



Friends of the Court

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Action Continues To Improve Arkansas Court Security and Emergency Preparedness

On July 19, 2007 the Arkansas Supreme Court issued a Per Curiam opinion which adopted another of the recommendations of the A.O.C. Taskforce on Court Security and created a new Supreme Court Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness. The new committee will be a permanent committee of the Supreme Court, will replace the Taskforce, and will be responsible for evaluating and recommending uniform state policies and guidelines on court security and emergency preparedness and for providing assistance to local courts in drafting and implementing local plans. The committee will also review local plans which are to be submitted by every county to the Supreme Court by December 31, 2007 and oversee the distribution of local security and emergency preparedness grants which were approved by the 2007 General Assembly. Members of the committee are:

- Circuit Judge Jim Hudson of Texarkana (Chair) (2010)
- Sheriff Keith Bowers of Batesville (2010)
- Mr. Larry Burris, Chief Court Bailiff, Fort Smith (2008)

- Hon. Sonny Cox, Arkansas County Judge (2008)
- Mr. Eddie Davis, Arkansas Supreme Court Police Chief (2009)
- Circuit Judge Tim Fox of Little Rock (2008)
- Ms. Pat Hannah, Arkansas Worker's Compensation Commission (2009)
- Hon. Mike Jacobs, Johnson County Judge (2010)
- Mr. David Maxwell, Director, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (2010)
- Mayor James Morgan of White Hall (2008)
- Ms. Vicki Rima, Garland County Circuit Clerk (2008)
- District Judge David Saxon of Fort Smith (2010)
- Circuit Judge Hamilton Singleton of Camden (2009)
- Mayor Tommy Swain of Jacksonville (2009)
- District Judge Chaney Taylor of Batesville (2009)

In addition the Supreme Court requested the Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Arkansas Senate to each appoint one member of their bodies to serve as a member of the committee.

Mr. Bernard L. "Pete" Hollingsworth has been appointed by the A.O.C. to serve as the Director of Court Security and Emergency Preparedness. He will represent the judicial branch on all matters involving court security and emergency preparedness, provide staff assistance to the Supreme Court Committee and be available to provide consultation and assistance to judges, court staff, and each of the local security committees.

The A.O.C. has also contracted with the National Center for State Courts to provide a one-day training for the co-chairs of each of the local committees. The training will include the provision of "templates" for the drafting of a local security and emergency preparedness plan which can be used by each of the committees to complete the requirements which have been adopted by the Supreme Court. This meeting will be followed by four regional meetings which will provide similar assistance to all of the members of the local committees. Dates are currently being set for the meetings and further information will be made available by the A.O.C.

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Part of the report which will be prepared by each county will include a needs assessment which notes the areas where the local courts are unable to meet the Guidelines which were adopted by the Supreme Court. These reports will provide the basis for the request for grant funding approved by the 2007 General Assembly to assist local governments with security and emergency preparedness needs. The grants program will be implemented in early 2008.



Bernard L. "Pete" Hollingsworth
Director, Court Security and
Emergency Preparedness

Visits to the Justice Building

With the 2007 - 2008 school term fast approaching, a reminder that history, civics, government students, etc., and their teachers all around the State are invited to visit the Justice Building in Little Rock either for a session on the courts in Arkansas and/or to observe an oral argument before the Supreme Court.

For further information, contact: Karolyn Bond, Public Information Officer, AOC, #(501) 682-9400
karolyn.bond@arkansas.gov



Redesigned Supreme Court Website Goes Live

The web team proudly announces a new and improved website for the Arkansas Supreme Court at <http://courts.state.ar.us>.

In addition to having a professionally designed appearance, the new website offers an improved infrastructure that allow the web team to rapidly create custom programming solutions for the different departments of the court, and offer more comprehensive services to the people of Arkansas.

The new navigation structure is designed to help find information within three clicks. In addition to this, a new beta service has been created called "Department Search" in the left navigation pane of the web. This intelligent search based upon database queries helps viewers to find departments or links that correspond to their needs. Instead of getting hundreds of results (which happens many times in search fields that are based upon a full text search of the web), the department search is designed with the goal of giving only a couple of suggested links.

The web team can see a listing of search queries each morning, and adjust the search database to help viewers find the information they are looking for if the Supreme Court website doesn't offer the information. Calls to



Supreme Court employees for marriage licenses, for example, should drop off because this new functionality sends the web viewers to another source for the information they need.

Exciting new projects currently under development include the e-filing project to allow lawyers to file their briefs electronically. Another project going into testing soon will allow people doing an Attorney search to see what disciplinary actions an attorney has received, and actually be able to read the court documentation on the cases. Citizens looking for mediators will be able to take advantage of a new search that will allow them to look in their city or county, and also be able to look at the mediators' qualifications.

New projects are being added weekly, and the web team is excited to have the server programming capabilities needed to give the courts, the citizens of Arkansas and other viewers greater and faster access to data.



