

# Friends OF THE COURT

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## Supreme Court Conducts Oral Argument in Blytheville

The Arkansas Supreme Court conducted oral argument in Blytheville in April at Arkansas Northeastern College. The auditorium at the college, which seats approximately 270 people, was packed with students of various grade levels from Osceola and Blytheville.

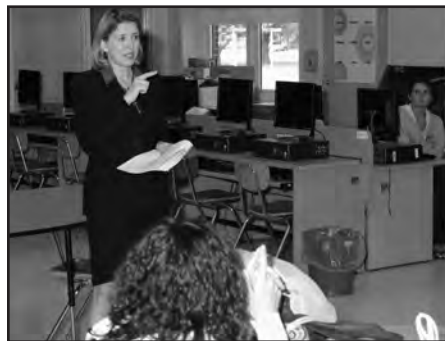
The visit to Blytheville was only the tenth occasion in modern times that the Supreme Court has held court outside of Little Rock. Since 2002, the Supreme Court has held oral argument in Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, Monticello, Hope, Harrison, Bentonville, Helena and Hot Springs.

Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution, adopted by vote of the people in 2000, provides that the Supreme Court may meet at such times and places as designated by the Court.

Following the oral argument, the Justices visited with students at numerous schools in Blytheville and Osceola.



Justice Jim Gunter visited with students at Blytheville Intermediate School.



Justice Elana Wills answered questions from students at Blytheville Middle School.



Chief Justice Hannah introduced the members of the Supreme Court to the audience attending the oral argument in Blytheville on April 8th.

## Contested Judicial Election Results

(Those elected in **BOLD**. Runoff (**R**) to be held on November 2, 2010 General Election.)

### • Supreme Court

Associate Justice Position 3

**Court of Appeals Judge**

**Courtney Henry**

Circuit Judge John Fogleman

Associate Justice Position 6

Evelyn Moorehead

Court of Appeals Judge

Karen Baker (**R**)

Circuit Judge Tim Fox (**R**)

### • Court of Appeals

Judge District 02, Position 01

Circuit Judge Rhonda Wood

**Court of Appeals Judge Jo Hart**

### • Circuit Judges

Circuit Judge, District 04, Div. 05

**Beth Storey Bryan**

Marsha (Marti) Woodruff

Circuit Judge, District 04, Div. 7

(New Position)

Charles M. Duell

District Judge Joanna Taylor (**R**)

Steve Zega (**R**)

Gary Carson

Circuit Judge, District 06, Div. 05,

Subdistrict 6.1

Causley Edwards

**Wendell Griffen**

District Judge Rita Bailey

Circuit Judge, District 12, Div. 02

**Annie Powell Hendricks**

Joseph C. Self

## Texarkana Young Lawyers Distribute Legal Books to Area Junior High Students



Texarkana Young Lawyers Association handed out “Leapholes” to local junior high school students.

As recently noted by Judge Joe Griffin/8th South Judicial Circuit, the Texarkana Young Lawyers Association has been recognized numerous times on the national level as well as by the bar associations of Arkansas and Texas for being an outstanding young lawyers association. This active chapter has a long list of events and deeds they have accomplished

over the past couple of years: Valentine baskets for the Domestic Abuse Center; “They Had a Dream, Too” presentation on the civil rights movement; “Coffee With the Judges”, where attorneys had coffee with local judges; presentation of “18 and Life” program to local teens in Leadership Texarkana; and an Easter egg hunt for children on the courthouse lawn, just to name a few.

Just recently, through a fund raiser and a grant from the American Bar Association, the group distributed copies of a legally-themed fiction novel entitled “Leapholes” to seventh graders at a Texarkana junior high school. The book was published by the American Bar Association and introduces young readers to important court cases that have shaped the United States.

## District Judges Council Officers for 2010-2011

District Judges Council officers for the 2010 - 2011 term are:

**President** - Judge Butch Hale, Sherwood

**Vice President** - Judge Kim Bridgforth, Pine Bluff

**Secretary/Treasurer** - Judge Wayne Gruber, Pulaski County

**First District Representative** - Judge Dan Stidham, Paragould

**Second District Representative** - Judge Alice Lightle, Little Rock

**Third District Representative** - Judge Don Bourne, Russellville

**Fourth District Representative** - Judge Randy Hill, Arkadelphia

## Children in the Courts

The 2010 Children in the Courts conference was held in Little Rock in May. Conference attendees totaled 650, consisting of judges, attorneys, CASA members, CASA staff, foster parents, and DHS social workers. Presentation topics throughout the 4-day session were numerous, including domestic relations, juvenile court issues, representing indigent parents, forensic health evaluations, foster care and transition plans, youth rehabilitative services, parenting education, evaluating safety for children, dependency neglect, non-custodial fathers in child welfare cases, and gang activity, to name a few.

