

Friends OF THE COURT

Volume 16, Number 4
January, 2009

Published by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Appellate Courts Conduct Swearing In Ceremonies

The week of January 5th, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals held swearing in ceremonies. Having been re-elected in 2008, Chief Justice Jim Hannah and Associate Justice Paul Danielson were sworn in for new eight year terms on the Supreme Court.



The Court of Appeals held swearing in ceremonies for five judges. Judge Larry D. Vaught was sworn in as the new Chief Judge. In addition, Judges Rita Williamson Gruber, Courtney Hudson Henry, Waymond M. Brown, and M. Michael Kinard took the oath of office.



Justice Robert Brown (right) congratulates Chief Justice Hannah after his swearing in for a new term.



Justice Paul Danielson and his wife, Booneville District Court Judge Betsy Danielson.



Court of Appeals Judge Robert Gladwin (left), Sheila Vaught, and Court of Appeals Chief Justice Larry Vaught.

Hot Spring County First Circuit Court To Use Statewide Case Management System

In December, the Hot Spring County Circuit Court became the first Arkansas circuit court to use the new statewide case management system. Hot Spring County also became the first county in the State to have both the district and circuit courts on the system, the district court having gone online in 2007. Hot Spring County Circuit Clerk and County Clerk, Sue Jones and Mary Ann Walters, respectively, have been instrumental in managing cases electronically and taking advantage of the latest technology in justice integration. In another historic first, Hot Spring County will be implementing an integrated imaging system provided by D.I.S.C. Imaging Systems that allows clerks to retrieve images through the system at their desktops, as opposed to having to retrieve paper files.

In June 2002, the Administrative Office of the Courts purchased a statewide software license from ACS Government Services for its Contexte case management system. In addition to case management, the software license includes a jury man-

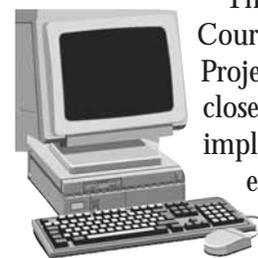
agement system, an in-court processing module, an online traffic ticket payment module, and a public access component. After customizing the software for Arkansas courts, pilot implementation began in district courts in 2005. The latest customizations were developed for circuit court and Hot Spring County will be piloting the system for the circuit courts in the state.

Circuit Judges Phillip Shirron and Chris Williams are making significant contributions to standardizing state court forms, reports, and business processes. From the project's inception they have been deeply involved in making sure the new system satisfies the needs for all the courts in the state. Judge Williams has served as a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Automation which serves as a steering committee for the automation project. Hot Spring County District Court Judge Sherry Burnett is a current member of this committee, and Circuit Clerk Sue Jones, a recent appointee to the automation committee, has served as a project Core

Team member since 2002. "When I took office, one of my main goals was to bring modern technology to the clerk's office at minimal expense to the county. This new system is going to be a tremendous time saver and will help us improve service to our customers," said Jones.

The ultimate goal of the automation project is to improve public safety and to improve and promote public confidence in the judiciary by making accurate, complete, and timely court information available to the courts, justice agencies, and the public by providing a statewide court case management system to all Arkansas courts.

Juror Software Updated



The Arkansas Court Automation Project is one step closer to the goal of implementation of eJuror with the newest version

release of JUROR Version 11. The Juror software program has been completely updated and includes improved menu and button layouts.

Version 11 was placed in the hands of end users on January 4, 2009. There are 47 courthouse locations using Version 11. With the new addition of "time," the Juror software is capable of meeting the time and date processing needed by the trial courts. Upon request from trial judges, circuit clerks, and trial court assistants, additional capabilities of the software can be studied and implemented when possible.



(L. to R.) Seventh Circuit Judge Chris Williams, Hot Spring County Circuit Clerk Sue Jones, and Chief Justice Jim Hannah.

(continued)



Juror Software *(continued)*

Version 11 also contains the basic structure to build eJuror. eJuror will allow jurors and potential jurors to interact with the circuit courts over the Internet. It will be deployed and maintained for the courts by AOC Internet servers.

The state's circuit courts benefit from this centralized system because the State of Arkansas has licensed the application and the database software on behalf of the courts. The state is also responsible for the on-going costs for servers that back-up court information in the event of a courthouse disaster.

For further information about the Juror software, contact Susan Yarbrow, Project Manager/ACAP, Administrative Office of the Courts, # 1-800-950-8221.

