



# Friends OF THE COURT

PUBLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
Volume 20, Number 5 - March 2013

## Court of Appeals Swears in New Judges



Judge Hixson takes the bench. © Secretary of State



Judge Harrison takes the oath. © Secretary of State

The Arkansas Court of Appeals swore in five new judges on February 15 in the Supreme Court courtroom at the Justice Building. 2013 saw the largest turnover on the Court of Appeals since its creation in 1980.

Judge Robert Gladwin was sworn in as the new chief judge. He was appointed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Hannah. Chief judges are appointed every four years. Judges Robert Gladwin and David Glover were re-elected in the fall and sworn in with their fellow judges.

New to the Court of Appeals bench are: Judge Bill Walmsley, Batesville, who was appointed by Gov. Beebe to complete the unexpired term of Justice Josephine Linker Hart, who was elected to the Supreme Court; Judge Brandon Harrison of Fort Smith, in the Fourth District; Judge Phillip Whiteaker of Lonoke, in the First District; Judge Kenneth Hixson of Fayetteville, in the Third District; and Judge Rhonda Wood of Conway in the Second District.

Current and former members of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; members of the General Assembly; members of the state and federal courts; and family and friends attended and participated in the ceremony.



After being sworn in, new members join the current members of the Court of Appeals. © Secretary of State



## eCitation Comes to Arkansas

Arkansas State Police is now using eCitation, a digital ticketing program, to issue citations in Arkansas District Courts. Troopers are now able to view information about a violator, create a citation, transmit that citation to the court system, and print a copy to give to the offender, all from the patrol car.

The Arkansas eCitation program started in 2009 with the creation of the primary-offense seat belt law, which allowed law enforcement officers to stop vehicles and issue citations if the occupants were not wearing seat belts. Arkansas State Police contracted with the Center for Alabama Public Safety to develop the program and worked with the Administrative Office of the



Arkansas State Trooper Damon Dobson uses new eCitation software to look up driver information during a traffic stop. © William Patterson/Arkansas State Police

Courts to make eCitation work with Contexte, the state's case management system.

eCitation works by allowing a trooper to see information about any violator, just by scanning their driver's license. The trooper issues a citation, which is uploaded to the State Police server. Courts using Contexte then download the citation, assess fines, and set the ticket up for payment using traditional methods or eTraffic, the online payment portal. Training for the new eCitation program involves both classroom sessions and tactical scenario-based sessions for troopers and over the phone training and troubleshooting for district court clerks.

Benefits of the eCitation include time-saving capabilities. Clerks no longer have to enter information from each citation into their system; data transfer replaces data entry. Even for courts not currently using Contexte, the ability to pull digital tickets from the eCitation website makes it easier to do data entry when necessary. Illegible handwriting

is no longer an issue. There are fewer errors because citations are more accurate and complete. The new system also allows troopers to be more efficient when on patrol. Trooper Damon Dobson, who started using eCitation in January, says monthly reports, which used to take 30 minutes, are done in half the time. Traffic stops are quicker, which means each trooper is able to catch more problem drivers.

On December 1, 2012, the eCitation program went live in Malvern, AR. Since then, more troopers have begun to use the program as it continues to go live all over the state, with statewide use expected by the end of 2013.

The transition to the new system has been relatively smooth. Troopers find it easy to use. It helps improve their records and makes court preparation and subpoenas easier. Trooper Dobson says, "A ticket used to take two to three minutes. Now it takes less than a minute to write out and print. It's great," he says, "we should have done this 10 years ago."



Trooper Dobson issues a traffic violation using the eCitation program.

© William Patterson/Arkansas State Police

## Three New Certified Court Interpreters



Newly-certified court interpreters Jivette M. De Jesús Rullán, Melisa Laelan, and Inés Yahaira Fernández Ortíz with Mara Simmons, Court Interpreter Services Director.

Three new certified court interpreters were sworn in on February 28, 2013: Jivette M. De Jesús Rullán, a Spanish language interpreter from Bentonville; Inés Yahaira Fernández Ortíz, a Spanish language interpreter from Springdale; and Melisa Laelan, a Marshallese language interpreter from Springdale. The ceremony, held in the Supreme Court courtroom, was followed by a reception to honor the newly-certified court interpreters. The reception featured a special presentation by Marshallese cultural dancers. Laelan is the first certified Marshallese court interpreter in the country.

Court interpreter services currently employs three certified Spanish interpreters, one certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, and maintains a registry of 35 certified interpreters available for contracting in eight languages, including ASL.