Chief Justice Jim Hannah handed out awards at the CASA Awards Luncheon. The Volunteer Coordinator of the Year award went to Arbor Buchanan of CASA Northwest Arkansas. Kim Carter of Garland County received the Foster Parent of the Year award, and Heart of CASA award, designed to honor those not formally affiliated with a CASA program, but who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to the children CASA serves, went to J.K. America of Jonesboro.



### CASA AWARDS PRESENTED

Chief Justice Jim Hannah presents the Volunteer Coordinator Award to Arbor Buchanan of CASA Northwest Arkansas.



## Grant Funds Awarded For Court Security

The Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness recently awarded funding to twenty-four counties seeking assistance with court security needs. The awards ranged from \$500.00 to \$15,000. The Committee had a total of \$250,000 to award and received forty-nine applications, totaling \$868,930.61.

Act 576 of 2007 by the Arkansas Legislature created the grant program for city and county governments to implement court security and emergency preparedness measures.



Arkansas County officials recently received their grant money. (L.-R.) Shandra Harwell – Arkansas County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Judge David Henry – 9th Cir., JD Gingerich – Director of AOC, Sonny Cox – Arkansas County Judge, Pete Hollingsworth – Director of Court Security, Allen Cheek – Arkansas County Sheriff, and Mike Smith – Stuttgart Police Chief.

## Garland County Juvenile Court Conducts Art Competition

Garland County Juvenile Court hosted a county wide art project at the new Garland County Courts building for all fourth grade students. The project was called “Hangers and Claimers” and recognized the artists’ hopes for children around the world.

The “Hangers” are fourth grade students in Garland County whose art teachers were contacted by the Art Cooperative Team (ACT). The students drew their art work based on the theme, “My hope for all the children of the world: to eliminate hatred, to eliminate poverty, to keep our planet green, to give all children an education, to give every child a family, to experience the arts, and to obtain world peace and love.” Once the juvenile court staff received the art from all of the students, judges from the community were chosen to select

the sixty-nine winners. Each drawing chosen has the student’s photo and their explanation of the art.

The “Claimers”, who had art work hanging for seven years in the Courts Building, came and received their art back, along with a photo taken with Judge Vicki S. Cook. Over three hundred were in attendance, including judges, ACT board members, art teachers, artists, and their families.



Judge Vicki Cook poses for a photograph with a “claimer.”

## Arkansas Drug Courts

In May, the Saline County Drug Court Program sponsored a fund raising picnic. The money collected from the event will go towards testing, promotional items, and the drug court rewards program. In addition, Jefferson



A large crowd attended the Saline County Drug Court picnic.



Circuit Judge Robert Herzfeld spoke to the crowd gathered at the picnic.

County Drug Court recently held a Civil Service Rally to teach the public about the workings of its adult drug court and to raise funds for its operation.

Drug courts are demonstrating success in increasing public safety, treating and rehabilitating persons with addiction, and in reducing state costs for correctional facilities. In the last sixteen years, the

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## Arkansas Drug Courts

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number of Arkansas state drug court programs has grown to forty-two. Drug courts currently save the State about \$30 million each year, while keeping people in their communities so they can continue to work and conquer their addictions. It costs \$16 per day for each of the 1900 participants in the program, for a total of a little more than \$11 million per year. It would cost the state more than \$41 million to incarcerate the same number of participants.

The average length of a drug court program is eighteen months. The recidivism rate for those who complete the program is 5.7 percent. According to the Department of Correction, the recidivism rate for those paroled out of prison in 2005 was 41.4 percent.

# New faces in the Judiciary

### Trial Court Assistants

4th (Gunn) — **Kasey Compton** replaces Stephanie Green.

### Official Court Reporter

9th E. (McCallum) – **Jacqueline Marvin** replaces Joyce Helms.

### Public Defenders

21st – **Ryan Norris** replaces Robert Marquette.

### District Court Clerks

Independence County – **Tammy Sterling** replaces Dianna Melton as Chief Clerk and **Jannette Meeks** is now Deputy Clerk.

### City Court Clerks

Mountainburg – **Barbara Smith** replaces Lisa Harrison.

## CALENDAR

### June

Spring Judicial College/  
Judicial Council Mtg. 9-11  
(Hot Springs)

CMP '12-*CourTools* 16-18  
(Little Rock)

CMP '11-*Purposes/Responsibilities of the Courts* 23-25  
(Little Rock)

### August

District Court Clerks 20  
Certification (Chief Clerks)  
(Eureka Springs)

CMP '12-*Caseflow Management* 18-20  
(Little Rock)

CMP '11-*Managing Technology Projects* 25-27  
(Little Rock)

### September

District Judges Fall College 23-25  
(Hot Springs)



### Friends of the Court

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Contributions, comments, and inquiries  
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Please submit to

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