

Arkansas COURTNEWS

A publication of the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts *"Supporting Courts, Ensuring Justice"*



THE STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

Chief Justice Howard Brill

Spotlight

DISTRICT

JUDGE CHANEY

TAYLOR

CMP Graduation

PHOTOS FROM

CEREMONY &

RECEPTION

Court Security

AOC AWARDED

SECOND TRAINING

GRANT

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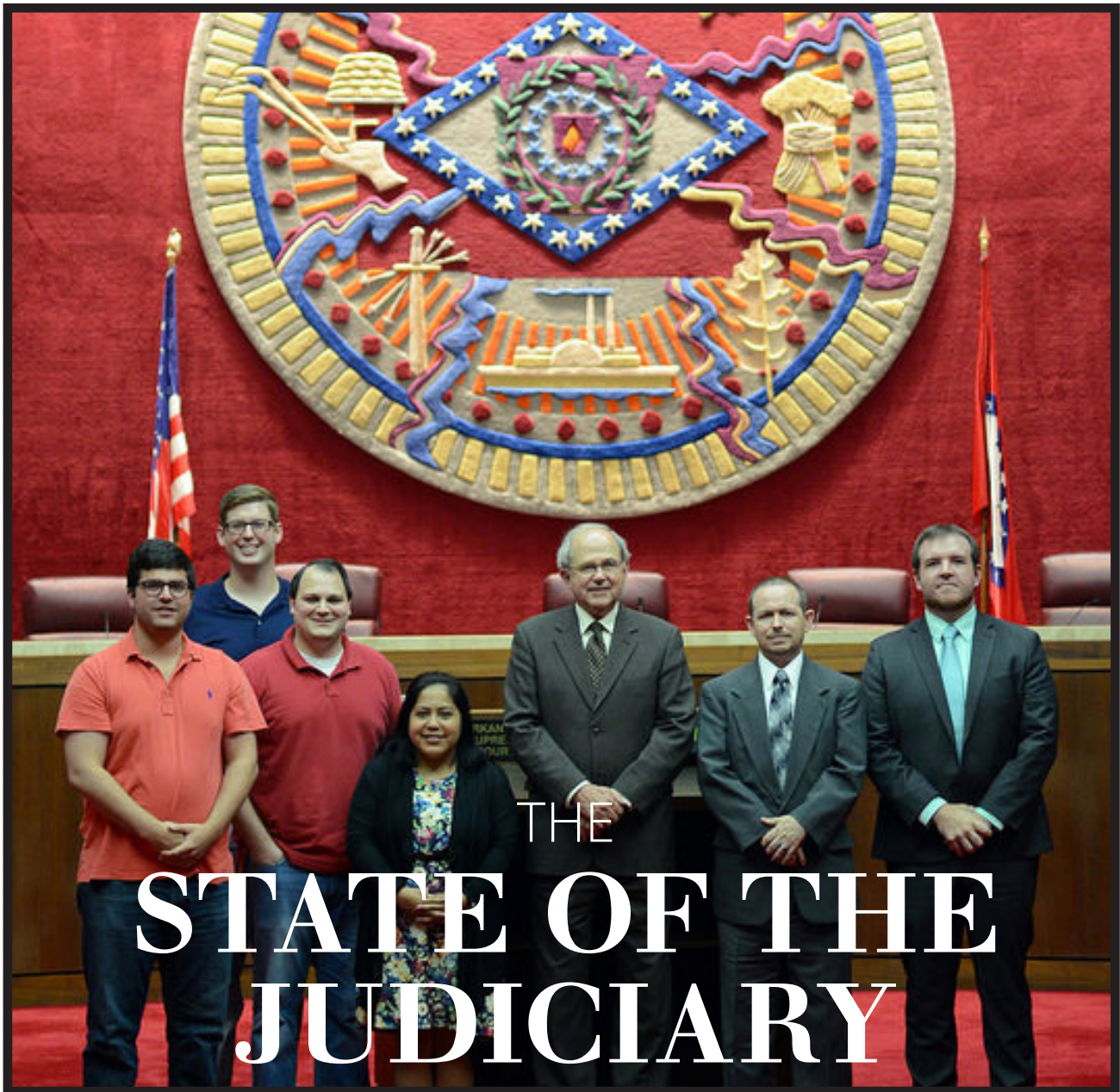
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THE STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

By Chief Justice Howard Brill

Excerpts from the speech given at Judicial Council

As I write this, I am fully aware that less than a year ago, I never dreamed of being a judge, much less than the Chief Justice. And, I am equally aware that in less than a year, I will return to the University of Arkansas. However, I will return to the classroom with a different appreciation for the law and an enhanced respect for the members of the Judiciary.

