The year 2015 marks the first time in the history of the state for the Arkansas Supreme Court to have a female majority.

Arkansas has the second-highest-performing Supreme Court in the country, according to a University of Chicago Law School study. Arkansas justices ranked third in the number of opinions written per year.

In the new addition to the Supreme Court Building completed in 2001, “Justice” was etched on the front of the building with a “v” rather than a “u.” This comes from the fact that part of the basis for our system of law derives from Roman law and the Latin alphabet does not have a “u.” Many people thought the court had made an egregious spelling mistake.

Justice Annabelle Imber Tuck was the first woman elected to the Supreme Court. She served from 1997-2009.

Justice George Rose Smith is Arkansas’s longest-serving Supreme Court justice, serving from 1949 to 1987. He created the system by which the Supreme Court assigns and decides its cases.

President Bill Clinton, serving as the 50th Attorney General of the state of Arkansas from January 1977 to January 1979, had an office in the original Justice Building.

As an April Fool’s joke, Justice George Rose Smith wrote a tongue-in-cheek opinion based on a children’s poem of a fight between the Gingham Dog and Calico Cat (“The Duel” by Eugene Field). The opinion was cited as a legitimate case by the high court of another state.
The relief sculpture surrounding the courtroom was executed in Roman travertine marble and stainless steel. The figures represent the development of the law throughout ancient history:

- **The Babylonians** - The Code of Hammurabi, “an eye for an eye,” marks the first historical record of a statement that the punishment for a crime should not be limitless.
- **The Egyptians** - Egyptian legal practice emphasized conflict resolution and that plaintiffs and defendants swore oaths to tell the truth.
- **The Hebrews** - Moses, Daniel, and Solomon demonstrated that the law could be applied wisely and humanely in concrete situations.
- **The Persians** - Cyrus was the first king to maintain that the law should be equal, stable, and enforced universally.
- **The Asians** - Confucius established a system of behavior as a guide to princes and emperors. His advice became the foundation of traditional Chinese law.
- **The Indians** - King Asoka of Magadha left a legacy of many edicts of Buddhist laws engraved throughout India.
- **The Greeks** - Many Greek thinkers, such as Plato and Aristotle, shaped modern concepts of law through their writings on justice, equality, society, and citizenship.
- **The Romans** - Roman leaders created a consistent legal system based on the idea that the law should be shaped into a coherent, harmonious and symmetrical body of codes.
- **The Native Americans** - Pre-Columbian civilizations developed elaborate codes for their social structures. Those codes sought to protect the environment and regulate trade.

The appellate courts began to stream their oral arguments and other events live on the internet in September 2010, making it even more accessible to the public it serves. Archives can be viewed anytime from the Judiciary website: www.courts.arkansas.gov.

The focal point of the courtroom is the large tapestry on the wall behind the judges’ bench. This textile, designed by Efrem Weitzman, includes the state seal and other symbols of Arkansas, such as a geographic outline of the state, a mockingbird, an apple blossom, and a pine tree. The wavy lines leading into the center represent the principal rivers and their influence on the customs and lives of the state’s inhabitants.