Suggestions, comments or questions concerning the new website may be directed to the Web Coordinator, Jack

Garvey (jack.garvey@arkansas.gov), or the Asst. Web Coordinator, Michael Tobias (Michael.tobias@arkansas.gov).

New Judicial Appointments Take Bench July 1st

Five new circuit judgeships were created by the 2007 General Assembly, with three of them becoming effective on July 1, 2007. Governor Beebe has appointed Judge Cindy Thyer in the 2nd circuit, Judge David Clarke in the 20th circuit, and Judge Barbara Elmore in the 23rd circuit.



Judge Cindy Thyer



Judge David Clarke



Judge Barbara Elmore

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF DISTRICT COURT PILOT PROJECTS

A celebration and congratulatory feat was held July 27th for the District Courts in the State that participated as pilot project courts for the Arkansas Court Automation Program. Four district courts took on the task of training, learning and implementing the new automated system for district courts in the State. Conway, Malvern, Carlisle and Mt. Ida court clerks were honored for their hard work and dedication over the last five years.



Conway Clerks gathered together at the celebration. Seated: (l. to r.) Mary Erbach, Eva Tilley and Roxanne Ruple. Standing: (l. to r.) Jackie Storey, Nicole Schichtl, Vickie Wright, Virginia Dodgen, Carol Fletcher, Corliss Adams, Amanda Wilson, Cindy Hicks, and Melba Mullins.

Malvern, Carlisle, and Mt. Ida clerks pose with ACS personnel and Tim Holtthoff, Court Information Services Director. Seated: Melba Russell/Malvern, Frances Bailey/Malvern and Fever McElyea/Carlisle. Standing: Kenneth Wilson/ACS, Pam Kidder/Malvern, Jay Tilton/ACS, Phil Hatton/ACS, Tim Holthoff, Spencer Parrott/ACS, Tara Walker/Carlisle, Tina Wilson and Treva Lambert/Mt. Ida.



Chief Clerks for Conway, Malvern, Carlisle and Mt. Ida show off a cake baked in celebration of their courts' achievements. (l. to r.) Donna Clifton/Conway, Melba Russell/Malvern, Fever McElyea/Carlisle, and Treva Lambert/Mt. Ida.



New Faces in the Judiciary

Circuit Judges

2nd Circuit - **Cindy Thyer** is the new judge.

4th Circuit - **Gary Carson** replaces Mike Mashburn.

20th Circuit - **David Clarke** is the new judge.

23rd Circuit - **Barbara Elmore** is the new judge.

Circuit Clerks

Arkansas County - **Debra Duncan** replaces Tommy Sue Keffer.

Jefferson County - **Christian Trey Ashcraft** replaces Helen Bradley.

District Clerks

Forrest City - **Helen Rhodes** replaces Geneva Vance.

City Clerks

Austin - **Charity Dulin** replaces Yvonne Doney.

Lakeview (Baxter County) - **Rebecca Barton** replaces Susan Sellars.

Palestine - **Christie Gustavus** replaces Dana Holt.

District Judges

Little Rock/Div. Three - **Alice Lightle** replaces David Stewart.

Lonoke - **Camille Williams Bennett** replaces Barbara Elmore.

Trial Court Assistants

2nd Circuit (Thyer) - **Belinda Penn** is the TCA.

11th W. Circuit (Jones) - **Latosha Dunlap** replaces Sylvia Knight.

20th Circuit (Clarke) - **Andi McNeil** is the TCA.

23rd Circuit (Elmore) - **Deseria Hall** is the TCA.

Official Court Reporters

2nd Circuit (Thyer) - **Laura Bowen** is the Court Reporter.

6th Circuit (Humphrey) - **Elizabeth Eckford** replaces Gloria Nickles.

20th Circuit (Clarke) - **Gloria Nickles** is the Court Reporter.

23rd Circuit (Elmore) - **Krystal Jones** is the Court Reporter.

AOC

Judicial Education Specialist - **Ben Barham**

Data Conversion Programmer - ACAP - **Terry Bobo**

Help Desk - ACAP - **Michial Armstrong**

Jury Technical Specialist - **Bonnie Kenney**



Friends of the Court

Administrative Office of the Courts
Justice Building/625 Marshall
Little Rock, AR 72201

CALENDAR

September

District Judges Fall College(Hot Springs) **27-29**

CASA Conference (Little Rock) **13-15**

Ad Litem Qualification Training (Little Rock) **24-26**

October

Fall Judicial College/ Judicial Council Meeting (Fort Smith) **17-19**

Court Reporter's Conf. (Fort Smith) **19-20**

November

Juvenile Div. Judges Conf. (Heber Springs) **7-9**

District & City Court Clerks Certification (1st and 3rd Districts) (Springdale) **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. Karolyn Bond, Editor.