

Friends of the Court

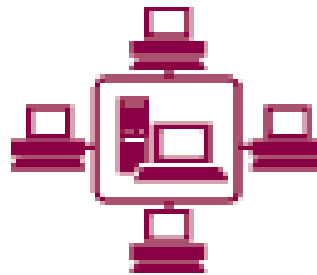
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Appellate E-filing Pilot Program Begins in the State

A *per curiam* order issued by the Arkansas Supreme Court on June 21, 2007 has set into motion a voluntary pilot program for the filing of electronic briefs in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. An exploratory committee was established to study the implementation of e-filings at the appellate level. The committee was chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Paul Danielson and included Court of Appeals Judges Price Marshall and Wendell Griffen, Circuit Judge Willard Proctor/Sixth Division Circuit Court-Pulaski and Perry Counties, Les Steen/Clerk of the Supreme Court, Jack Garvey, Web Coordinator/Administrative Office of the Courts, Tim Holthoff, Court Information Services Director/Administrative Office of the Courts, and David Danielson/attorney. Numerous states across the nation have begun an e-filing system at their appellate level. E-filings provide instant submission, allow court personnel to view the briefs online and can eventually assist in the problem with storage of paper files. Ultimately, electronic filing will reduce costs to all parties involved, including the taxpayers and the attorneys.

Working software has been created by the Web Coordinator's Div. of the AOC that will allow attorneys to register online. Once attorneys register, they will be approved by the Clerk's Office and can then begin to submit their briefs electronically to the Supreme Court



and Court of Appeals. With the new software system, appellate level judges, justices and their staff, if they choose to do so, will be able to view the briefs online as opposed to actual paper copies. Participating attorneys will submit their briefs in a pdf format and there will be a word search capability in the system for those who are viewing the briefs online. During this pilot program, the e-filings of briefs will be in addition to and not a replacement of the paper copies that are required to be filed by court rules.

In addition, electronic filings will not be considered in determining whether a brief is timely filed under the Rules of Appellate Procedure. The complete Standards for the Pilot Program to Evaluate the Use of Electronic Briefs can be viewed by clicking the "Information" link at https://courts.state.ar.us/e_filing.cfm

The pilot program has begun with volunteer testing of the system. From September 1st until the end of the December there will be limited pilot project testing. The trial period, using volunteer attorneys, will be used to work out problems that may arise as the new system is implemented. After the pilot test period, it is anticipated that a full roll out of the program will begin.

For further information, contact either Jack Garvey, Web Coordinator/AOC, jack.garvey@arkansas.gov or Michael Tobias, Assistant Web Coordinator/AOC, michael.tobias@arkansas.gov. (501) 682-9400.

Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Develops in the State

The first meeting for the Supreme Court Committee on Court Security and Emergency Preparedness was held at the Justice Building on August 24th. The Committee Chair is Circuit Judge Jim Hudson/8th South Judicial Circuit. That committee meeting was followed on September 6th by a Court Security and Emergency Preparedness workshop held in North Little.

Chief Justice Jim Hannah and Governor Mike Beebe addressed the group on the 6th. Both spoke of the serious need to make positive changes regarding court security and preparedness.

They highlighted the need to make the courts safer for the general public as well as for court personnel.

Close to eighty participants from different counties and different professional backgrounds came together. Circuit and county judges, mayors, sheriffs, court clerks, court bailiffs and members of county emergency management teams attended. The key presenters were from the National Center for State Courts. The National Center representatives provided information about other states where court security programs have been developed and implemented.

A discussion was held concerning ACT 576 and what the Supreme Court *per curiam* meant to each county. A specific time line with steps to be completed by the counties participating was created. The requirements were broken into four parts and each part has a different deadline. 1st. Facility Assessment- due Jan. 1 2008. 2nd. Court Security Plan- due April 1 2008. 3rd. Emergency Response Plan- due July 1 2008. 4th. Continuity of Operation Plan- due Jan. 1 2009. The plans by the counties will be called the Security and Emergency Preparedness Plan (SEPP).



Several members of the Supreme Court Committee on Court Security and Emergency Preparedness before their meeting in August: (Left to right) 13th Circuit Judge Hamilton Singleton, Independence County Sheriff-Keith Bowers, Supreme Court Police Chief-Eddie Davis, Sebastian County Chief Court Bailiff-Captain Larry Burris, and Garland County Circuit Clerk-Vicki Rima.

District Judges Hold Fall Conference

District Judges met in Hot Springs September 27-29th for their Fall Conference. Pictured is the District Judge Council for 2007 - 2008.