This year, we lost three distinguished members of the Supreme Court: Chief Justice Brad Jesson, Associate Justice Ray Thorton, and Chief Justice Jim Hannah. All three served the people of this state with distinction as lawyers, judges and public servants.

This year sees further progress in the fulfillment of Amendment 80. In 2002, Arkansas had 212 part-time courts. In January 2017, the Judiciary will have 54 full-time district courts and 36 part-time district courts. When fully implemented, Arkansas will have 66 full-time district courts, fulfilling the promise of the constitutional provision. This year has also seen growth in the number of specialty courts, providing justice in unique settings. Those changes, and my meetings with district and circuit judges this year, have reminded me of the unity of the Arkansas Judiciary in the task we have been given.

THE STATE OF THE JUDICIARY...CONTINUED.



Chief Justice Brill delivers the State of the Judiciary speech during a joint meeting of the Judicial Council and the Arkansas Bar Association in June.

As I told the students at Girls State and Boys State when they visited the Justice Building in June, the judiciary is outwardly the weakest of the three branches of government. We do not deploy a national guard, we do not pave roads, we do not raise or lower taxes, and we do not pass legislation. Our power is based on the words that we say and write, and on the people's respect for the law.

We, and even those high school students, have seen that power properly exercised. It was a judge who said to a defiant school board, "Open the doors to all the students," and it was President Eisenhower who mobilized the 101st Airborne to carry out the order. It was a judge who said to President Bill Clinton, "Show up for the deposition and answer questions truthfully or you will be held in contempt," and she held him in contempt. It was the Arkansas

Supreme Court that said to the Governor and Legislature: "Make educational funding comply with the Constitution," and Arkansas public education was transformed. It was a judge who said to a circuit clerk, "You may not believe in this type of marriage, but it is the law, and you are to issue the marriage certificate." These events demonstrate that we are all in the same business of serving the people of Arkansas through the Rule of Law.

"We are all in the business of serving the people of Arkansas through the Rule of Law."

During and following judicial elections this year, we have seen renewed and expanded discussion of the method of selecting judges, particularly at the appellate level, and of financing judicial campaigns. Regardless of the merits of those discussions, and regardless of the outcome, all commentators are in agreement that changes in the Code of Judicial Conduct are appropriate. When adopted in 2009, the

Code included seven Arkansas distinctions. It is now time to add further Arkansas variations, including changes in the recusal standards, knowledge of financial contributors, and gifts. These minor modifications are necessary to assure the independence, integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

It has been my honor and my privilege

to serve in this capacity. I appreciate the trust of Governor Asa Hutchinson in granting me this opportunity to serve. I have enjoyed working with, and have been impressed with, the professionalism of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Let me extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for your assistance and kindness during my tenure.





Justice Wood, Casey Mae Goff, Kim Kay & Hannah Black



Justice Wynne & the 7 elected Justices of Boys State

GIRLS STATE & BOYS STATE

ELECTED JUSTICES OF BOYS AND GIRLS STATE GET A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE SUPREME COURT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Every year during the week-long conference for select high school students, the participants of Boys and Girls State elect seven Justices from their peers. This year's participants were treated to a special visit to the Justice Building to meet the current members

of the Arkansas Supreme Court. After meeting their counterparts on the Court, the students had the opportunity to visit with the Justices one-on-one, tour the Justices' chambers and sit at their positions in the conference room chairs.



Justice Danielson, Sarang Harris & Laurel Dhority



Justice Goodson, Mya Ellington-Williams & Lauren Stewart



Justice Wynne leads students through a mock conference



Justice Baker, Ellison Smith & Mary Katherine Sumner



Justice Goodson & Justice Hart speak with students



Co-Authors of the DV Guidebooks: (L-R) Kola Brown, Angela McGraw, Rebekah Tucci, Melissa Grisham, Michelle Payne & Cynthia Nance

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM MAKING STRIDES

The AOC's Domestic Violence Program has had a busy year. The Program recently rolled out three publications aimed at improving awareness, access to information and education in navigating domestic violence as a litigant, attorney and judge.