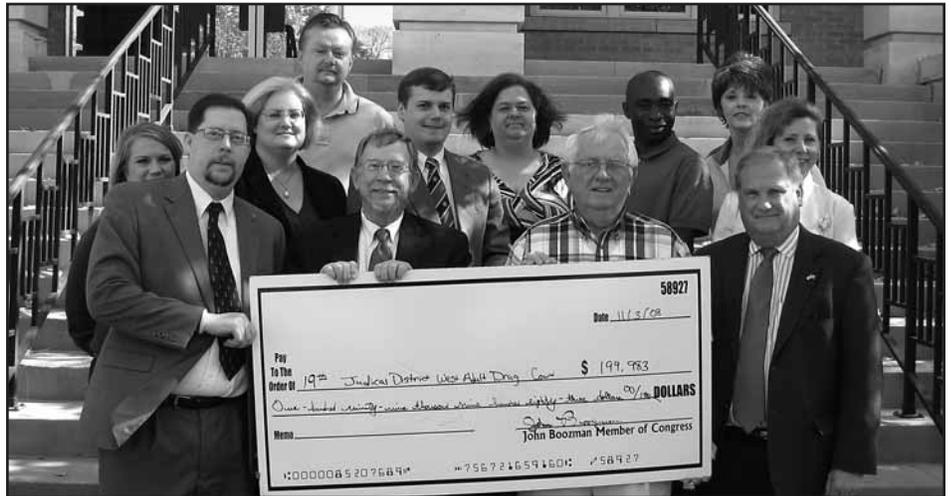
Batesville District Court Creating DWI Court

Batesville District Court Judge Chaney Taylor has created a DWI Court Team (prosecutor, defense attorney, community supervisor, probation officer, law enforcement, evaluator and treatment). Additionally, he has applied for and received a travel grant for training from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which is administered through the Arkansas State Police Highway Safety Office. (Judge Taylor's team is applying for a federal DWI Court implementation grant as well.)

His team has been accepted into a 3-1/2 day DWI Court training seminar which will be held in Newport Beach, California, March 9-12, 2009. After attending the training seminar, their goal is to have a DWI Court operating in Independence County before August 1, 2009. In addition to the formal training the

(See DWI Court on page 4)

19th West Circuit Drug Court Receives Grant



Judge Jay Finch (front row/2nd from left) and his Drug Court Team display a replica of their check from the Bureau of Justice.

The 19th West Judicial District Drug Court recently received a Drug Court Discretionary Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for expansion of their current program. The grant award of \$199,983 will allow the drug court in Benton County to serve more clients, as well as provide more services. The team will be expanded by two members: a counselor, and an administrative assistant. The additional counselor will allow the program to eventually serve at least 120 clients. The administrative assistant will work with the three counselors to maintain information on program statistics such as recidivism, inpatient treatment and dual diagnosis.

A family education component will be implemented to help the client support network better understand addiction and recovery. The

counselors will be able to meet with clients individually on a more frequent basis, and since Benton County Drug Court currently has a licensed mental health professional on the staff, additional mental health services can be added, such as services to those with dual diagnosis, without having to add to the number of professionals involved in treatment. Lastly, the staff will be able to attend the 2009 National Drug Court Conference in June. The team will use this as an opportunity to learn new and better ways to support clients in their journey to recovery.

Judge Jay Finch stated "Drug Court, more than any other court belongs to the community, because we help people become healthy members of the community and make the community better."

Fifteen Judges Retire as of January 1st

Fourteen circuit judges and one appellate judge retired as of January 1, 2009. Retiring Circuit Judges are Harvey Yates, Baird Kinney, Rice Van Ausdall, John Langston, Ted Capeheart, Robert Vittitow, Roger Logan, John Harkey, Stephen Choate, Bill Mills, Tom Keith, Robert Garrett, and Lance Hanshaw. On the appellate level, Court of Appeals Judge Sam Bird retired from the bench as well.

A sincere thank you to all of them for their dedication to the judiciary throughout their judgeships, and a hearty happy retirement to you all!



DWI Court *(continued)*

DWI Court Team will receive at the California training in March, Judge Taylor and two of his staff will be going to Springfield, MO in February for informal observation of a DWI court there. They hope to learn as much as they can in Springfield in order to give added meaning to the California training.

Judge Taylor stated, "We believe this will be beneficial to our local community and to the citizens of Arkansas. DWI Courts were established to protect public safety and to reduce recidivism by attacking the root cause of impaired driving - alcohol and substance abuse. The mission of sobriety and DWI Courts is to hold offenders accountable for their actions, bring about behavioral changes that end recidivism, stop the abuse of alcohol, protect the public, and to educate the citizenry as to the benefits of DWI Court for the communities they serve."



Ozark National Forest Barn in Winter

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.

CALENDAR

February

District and City Court Clerks **13**
Certification - 2nd and 4th Districts
(Little Rock)

District Court Officers **19-20**
(Hot Springs)

March

Trial Court Assistants **5-6**
Conference (Little Rock)

April

Drug Court Conference **15-17**
(Little Rock)

District Judges **23-24**
Spring College

District Court Clerks Annual Mtg.
(Hot Springs)

June

Spring Judicial College- **10-12**
Judicial Council Meeting
(Hot Springs)

ADR-2009 Basic Mediation **15-19**
(Little Rock)

August

District Court Clerks **14**
Certification-Chief Clerks
(Little Rock)

ADR-2009 Family **19-21**
Mediation
(Little Rock)

September

District Judges Fall College **24-26**
(Eureka Springs)



Friends of the Court

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

Address Correction Requested