



# Friends OF THE COURT

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## Former Supreme Court Justices Honored

The Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society sponsored a reception and dinner at the Governor's Mansion in September to honor former Arkansas Supreme Court Justices. Senator David Pryor introduced Senator Dale Bumpers as the featured speaker for the evening. Judge Jim Spears, President of the Historical Society, served as Master of Ceremonies. The timing of the dinner was to correspond with the beginning of the Supreme Court's new 2009-2010 term.

The Chief Justices being honored included: Richard Adkisson, W.H. "Dub" Arnold, Webster Hubbell, Brad Jesson, Jack Holt, Jr., and Betty Dickey. Associate Justices being honored were Conley Byrd, Robert Dudley, Tom Glaze, Steele Hays, Darrell Hickman, James Johnson, Richard L. Mays, David Newbern, John Purtle, Lavenski Smith, John Stroud, and Ray Thornton.



(L. to R.) Retired Chief Justice Jack Holt, Jr., his daughter, Candace Chappell, Retired Justice Robert Dudley, and former Chief Justice Betty Dickey.



(L. to R.) Kimball Stroud, with her father, former Justice and retired Court of Appeals Chief Judge John Stroud, Justice Paul Danielson and Court of Appeals Chief Judge Larry Vaught.



(L. to R.) Former Chief Justice Brad Jesson and Mary Ellen Jesson, Justice Robert Brown and Charlotte Brown.



(L. to R.) Retired Justice Conley Byrd and family members: Margaret Dobson, daughter, Paul Byrd, son, and John Michael Byrd, grandson.

# E-Filing in Arkansas Courts



Court of Appeals Judge Price Marshall (far left) discusses E-filing at a Task Force meeting. Also pictured: (left to right) JD Gingerich/AOC Director, Tim Holthoff/Court Information Services Director, and Steve Sipes/Administrator, Pulaski County Circuit Clerk's Office.

An E-Filing Task Force was created to study electronic filing of cases in Arkansas's courts. Members of the Task Force include:

Rhonda Long-Whorton, Circuit Clerk/Faulkner County, Steve Sipes/Court Administrator-Pulaski County Circuit Clerk's Office, Circuit Judge David McCormick/15th Circuit, Linda Shields/IT Manager-U.S. District Court Clerk's Office/Eastern District of Arkansas, Fever McElyea/Carlisle District Court Clerk, Justice Paul Danielson/Arkansas Supreme Court, Circuit Judge Ben Story/1st Circuit, David G. Nixon, Esq., Sue Jones/Hot Spring County Circuit Clerk, District Judge William McKimm/Montgomery County District Court, District Judge Alice



Lightle/Little Rock District Court, Judge D.P. Marshall/Arkansas Court of Appeals, and David M. Fuqua, Esq., Chairman.

The Task Force addressed various issues in relation to an E-Filing system, including: (1) the question of whether cases should be initiated through the E-filing system or by conventional filing (2) preservation and retention of original documents and (3) possible E-filing system failures.

A final report and recommendation was sent by the Task Force to the Supreme Court for review. Proposed Administrative Order Number 21 - Electronic Filing was published September 24th by the Supreme Court for comment. The comment period shall expire November 1, 2009.

## Electronic Version of Appellate Court Opinions

Act 221, passed during the 2009 Legislative Session, eliminated the statutory requirement that the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals publish their opinions in the *Arkansas Reports/Arkansas Appellate Reports*. The first volume for the official bound Arkansas Reports was printed in 1840 and contains cases delivered in the January/July Term of 1837, January/July Term of 1838 and the January Term of 1839. Volume 1 of the *Arkansas Appellate Reports* was published in 1981. The current Reporter of Decisions, Susan Williams, and her staff are presently working on Volume 373/102, and the final official bound volume will be Volume 375/104, which will encompass decisions up to February 14, 2009.

Official opinions issued after February 14, 2009 will no longer be published in bound volumes. Instead they will be reported electronically on the Arkansas Judiciary website <http://courts.arkansas.gov>. It is anticipated that the electronic format for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions will go live in late 2009. For those still wanting printed copies of the opinions, they will be available in the South Western Reporter.

Arkansas will be the first state in the country to go to electronic versions of official appellate court decisions.