Seated (l. to r.) Hon. Butch Hale/Sherwood, Hon. John Finley/Ashdown, Hon. Mike Robinson/Benton, Standing (l. to r.) Hon. Dan Stidham/Paragould, Hon. Mike Irwin/Heber Springs, Hon. Rusty Porter/West Helen, and Hon. Doug Schrantz/Rogers.

Not pictured is Hon. Kim Bridforth/Pine Bluff.



FAULKNER COUNTY TEEN COURT ESTABLISHED

Judge Rhonda Wood/20th Circuit-4th Division and her staff began putting together last spring a Teen Court program for Faulkner County youth. The planning culminated in a program ready to begin this past August, with Chief Justice Jim Hannah swearing in 35 Teen Court volunteers on August 30th at the Faulkner County Courts Building. Teen Court volunteers are asked to be role models for their peers in the community. The Faulkner County teens completed 20 hours of training during the summer on the justice system, drug/alcohol abuse, victim impact, court proceedings, and legal education.

At the ceremony, Judge Wood told those attending that the **Chief Justice Hannah swears in Faulkner County teen court members.**



AOC Employee Chairs NASJE Education Committee

Marty Sullivan, Judicial Educator for the Administrative Office of the Courts has been selected by his fellow NASJE (National Association of State Judicial Educators) members to serve as Chair of the Education Committee for the next NASJE Conference to be held in Philadelphia in August, 2008. The National Association of State Judicial Educators is a non-profit organization, founded in 1975, that strives to

recidivism rate for juvenile offenders participating in a teen court has proven to be decidedly lower than for those who are processed through a traditional juvenile court program.

Teen Court is an option for juvenile defendants to admit to the charge and appear before their peers who take on the roles of defense attorney, prosecuting attorney, clerk, bailiff and jurors for a sentencing hearing. Possible outcomes for teens appearing in Teen Court can be probation, counseling, tutoring, educational workshops, community service, restitution, and written apologies.

improve the justice system through judicial branch education.

The purpose of the Education Committee is to plan and implement the educational components of the association's annual conference. The Education Committee makes recommendations to the Board regarding educational sessions, faculty and education related costs for the conference.



Judge Howard Templeton

Hon. Howard Templeton, 2nd Judicial Circuit, passed away September 3, 2007. Judge Templeton took the bench as a chancellor and probate judge in January of 1977 and remained on the bench until his retirement in 2001. He served as President of Judicial Council for a term and after his retirement served as a special judge on assignments.

The Judicial community extends heartfelt condolences to Judge Templeton's family and friends.

Judge Fox First in Arkansas to Receive Judicial Studies Degree

Judge Tim Fox/6th Judicial Circuit has received a master's degree in judicial studies through a program collaborated between the University of Nevada, Reno, The National Judicial College, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Fox is the first judge in Arkansas to obtain this degree. The curriculum encourages students to become more proficient in the diagnosis and analysis of problems through the use of techniques developed by the social, behavioral and natural sciences, as well as the humanities.

(See Fox last page.)



New Faces in the Judiciary

AOC

Judicial Education Specialist - **Ben Barham**.
Data Conversion Programmer - ACAP - **Terry Bobo**.
Help Desk - ACAP - **Michial Armstrong**.
Training Manager - ACAP - **Rebecca Sterling**.
Assistant Oracle DBA - ACAP - **Ross Douglas**.
Case Management System Technical Analyst - ACAP - **Lars Hultqvist**.
Jury Functional Specialist - **Bonnie Kenney**.
Computer Support Specialist - **Jimmy Don Page**.
Assistant Website Coordinator - **Michael Tobias**.
Ad Litem Coordinator - **Renia Robinette** job sharing with Teri Hays.

County Officials

Jefferson County - **Flora Cook** replaces Annette Branch as County Clerk.

(Fox continued)

To obtain the Master of Judicial Studies degree, a student must complete a total of 32 credits, which is comprised of 26 coursework credits and six thesis credits.

Congratulations to Judge Fox on his accomplishment!



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.

City Clerks

Austin - **Charity Dulin** replaces Yvonne Doney.
Lakeview (Baxter County) - **Rebecca Barton** replaces Susan Sellars.
Palestine - **Christie Gustavus** replaces Dana Holt.

District Court Clerks

Murfreesboro - **Patricia Robbins** replaces Linda Twiley.

Court Reporters

6th Cir. (Smith) - **Ranaye Cameron** replaces Krystal Jones.
6th Cir. (Humphrey) - **Amanda Poe** replaced Gloria Nickles.
14th (Webb) - **Ralenn McBee** replaces Karen Shelton.

Trial Court Assistants

12th (Cox) - **Kim Dodson** replaces Ramona Stokes.

CALENDAR

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**

February

District & City Court Clerks Certification (2nd and 4th Districts) (Hot Springs) **15**

District Court Officers (Hot Springs) **21-22**



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