The first publications to be released, a pair of guidebooks, began as a simple conversation between local attorney Melissa Grisham and Rebekah Tucci, the Director of the Domestic Violence Program at the AOC. Surprised to learn that Arkansas lacked a comprehensive resource for victims of domestic violence trying to navigate the legal implications of violent or abusive relationships, Ms. Grisham and Ms. Tucci worked in collaboration with the Bar Association, and half a dozen other agencies and organizations to complete two

separate guidebooks: one for victims and another for court personnel.

“The victim’s guidebooks are instrumental in our effort to help victims understand the legal process. We’re trying to make it easier for them to get the information they need to help themselves out of potentially life-threatening situations,” explained Tucci.

The first book, *Domestic Violence, A Practical Guide for Navigating the Legal System in Arkansas*, helps victims identify abusive relationships, and understand the danger they are in based on their abuser’s pattern of behavior. The guidebooks also provide information on options to protect oneself in both civil and criminal contexts, including explaining and providing forms

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUIDEBOOKS (continued)

for orders of protection, restraining orders, and no contact orders, among other things.

With the help of the Arkansas Bar Association and a few private donors, 30,000 copies of the guidebooks were printed and distributed to libraries, shelters and courthouses throughout the state.

The second guidebook, *Domestic Violence, An Arkansas Practical Guide for Attorneys, Judges and Court Clerks*, is intended to provide the Arkansas judiciary and its stakeholders with recommended practices to improve victim and child safety and offender accountability in cases involving domestic violence.

With the guidebooks distributed, Tucci and a committee of Arkansas judges set out to complete their next task: domestic violence bench cards. District Judges received their bench cards along with a comprehensive training on how best to utilize them at the fall conference in September and sets were also made available to circuit judges at the Fall Judicial College. Judges who have yet to receive a set of bench cards and would like them may contact Rebekah Tucci at (501) 410-1900 for more information.



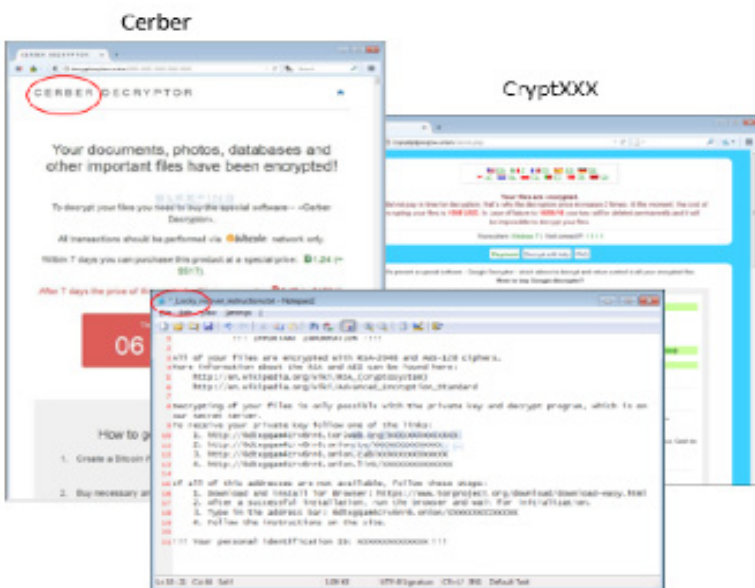
Justice Wynne reviews the guidebooks with Rebekah Tucci at the Reception



Co-authors Melissa Grishman and Rebekah Tucci with Connie Tanner, Director of Court Services

TECHTALK WITH DAIN COUCH, IT SECURITY OFFICER

WHEN RANSOMWARE ATTACKS!



Ransomware has been around for over 10 years now. The form it takes today is usually that of encrypting files and offering the decryption key in exchange for bitcoins. It is becoming more prevalent as the choice for hackers to make easy money on the internet, and it is being incorporated into more forms of attack. At this point, ransomware is primarily spread through malicious emails with no particular target, and data is not stolen.

Generally, the ransoms have been low enough that an average user might opt to pay the ransom (\$300 and less). In recent months, I am aware of 3 Arkansas law offices and 3 Arkansas courts being affected by ransomware.

To the left are screenshots of ransom notices for some popular ransomware. The ransomware variant will usually be identified in the ransom notice. The notices will instruct you on how to buy bitcoins to pay the ransom.

What's New?

Arkansas Court News is looking for stories! Do you know of an event, award, community service project or initiative we should cover? Contact Cara Fitzgerald, Public Education Coordinator, with the 4-1-1! Email: cara.fitzgerald@arcourts.gov

TECHTALK CONTINUED...