**Flu information** With widespread talk this fall about the H1N1 flu, the following link provides helpful information relating to: How do I know if I have the flu? What should I do if I get sick?

What are the emergency warning signs? Do I need to go to the emergency room if I am only a little sick? Are there medicines to treat 2009 H1N1? How long should I stay home if I am sick? What should I do while I'm sick? <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/sick.htm>



# Teen Court . . . . .

The 20th Judicial District/5th Division Juvenile Teen Court kicked off its third year Sept. 9th with Chief Justice Jim Hannah swearing in 52 new participants. The Faulkner County Teen Court consists of trained high school seniors who take on the roles of defense attorney, prosecuting attorney, clerk, bailiff and jurors for sentencing hearings.

Judge Rhonda Wood, circuit judge in the 20th District, developed Faulkner County Teen Court in 2007. She modeled her program after the Federal Youth Court Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the American Bar Association. Judge Wood provided 20 hours of training this summer to Teen Court volunteers on the justice system, drug/alcohol abuse, victim impact, court proceedings and legal education.

Teen Court is an option for juvenile defendants to admit to charges and appear before their peers. Possible outcomes from Teen Court decisions are probation, counseling, tutoring, community service, restitution and written apologies. Except for an annual contribution from a bank, Teen Court operates solely on the

donated time of teen volunteers and the local legal community that gives their time to act as shadow attorneys for the teens. After taking their oath, each Teen Court member received congratulations and a handshake of appreciation from Wood and Hannah.



**Chief Justice Jim Hannah and Judge Rhonda Wood congratulate a Teen Court member.**

## INTERPRETERS

In keeping with the new Rules of Evidence (Rule1009), the AOC recently offered a specific training to all the certified Spanish interpreters. Holly Mikkelson, considered one of the foremost trainers in the nation for interpreting/translating, accepted the invitation from Arkansas and offered a two-day workshop focusing mainly on translation of documents. The interpreters who attended will have a special designation next to their name on the Registry of Court Interpreters.

Interpreters continue their education on an almost daily basis. This workshop offered a wonderful learning tool from one of the country's better known translators. It is the commitment of the AOC's Court Interpreter Services to give the interpreters the best training available.



**Interpreters with Holly Mikkelson (front row, center).**

*Judge Ernie Wright*

Judge Ernie Wright, age 93 of Harrison, passed away in August. Judge Wright began his legal career in private practice in Mountain Home before being elected as a chancery judge of the 11th Chancery District. He served in that capacity for more than 20 years. Judge Wright followed his trial judge tenure with a position on the Court of Appeals when he was appointed by then Governor Bill Clinton to be Chief Judge of the newly created appellate court in 1979.

After leaving the Court of Appeals at the end of 1980, he served as a Special Judge of the Court of Appeals and as a Special Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. On his 90th birthday, the Arkansas Supreme Court issued a per curiam order honoring Judge Wright for his services to the State of Arkansas.



# *New faces* in the Judiciary

## AOC

Certified Spanish Interpreter —  
**Anne Yancey.**

Quality Assurance Lead —  
**Van Lamar.**

Software Engineer Lead —  
**Paul Flanagan.**

Business Analyst —  
**Gloria Thompson**

Jury Technical Analyst —  
**Justin Whorton.**

Network Administrator —  
**Daron Fredrick.**

AOC Trainer —  
**Tracy Andrews.**

## Circuit Judges

4th Circuit — **Doug Martin**  
replaces Mike Mashburn.

## District Court Clerks

Mountain Home — **Kim Vinson**  
replaces Linda Shaffer.

Pocahontas — **Phyllis Jones**  
replaces Sharon Brown.

Marion — **Nyree Moore** replaces  
Monica Keith.

## City Court Clerks

Turrell — **Lasonja Harris**  
replaces Jackie Reel.

## Trial Court Assistants

23rd Circuit (Whiteaker) — **James  
Tapscott** replaces Janet Henry.

6th Circuit (Gilbert) **Laquina  
Reed** replaces Jareta Spears.

## CALENDAR

### October

Fall Judicial College/  
Judicial Council Mtg.  
(Rogers) **14-16**

Court Reporter's  
Annual Conference **16-17**  
(Rogers)

### November

District Court Clerks **20**  
Certification  
1st and 3rd Districts (Springdale)



*Visit the pumpkin patch*



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