## Trial Court Assistants Meet with Legislators



Trial Court Assistants attend a meeting of the House Judiciary Committee during their annual conference. Front row, left to right: Joyce Morgan, Andrea Hicks, Kay Hux, Vicki Evans, Kim Dodson, Claudette Davis. Second Row: Paula Grider, Bonnie Ridley, Linda Walker, Verna Clark, Debbie Waltermire. Third row: Janette Pedigo, Sherri Colbert, Deseria Blair, Dawn Thompson. © Joyce Morgan

## Limited English Proficiency Program

by Andrew Walchuk, AOC Policy Analyst

Some of you may have noticed a new acronym making its way into the state courts and wondered to yourself, “What in the world is LEP?” It stands for Limited English Proficiency, and it describes anyone who cannot communicate in English, either foreign language speakers or the deaf and hearing impaired.

The LEP community in Arkansas has tripled over the past two decades and now comprises more than 7 percent of the state’s total population. In the last year, the courts have had more than 7,000 requests for interpreters. Serving this growing population presents an enormous challenge to our courts. Recognizing this, the AOC adopted the new LEP Plan for the state courts that details the needs of the LEP community and the resources available through the office of Court Interpreter Services. In addition, the Governor has signed Act 237 of 2013, legislation that lays out the requirements for interpreters and ensures that no LEP individual is denied the services of an interpreter.

How can court personnel assist those who do not speak English? The AOC has developed basic guides for judges, clerks, attorneys, and law enforcement for working with interpreters and LEP individuals. We also provide an English-Spanish glossary for the translation of courthouse signs, language identification cards, and a poster advertising interpreter services in six languages. These resources can all be found in the Court Interpreter Services section of the Arkansas Judiciary website.



## New Faces in the Judiciary

### AOC

**Corey Gilmore** - Public Education Coordinator

**Lee Lowe** - Project Manager

**Mary Beth Luibel** - CASA Director

### Office of Professional Programs

**Nancy Givens** - Director

### Circuit Court Judges

4th, Div. 2 - **Cristi Beaumont** is now a Drug Court Judge

23rd, Div. 3 - **Sandy Huckabee** is now a Drug Court Judge

### Trial Court Assistants

20th Cir. (Brazil) - **Christy Lute** replaces Linda Ahlen.

### Official Court Reporters

11th W. Cir. (Brown) - **Janis Harbuck** replaces Pat Jester.

### District Court Judges

Lawrence County - **Jason Marshall** appointed to all departments.

Yell County - **Kristin Clark** appointed to both Dardanelle and Danville Districts.

### County Clerks

Craighead County - **Kade (Jacob) Holliday** replaces Nancy Nelms.

### Prosecuting Attorneys

7th District - **Stephen Shiron** replaces Eddy Easley.

13th District - **Ian Vickery** replaces Robin Carroll.

### District Court Clerks

Bradley County/Warren Dept. - **Sandra Wilson** replaces Joan Taunton.

Crittenden County/Marion - **Kami Soileau** replaces Nyree Moore.

Dallas County/Fordyce Dept. - **Rita Ford** replaces Sandra Wilson.

Desha County/McGehee Dept. - **Leslie**

**Hornaday** replaces Connie Moss.

Faulkner County/Conway Dept. - **Elizabeth Thomas**.

Johnson County/Lamar Dept. - **Whitney**

**Morgan** replaces Ashley Goodman.

Lee County/Marianna Dept. - **Melanie Jones** replaces Vickey Thompson.

Logan County/Booneville Dept. - **Mary F. Jones**.

Lonoke County/Carlise Dept. - **Jennifer Wolfe** replaces Beth Plafcan.

Marion County/Bull Shoals Dept. - **Debra**

**Chorba** replaces Kim Williams.

Monroe County/Clarendon - **Beth Lowman** replaces Amanda Standridge.

Perry County/Perryville Dept. - **Cindy Lee** replaces Barbara Gibson.

Phillips County/Marvell Dept. - **Jennifer**

**Williams** replaces Tonya Sweatt.

Pope County/Pottsville Dept. - **Tabby**

**Lechtenberg** replaces Jeff Fryer.

Scott County/Waldron Dept. - **Teaira Yancey** replaces Jean Billings.

White County/Beebe Dept. - **Misty Perkins** replaces Crystal Masterson.

## CALENDAR

### April

Candidate Assessment Exam 13  
(Springdale)

State Drug Court Conference 18-19  
(Hot Springs)

Continuing Mediation 23  
Education for Access &  
Visitation Program Mediators  
(Little Rock)

District Judges Spring 25-26  
College/District Court  
Clerks Annual Meeting  
(Rogers)

### May

Children in the Courts 9  
(Little Rock)

Candidate Assessment Exam 11  
(Little Rock)



**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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