Avoiding Ransomware

Avoidance is by far the best option for dealing with ransomware attacks. User awareness is invaluable - and it is free! You can avoid a great majority of ransomware by:

- Avoiding attachments and links in suspicious emails
- Only visiting reputable websites

Blocking Ransomware

There are systems and services available that aim to directly block ransomware if you have the money and resources. You can block out a lot of the threat by filtering web traffic and blocking links, macros, and executables in email.

Preventing Data Loss Using Backups

Many ransomware variants can encrypt files on your computer and any attached resources, like network drives (both mapped and unmapped) and connected backups. Backups should be accomplished offline. For courts with individual computers connected to the internet this can be a regular backup to an external hard drive that is only connected during the backup process. For networked courts this can be network backups to tape. Keep in mind that for networked computers you should be saving your files to network drives for backup purposes. Files saved to your desktop, Documents folders, and other locations on your computer are generally not backed up. Contact your IT department or vendor for questions on how your computers are backed up.

Free Decryptors

The encryption programming to several ransomware variants has been reverse engineered, and free decryptors are available for these variants. In these cases, you can find the decryptor online and use that to recover your data.

Paying Ransomware

You should consider paying the ransom for the ransomware decryptor when you do not have backups, a free decryptor is unavailable, and the encrypted information is of great importance or when the time and effort to recover your resources will cost more than the ransom itself. The ransom notice for the ransomware will provide instructions for purchasing bitcoins and paying the ransom.

Most articles will point out that you might make payment and then not receive the decryption key. There have been cases of such events, however they are attributed to bad programming of the ransomware by the criminals - not withholding the decryption key. Ransomware is a business for criminals. Without providing the decryption, victims will stop paying the ransom, and the business model will collapse. You can be reasonably confident in saving your data by paying the ransom.

The one known exception to this is the recent Ranscam. In this case, the malware notice states that your files have been hidden when they have really been deleted. The notice for Ranscam looks like this:



Without backups, this attack destroys your data. Do not make payment if your screen looks like the one above. Please note that Ranscam is not a top threat and should be a short-lived threat, as it breaks the business model.

If you do not want to pay the ransom and all else fails, save the encrypted files in case a free decryptor becomes available in the future.

After Ransomware

Ransomware generally activates once and then is done, but it may be accompanied by other forms of malware. For example, you may be infected with both ransomware and a program that steals login information at the same time. For this reason, you should always scan and clean your computer after an infection. Wipe and reload the computer if necessary.



Judge Lynn Williams presents an Arkansas Travelers Certificate to Keynote Speaker Dr. Matthew Kleiman at the ACAP Conference in July.

The Arkansas Court Automation Program's Annual Summer Conference was held on July 22 & 23 at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Little Rock. This year, the Administrative Office of the Courts presented its first annual "data quality awards" to Courts that the Office of Research and Justice Statistics determined had excelled in accurate data collection of arrest tracking numbers, proper identification, and juvenile demographic reporting. Diane Robinson, Director of the Office of Research and Justice Statistics, commended the award-winners for their dedication to accurate data collection. "Arrest tracking numbers are important so that convictions can be entered into the Arkansas Crime Information Center database. Law enforcement officers rely on this information, as do schools, nursing homes, and other organizations that require background checks to protect vulnerable citizens." The Office of Research and Justice Statistics works to provide relevant and accessible data to improve the judiciary's efficiency, accessibility and fairness to all. To learn more about the work that they do, be sure to check out the "Focus on Data" column on page 14.

Arrest Tracking Number Reporting

- Clark County Circuit Clerk
- Cleveland County Circuit Clerk
- Faulkner County District Court Clerk
- Grant County Circuit Clerk
- Hot Spring County Circuit Clerk
- Independence County District Court Clerk
- Lafayette County Circuit Clerk
- Logan County Circuit Clerk
- Phillips County Circuit Clerk
- Pike County Circuit Clerk
- Poinsett County Circuit Clerk
- Sevier County Circuit Clerk
- Sharp County Circuit Clerk
- Van Buren County Circuit Clerk



Jessica Bennett, Administrative Court Operations Coordinator, accepts the data quality award for Identity Resolution on behalf of the Little Rock District Court.

