



Friends OF THE COURT

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JUDICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Those elected in **BOLD**. Runoff (R) to be held on November 6, 2012 General Election.
* Denotes incumbent.

Supreme Court

Raymond Rue Abramson
Josephine Linker Hart

Court of Appeals

District 1, Position 2

Richard Lusby
Jeannette Robertson **R**
Phillip Whiteaker **R**

District 2, Position 2

Mitch Cash
Rhonda K. Wood

District 3, Position 2

Niki Cung
Kenneth Hixson

District 4, Position 1

Brandon Harrison
Jake Looney

District 4, Position 2

Mac Glover*

District 5

Robin F. Wynne*

District Court Judges and Clerks Attend Spring Meeting

82 District Judges and 340 District Court Clerks attended their spring meeting in Little Rock in April. Greenwood District Court Clerk, Cheri Mitch, received the Clerk of the Year Award at the annual awards luncheon. 2012-2013 officers for the District Judges Council are President – Alice Lightle/Little Rock, Vice President – Mark Pate/Searcy, Secretary-Treasurer – Van Gearhart/Mountain Home, 1st District Rep. – Chaney Taylor/Batesville, 2nd District Rep. – Amy Brazil/Conway, 3rd District Rep. – Steven Peer/Van Buren, and 4th District Rep. – Reid Harrod/Hamburg.

District Court Clerk Officers for 2012-2014 are President – Debbie Drake/Pine Bluff, First Vice President – Rachel Sims/Fort Smith, Second Vice President – Lindsey Dinwiddie/Bryant, Treasurer – Staci Huber/Arkadelphia, Secretary – Marie Johnson/Mulberry, Historian – Veronica Henry/Fort Smith, Parliamentarian – Dena Ross/Mena, 1st District Rep. – Cynthia McCoy/Stuttgart, 2nd District Rep. – Steven Priddy/Guy, 3rd District Rep. – Jennifer Jones-Lopez/Bentonville, 4th District Rep. – Connie Carman/Dumas, At Large Rep. (1st & 3rd) – Diane Ivey/Lepanto, and At Large Rep. (2nd & 4th) – Kathy Davis/North Little Rock.



2011 Clerk of the Year, Fever McElyea (standing left), presents the 2012 Clerk of the Year Award to Cheri Mitch (right) as outgoing President, Cheryl Spade, looks on.

(See ELECTIONS on page 2)

Circuit Judges

4th Circuit

Madison, Washington

Division 4

Cristi Beaumont **R**

Amy Estes

Bob Lambert **R**

Division 6

Brenda Austin

Mark Lindsay*

6th Circuit

Perry, Pulaski

Division 11, Sub District 6.2

Tjuana Byrd

John Hout **R**

Patti James **R**

Division 16, Sub District 6.2

Morgan “Chip” Welch

Division 17, Sub district 6.2

Mackie M. Pierce*

7th Circuit

Grant, Hot Spring

Division 2

Eddy R. Easley

13th Circuit

Calhoun, Cleveland, Columbia,

Dallas, Ouachita, Union

Division 4

Robin J. Carroll

19th W Circuit

Benton

Division 2

Mark T. Fryauf

Brad Karren

Division 3

Jon Comstock

Tom E. Smith



Court Interpreters Attend National Meeting in Little Rock

The Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (CLAC) held its Annual Business Meeting in Little Rock in April. CLAC has existed for several years as the nationwide interchange of resources and ideas that laid the foundation for standards of Court Interpreter Certification, test development, and reciprocity of information amongst participating states.

Gift bags full of Arkansas products were handed out at registration and made wonderful souvenirs for the 64 attendees comprised of program managers, AOC directors and judges from around the country. Arkansas AOC staff from the Court Interpreter Division, Mara Simmons/Coordinator of Court Interpreter Services, Jason Daniel and Ann Yancey/AOC Staff Spanish Interpreters, Laney Yates/Sign Language Interpreter, and Jessica Bowen/Executive Assistant for the Interpreter Division, coordinated the 4-day meeting.

Welcoming comments were provided by Retired Associate Justice David Newbern, whose 1997 opinion in *Camargo vs. Arkansas* expressed the need for qualified interpreting if a defendant is to receive a fair trial and spurred the initiation of Arkansas's interpreter program in 1999.



JD Gingerich (top left) accepts a plaque on behalf of the AOC from the Consortium. Looking on (l-r): Retired Justice David Newbern, Janica Bisharata, Idaho Rep., and Mara Simmons.



“Appeals on Wheels”
The Justices visited local schools in the area in the afternoon. Pictured is Chief Justice Jim Hannah visiting with Pine Bluff High School students.

Jonesboro, Monticello, Hope, Harrison, Bentonville, Helena, Hot Springs, Blytheville, Texarkana, and again in Fayetteville and Jonesboro. Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution, adopted by vote of the people in 2000, provides that the Supreme Court may meet at such times and places as designated by the Court.

