaces Tom Wynne.
 Drew County - **P. Luevonda Ross** replaces Ken Harper.
 Faulkner County - **Susan Weaver** and **David Reynolds**.
 Logan County - **David Rush** replaces David Cravens.
 Madison County - **Dale Ramsey** replaces Orville Clift.

Marion County - **Jason Duffy** replaces Judith Bearden.
 Monroe County - **David Carruth** replaces Robert Serio.
 Nevada County - **Tony Yocum** replaces Eugene Hale.
 Perry County - **Andy Gill** replaces Elizabeth Wise.
 Pike County - **LeAnne Daniel** replaces Dana Stone.
 Saline County - **Stephanie Casady** replaces Curtis Rickard.
 Sebastian County - **Michael Wagoner** replaces Wayland Parker, II.
 Washington County - **Jeff Harper** replaces Earnest Cate.
 White County - **Mark Derrick** replaces Teresa Hughes.

District Court Clerks

Carroll County/Green Forest Dept. - **Ashley Gastineau** replaces Jennifer Jacobs.
 Washington County/Johnson Dept. - **Rachel Duck** replaces Denny Upton.
 White County/Kensett Dept. - **Evelyn Stuart** replaces Tracy O'Conner.

CALENDAR



February

Sign Language Court Interpreter Orientation (Springdale)	8-9
Candidate Assessment Exam (Springdale)	9
District Court Clerks Certification (2nd & 4th) (Little Rock)	15
District Court Officers (Jonesboro)	21-22

March

Trial Court Assistants Conference (Little Rock)	7-8
Candidate Assessment Exam (Little Rock)	16



Friends of the Court is a bi-monthly publication by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to Friends of the Court, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400. Meghan Sever, Editor.



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Address Correction Requested