Identity Resolution

- Hot Springs District Court Clerk
- Little Rock District Court Clerk
- Saline County Circuit Clerk
- Searcy District Court Clerk
- Washington County Circuit Clerk

Juvenile Demographic Reporting

- Craighead County Circuit Clerk
- Montgomery County Circuit Clerk
- Prairie County Circuit Clerk

Coming Soon!
Photos
from Judiciary
Events on
flickr



COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION



THE PUBLIC RIGHT TO WITNESS CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Canon 1, Rule 1.1 states: A judge shall comply with the law including the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The First Amendment guarantees that certain criminal proceedings are presumptively open to the general public. The United States Supreme Court found in *Richmond Newspapers, Inc., v. Virginia*, 448 U.S. 555, 580 n. 17 (1980), that “historically both civil and criminal trials have been presumptively open.”

People have a constitutional right of access to court proceedings and judges are responsible for ensuring that access is granted. Courts belong to the people, not the officiating judge. There should be very few reasons to close a courtroom to members of the general public.

For all judges overseeing Drug Courts and Veterans’ Treatment Courts or closed domestic relations proceedings, please ensure your staff separates those cases from your open dockets and that your staff understands the public has a right to appear and view any proceedings not specifically closed via statute.

This comment was brought to you by the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission (“JDDC”). For inquiries, or to view the Judicial Code of Conduct, visit the Commission’s website at www.arkansas.gov/jddc.



GRANT KEEPS ARKANSAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATIVE COURT SECURITY TRAINING

Earlier this month, an inmate facing a life sentence opened fire in a courthouse in St. Joseph, Michigan. He was being transported from a holding cell to his arraignment in the county courthouse when he seized a firearm from his transporting officer's holster and fired shots as he attempted to flee. By the time officers regained control of the scene, the gunman was dead, but not before he shot and killed two bailiffs and injured two others.

The tragic scene that unfolded in Michigan was a staunch reminder that courthouses are particularly vulnerable to violent crimes simply by virtue of their central public locations and also the work that is carried out inside. According to the Center for Judicial and Executive Security (CJES), the number of security threats and violence in court buildings has increased dramatically in recent years and continues to rise. Inadequately trained and unprepared court personnel may prove to be easy targets for not only random acts of

violence, but also angry and desperate litigants navigating the legal system.

Security and Emergency Preparedness

This is a threat that Arkansas, according to Pete Hollingsworth, the Director for Security and Emergency Preparedness at the AOC, takes very seriously. In 2007, the legislature passed Act 576 which established Mr. Hollingsworth's position. He was tasked with assisting courts in developing emergency preparedness plans, developing security training for court personnel, and administering state funded grants for security improvements.

Hollingsworth had already developed a 12-hour certification course for court security officers. However, in addition to that classroom based certification course, security officers in Arkansas are required to complete sixteen hours of additional continuing law enforcement training each year. This is a time-consuming

requirement, and there was virtually no online training programs in existence that were sufficient to satisfy the requirement. Accordingly, Hollingsworth collaborated with the National Center for State Courts and obtained a grant from the State Justice Institute to develop a web-based training program that would suit the needs of Arkansas court personnel.

Web-Based Training Modules: the First of their Kind

The original modules were designed to be a refresher of the information court security officers are taught in the more comprehensive 12-hour Certified Court Security Officer course. Mr. Hollingsworth prioritized which units would be converted into the web-based training by polling court security officers and judges to find out what they felt was most useful and necessary. Over the next six months, Mr. Hollingsworth and the National Center for State Courts worked to create an integrated training program designed to train and test skills in preparing for and responding to emergency situations, and in particular: how to respond to an active shooter, using the body as a communication tool, best practices in court security, and judicial threat management.

The end result was impressive. The program which, (spoiler alert), begins with a jarring animation of an active shooter scenario, is both engaging and interactive. Trainees are led through scenarios, their skills are tested with comprehensive quizzes, and the examples mimic real-life situations that have actually occurred around the country. The module even contains hair-raising footage from a courthouse security camera depicting an active shooter as he moved through a courthouse with an assault rifle, seeking out a judge.

Continued on next page...

COURT SECURITY CONTINUED...

New Modules in Development Stage

The AOC was recently awarded a second grant from the State Justice Institute to develop a second set of training modules. The new program will supplement the existing modules and will cover four different topics, including security for in-custody defendants, disguised and hidden weapons, juror security, and sovereign citizens and the threats they pose. While the program is aimed at court security officers, Director Hollingsworth feels it will be helpful to a host of court employees. "Really, anyone who works in a courthouse should sit down and go through the training," Hollingsworth stated. "There is no other online class like it." Indeed, certain courts around the state, such as Pulaski County, have made it a requirement for all court personnel to complete the training.