The Arkansas Supreme Court conducted oral arguments in Pine Bluff on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at the Hathaway-Howard Fine Arts Center at UAPB. The oral argument was the 14th occasion in modern times that the Supreme Court has held court outside of Little Rock.

Since 2002, the Supreme Court has held oral arguments in Fayetteville, Fort Smith,

Jonesboro, Monticello, Hope, Harrison, Bentonville, Helena, Hot Springs, Blytheville, Texarkana, and again in Fayetteville and Jonesboro.

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Children in the Courts



Seated together at lunch: (l-r) Judge Earnest Brown, Jr. - 11th W., Retired Judge Thomas Brown - 11th W., Judge Beth Branscum Burgess - 6th, and Judge Mark Fryauf - 19th W.

The Administrative Office of the Courts and the Arkansas Court Improvement Project hosted the annual Children in the Courts Conference May 2-4, 2012 in Little Rock. The conference was attended by numerous juvenile division judges, attorneys, and other professionals interested in issues related to child welfare. There were approximately 400 people registered for the conference. Judge Rita Gruber and Judge Waymond Brown of the Arkansas Court of Appeals and Circuit Judges Wiley Branton, J.W. Looney and Ralph Wilson, Jr. presented sessions on appealing the termination of parental rights, the importance of engaging fathers, keeping kids in school and out of courts, social media, and the effect of domestic violence on children, respectively.

Juvenile Judge Joyce Warren Receives National Honor



Celebrating with Judge Warren are (l-r): Virginia Jordan/Assistant State CASA Coordinator, Connie Hickman-Tanner/Juv. Court Programs Dir., Judge Warren, and Michelle Trulstrup/Program Dir.-Pulaski County CASA.

Joyce Williams Warren of the 6th Judicial Circuit has been selected by the National CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Association as the 2012 Judge of the Year. Pulaski County CASA held a reception for her recently at the Juvenile Justice Complex in Little Rock. Judge Warren will be traveling to Washington D.C. in June to receive the award.

In addition to Judge Warren receiving the honor, Pulaski County CASA will be the recipient of a monetary award from the National CASA organization in Judge Warren's Honor. Congratulations, Judge Warren!

AOC Judicial Education Director to Receive Award

Congratulations to Marty Sullivan, Arkansas Judicial Branch Education Director, who has been selected by the American Bar Association Judicial Division National Conference of Specialized Court Judges to receive its Judicial Education Award. In 1981, the American Bar Association Board of Governors authorized the National Conference of Specialized Court Judges to institute the annual award. The purpose of the award is to recognize a person, institution or judicial education and training entity for successful efforts in providing high quality judicial education and training to judges. Criteria for the honor includes the nature and extent of opportunities provided to judges to receive local, in-state and nationally-based judicial education and training.

Sullivan will be accepting the award at the NCSCJ dinner and awards program in Chicago in August.

In Memory

HONORABLE
THOMAS GLAZE
AND
HONORABLE
JACK GRAVES

The Arkansas Judiciary lost two jurists recently. The Honorable Thomas Glaze, who served on the Arkansas Supreme Court from 1987 - 2008 passed away in March, and the Honorable Jack Graves, circuit judge in the 13th Circuit from 1973 - 1998, passed away in April.

Heartfelt condolences are extended to the families and friends of Justice Glaze and Judge Graves.



New faces in the Judiciary

AOC

Mukesh Patel – Database Administrator

Donald Wilson – Technical Analyst

Official Court Reporter

19th E. (Crow) — **Kellye Smith** replaces Laura Carnahan.

Trial Court Assistants

22nd (Herzfeld) — **Robin Noland** replaces Andrea Pate.

District Court Clerks

Clark County (Amity Department) – **Heather Vaughn** replaces Maurice Hancock.

Lafayette County (Bradley Department) – **Ashlee Watson** replaces Doshie Graves.

Randolph County (Pocahontas Department) – **Jill S. Cagle** replaces Phyllis Jones.

White County (McRae Department) – **Billie J. Curtis** replaces Mary Lynn Claiborne.

Benton County (Cave Springs Dept.) – **Leona Crowe** replaces Thekla Wallis.

Cross County (Parkin Department) – **Doris Jones** replaces Katrina Bohannon.

CALENDAR

June

Spring Judicial College/ Judicial Council Mtg. (Hot Springs) 6-8

CMP Class 14 (Little Rock) 13-15

CMP Class 13 (Little Rock) 20-22

CMP Class 12 (Little Rock) 27-29

August

CMP Class 14 (Hot Springs) 1-3

District Court Clerks Certification (Chief Clerks) (Little Rock) 17

Class 13 (Little Rock) 22-24

CMP Class 12 (Little Rock) 29-31



Friends of the Court

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Address Correction Requested

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are welcome.

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