The new modules will likely be available within the next six months, but the original training program is still available and will continue to be available on the National Center for State Courts website. The best part is, that these trainings are free, and available to anyone, even court personnel outside the state. According to Director Hollingsworth, since the training is essentially one-of-a-kind, it is becoming a springboard for conversations about court security across the country. States are increasingly prioritizing safety and emergency preparedness, and Director Hollingsworth has even been asked by other states to help them develop training programs for their own states using the Arkansas model.

For those interested in completing the training, it can be accessed via the National Center for State Courts website at <https://courses.ncsc.org/course/security>.

SPOTLIGHT on DISTRICT JUDGE CHANEY TAYLOR

Nestled between the foothills of the Ozark Mountains and the banks of the postcard-worthy White River, Batesville makes its claim as the "oldest city in Arkansas." Judge Taylor's District Courthouse is at the very end of Main Street in Batesville, past a dozen or so historic buildings which have lined the street for more than a century. The small but smart-looking fortress is somewhat out of place next to its aging neighbors, an obvious mark of Judge Taylor's commitment to making sure that the court system in Arkansas's oldest city keeps ahead of the curve.

In April, Judge Taylor was elected President of the District Judges Council Board of Directors. We asked him to share a few details about himself for this issue's Judiciary Spotlight.



Judge Chaney Taylor

Born: August 4, 1956

Independence Co. District Judge

**ABA/NHTSA Judicial Outreach
Liaison for Region 7**

**President of Arkansas District
Judges Council**

Years Working for the Judiciary: 11.5

Tell us a little about yourself. Where did you grow up, and where did you go to school?

I was born & raised in Batesville, graduated from Batesville High School in 1974. I am a graduate of the University of Arkansas College of Pharmacy (1981) and the University of Arkansas School of Law (1992). My blood runs Razorback red! Since 1997, I have been married to the former Leah Eastin from Weiner & we have four children: Madison, Sophie, Ty & Trey.

How did you decide that you wanted to be a judge? Did you know from a young age?

After law school, in 1995, I ran for and won a seat at the Arkansas Constitutional Convention proposed by then-Governor Jim Guy Tucker. However, voters did not approve holding the convention, so in essence, I got the job but was not required to do anything.

The following year, in 1996, I ran for a seat in the Arkansas House of Representatives. I did not win that election, but the seat came open in 1998 so I ran again and won. I was re-elected in 2000 and again in 2002, serving a total of six years. I saw first-hand how the wheels of government turn and decided I wanted to run for Independence County District Judge in 2004, when that position came open. From a field of four candidates, I was elected District Judge and have held the office ever since.

What did you do before you became a Judge?

I practiced pharmacy, mostly in a hospital setting. Then, after law school, I practiced law for about twelve years, including the six years mentioned above in the Arkansas General Assembly. The Arkansas General Assembly, per Act 663 of 2007, made the Independence County District Judgeship a full time position, along with 18 others, beginning in 2008, so I am no longer practicing law.

What is your favorite aspect of being a judge?

My favorite aspect of being a judge is (1) ensuring the rule of law, but also (2) protecting the public, and (3) helping people remain, or return to, being productive, law-abiding citizens.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

The most challenging aspect of the job is dealing with drug/alcohol abuse and mental illness. Keeping up with the many technological changes that are constantly occurring is also a challenge.

What do you hope to accomplish as President of the District Judges Council?

What I hope to accomplish as President of DJC is to enhance/improve and/or maintain the integrity of the bench. I hope to do that, in part, first by being a fair and impartial judge, but also by reaching out to the public, speaking to civic clubs, schools and generally educating people about the judiciary system and how we can improve it.

Judge Taylor bikes in his free time and has completed two 100 mile rides.



Judge Chaney Taylor, his wife, Leah, and their four children Madison, Ty, Sophie & Trey.

What is the most significant change you've seen in the judicial branch during your tenure?

It's difficult to cite just one change as the most significant I've seen in the judicial branch during my tenure, but I would say the most significant has been the implementation of Amendment 80, approved by Arkansas voters in 2000. Some of the changes Amendment 80 brought about include non-partisan election of judges, a uniform three-tiered judiciary, expanded district court jurisdiction and increased number of State District Judges.

Another significant development was Act 570 of 2011, which brought sweeping changes to the criminal justice system in Arkansas, including several that directly affected Arkansas District Courts.

And finally, I think the growth of problem-solving specialty courts has also been a significant change in the criminal justice system. I serve on the Act 895 of 2015 Specialty Courts Advisory Committee & people are beginning to recognize these courts as an alternative to incarcerating non-violent offenders who can be rehabilitated and thus proven budget solutions.

What is one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?

The one thing people would be surprised to learn about me is that my wife and I are the parents of 7 year old triplets, Sophie, Ty and Trey. We also have a 15 year old daughter, Madison, who is a big help to us with them. Parenting multiples and a teenager at the same time is quite the adventure!

When I'm not at work, I enjoy spending time at Greers Ferry Lake boating, swimming, water skiing, wakeboarding and tubing with my family. I also love cycling. I have completed two century (100-mile) bike rides in recent years, including the Big Dam Bridge ride. Playing my Gretsch 6120 guitar and listening to music of almost all kinds (rock, rockabilly, country, R&B, big-band swing, jazz, classical) is also a passion. Finally, when I get time, I go to the range for target shooting.

Miss an Issue?

Check out our newsletter archive online at:

<https://www.courts.arkansas.gov/forms-and-publications/newsletters/friends-court>



CONGRATUATIONS TO THE COURT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATES!

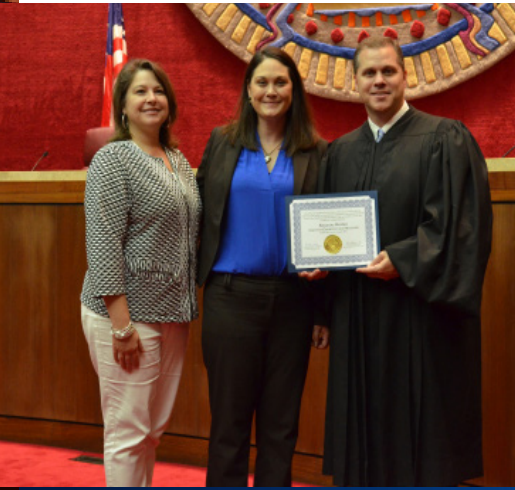
Twenty-one court employees from around the state graduated from the Court Management Program at the Justice Building on Friday, August 26, 2016. The Honorable Shawn Womack presided over the ceremony, which took place in the Supreme Court courtroom. Trial Court Administrator Betty Greene was elected as Class Speaker.

The Arkansas certification program is part of the Court Management Program (CMP) available through the National Center for State Courts' Institute for Court Management. This program provides training specific to court personnel and administration. Participants who successfully complete the program receive a nationally recognized certification.

Those honored at the August 26 graduation include Trial Court Administrators Michelle Caswell, Mayla Hicks, Gary Quinney and Lisa Stewart; Circuit Clerks Deborah Oglesby, Mary Pankey, Betty Greene and Rhonda Warton; District Court Clerks Dionne Carter, Rachel Ellis, Brenda Mashburn, Dena Ross and Rachel Sims; Chief Deputy Circuit Clerk Pam Neel; Circuit Court Administrator Brianne Newton; Court Orders Clerk Rebecca Strodman; Deputy Supreme Court Clerk Rayanne Hinton; and Administrative Office of the Courts Employees Jessica Bowen, Joyce French, Kimberly Scates and LaShanda Jenkins.

To learn more about or apply for the program, please visit <https://courts.arkansas.gov/administration/education/court-management-program>.

CMP GRADUATION CONTINUED...



MEET THE CLASS OF 2018

The class of 2018 is comprised of 1 District Judge Elect, 4 Trial Court Assistants, 3 Circuit Clerks, 10 District Clerks, 7 Court Reporters, and 3 AOC Employees.





APPEALS ON WHEELS



SUPREME COURT HEARS ORAL ARGUMENT IN JUSTICE WYNNE'S HOMETOWN OF FORDYCE, ARKANSAS

On September 22, 2016, the Arkansas Supreme Court traveled to Fordyce to hear oral argument in the case of State v. Jeremy Edward Whalen, CR-15-1067.

Over 400 students from surrounding towns traveled to participate in the event. Among the attendees were students from the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Fordyce Jr High and High Schools, Bearden High School, White Hall High School, El Dorado High School and Rison High School.



In the 14 years since the program began, Appeals on Wheels has traveled to 21 different communities, educating students on the role of the judicial branch. Appeals on Wheels is particularly valuable to smaller towns such as Fordyce, as it provides the opportunity for a much broader range of students to take a look inside appellate practice, which is not often portrayed on television or in movies. The Arkansas Supreme Court makes an effort to travel to a new city during each installment of the program. To inquire further about Appeals on Wheels, visit www.courts.arkansas.gov/courts/supreme-court/appeals-wheels.

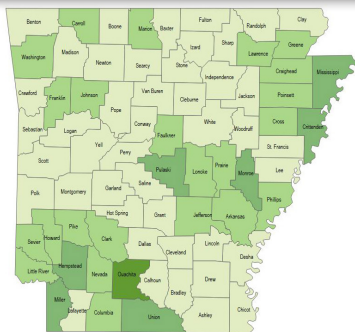
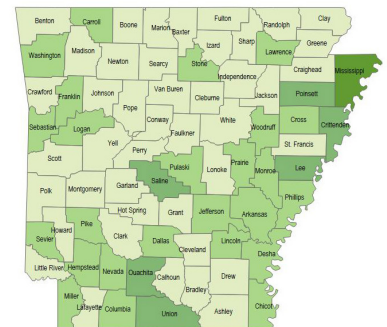
FOCUS ON DATA

A SNAPSHOT OF THE DATA COLLECTED BY THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND JUSTICE STATISTICS

The following charts illustrate the number of felony cases filed in 2015 per 10,000 people. Cases are based on the most serious charge in a criminal case. Darker colors indicate more cases for the level of population.

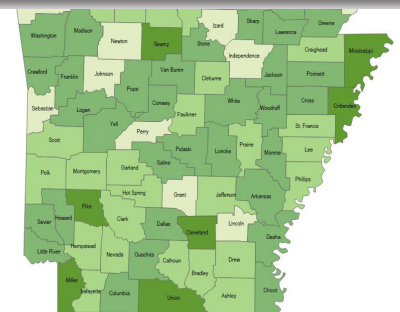
PERSON

If a case includes a felony person charge, that is the most serious charge and the case is categorized as a felony person cases. There may be additional charges, such as felony property charge. Felony person charges include homicide, kidnapping, robbery, assault and battery, sexual offenses, and human trafficking. Mississippi County had the highest rate of felony person cases per 10,000 people (52.1); Montgomery County had the lowest (3.3).



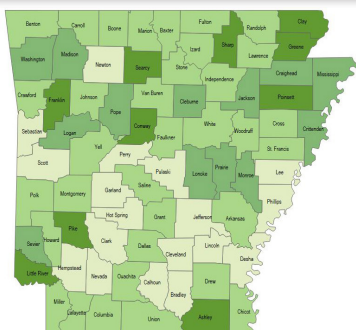
DV

Domestic Violence cases are counted separately from felony person cases. Domestic violence cases include domestic battery/assault on a family member. These are undoubtedly undercounted as many domestic violence cases may be also be charged under one of the felony person charges in the previous category. Four counties reported no domestic violence cases. The highest rate was in Ouachita county, which reported 14.4 per 10,000 people.



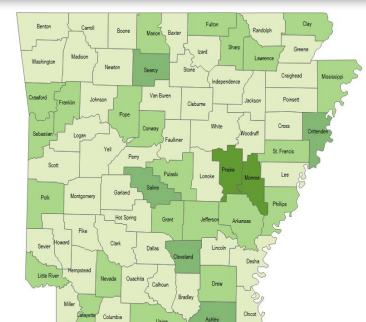
PROPERTY

For cases in which the most serious charge was a felony property offense, the lowest rate was in Sebastian county (3.8 cases/10,000 people) and the highest rate was again in Mississippi County, with 10.1 cases/10,000 people.



DRUGS

Felony drug cases are those cases for which the most serious charge was a felony drug charge. Any case which also included a felony person, felony domestic violence, or felony property offense would be included in the relevant category above and not in this chart. The lowest rate of felony drug cases was found in Calhoun County (1.9/10,000 people) and the highest was in Franklin County, with 88.1/10,000 people.



WEAPONS

Felony weapon cases are those in which a felony weapon offense was charged, but no person, domestic violence, property, or drug offense was charged. Perry County had no felony weapon cases. Monroe County had the highest rate at 10.8 cases/10,000 people.

CALENDAR

FALL
2016

OCTOBER

Fall Judicial College/Judicial Council (Rogers)	12-14
Court Reporters Annual Conference (Rogers)	14-15
Southwest Arkansas CME/CLE Program (Hot Springs)	21

NOVEMBER

Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Training (Little Rock, AR)	10
District Court Clerks Certification 3rd and 4th Districts (Springdale, AR)	18

DECEMBER

New Circuit Judges Orientation (Little Rock, AR)	7-9
Juvenile Court Overview for Mediators (Little Rock, AR)	7
New District Judges Orientation (Little Rock, AR)	14-16