



# Friends OF THE COURT

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## AOC Partners With Clinton School to Sponsor Judicial Election Symposium

The Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts and the Clinton School for Public Service will cosponsor a Symposium on State Judicial Elections on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Clinton Presidential Library and the Clinton School for Public Service in Little Rock. "We are fortunate to have the opportunity to assemble the nation's top scholars and practitioners on the issue of state judicial elections at a time when there is great interest in the issue across the country and in Arkansas," stated J.D. Gingerich, Director of the AOC.

The conference speakers will include:

Roy Schotland, Professor Emeritus of Georgetown University Law School. Professor Schotland, a graduate of Harvard Law School, is a prolific writer on the issue of judicial elections, campaign finance, and the impact of recent U.S. Supreme Court cases on the election of judges.

David Rottman, Principal Research Consultant at the National Center for State Courts. Dr. Rottman holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Illinois and currently serves as the principal staff to the NCSC/



College of William and Mary School of Law Election Law Program.

William H. Fortune, the Robert G. Lawson Professor of Law at the University of Kentucky College of Law. Professor Fortune has been active in his work with the NCSC, the ABA, and several state court systems on the potential use of judicial campaign oversight committees.

Judge Kevin S. Burke, President of the American Judges Association. Judge Burke currently sits in the 4th Judicial District Family Court in Minneapolis, Minnesota and has served as Chief Judge of Hennepin County on several occasions and as Chair of the Minnesota Conference of Chief Judges. His recent work involves the importance of procedural justice as the most effective

strategy in insuring public satisfaction with the court and preserving judicial independence.

The keynote address will be given as a part of the Clinton School Public Lecture Series and will feature former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Phillips. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and is currently a partner with Baker Botts in Austin, Texas. In 1988 he became the first Republican elected as chief justice in Texas history. He is a former chair of the Conference of Chief Justices and served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. Since his retirement from the court he has been active at the state and national level in discussions about the problems with and methods of selection of state court judges.

The conference will also include a panel discussion about the initial work of the Arkansas Bar Association's Taskforce on Judicial Election Reform. All sessions will be free and open to the public. CLE credit will be available for members of the bar. Conference agenda and registration materials will be available at [www.courts.arkansas.gov](http://www.courts.arkansas.gov).

## Legal Forms to Become Available Online

The Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has signed an agreement with Pro Bono Net to use LawHelp Interactive™ to manage and host interactive forms that will allow people without access to an attorney to more easily address civil legal issues on their own.

Every year, millions of Americans unable to afford an attorney face potentially devastating legal problems such as domestic violence, foreclosure, eviction, and child custody disputes. LawHelp Interactive, an online document assembly service, allows those without a lawyer to quickly and accurately prepare critical legal forms via an easy-to-use online interface.

LawHelp Interactive is a program of Pro Bono Net, a nonprofit leader in innovative programs that helps to increase access to justice. Arkansas is among an increasing number of court systems around the country using LawHelp Interactive to improve access to the courts. The service is now available in 26 states and was used to complete more than 237,000 documents in the first 10 months of 2011.

AOC Director, J.D. Gingerich, stated “We look forward to working with Pro Bono Net to introduce online legal forms that will help Arkansas residents address critical civil legal issues.” Initially, forms will be provided to assist with filing domestic violence petitions to obtain orders of protection.



## 2nd Circuit CASA Holds Christmas Festival of Chairs

Last December, the 2nd Judicial District CASA held their third annual Christmas Festival of Chairs event. More than 50 chairs of all shapes and sizes, each of which was designed and decorated by students and artists from Jonesboro and the surrounding area, were prominently displayed in the windows of Barnes & Noble at a local mall.

Each participating school and artist was given two months to make their vision come to life. Most of the chairs were either made from scratch or refurbished, and they varied in theme from ASU, to princess, to John Deere and everything in-between. The chairs were later auctioned off at a silent action with the proceeds going towards recruiting and training Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children. According to Borden, it was a silent auction for those who refuse to be silent about child abuse.

Three years ago, CASA

Executive Director, Carla Borden, and Volunteer Recruiter and Trainer, Barbara McMorries, decided to initiate a charitable event to benefit the local division of the organization. They settled on a Christmas Festival of Chairs, an event that was already successful in other CASA divisions. “CASA is a heart thing,” said Borden. “People who do this care about children and want to make a difference, which is why it has been relatively easy to have so many submissions each year.”

Since the inception of CASA advocacy, the organization’s volunteers have helped more than one million children across the nation find safe, permanent homes. CASA volunteers are there for the children during an extremely tumultuous time in their lives.

CASA of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District was founded in 1995 to aid children in Craighead, Greene, Clay, Poinsett and Mississippi Counties.

**CASA decorated chairs on display in December**



## Interpreter's Corner

*How much do you know about interpreters?*

*Quiz your knowledge...*

1. How many staff interpreters work with the AOC as full-time employees?
2. What is an ASL interpreter?
3. Is the state foreign language certification recognized nationally?
4. When can the interpreter give legal advice?
5. Can an agency be certified?
6. What is an LEP individual?
7. What is a contract interpreter?
8. Can interpreters answer questions from the LEP person?
9. Which are the recognized certifications for foreign language?

(See answers below)

### ADR Conference To Be Held In March

The Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, in conjunction with the Arkansas Bar Association and the Arkansas Conflict Resolution Association, is sponsoring an ADR Conference on March 8, 2012. It will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas from 8:30 – 4:30. Dr. David McPhee of Phoenix, Arizona and Stephanie West Allen of Denver, Colorado are the keynote speakers. Bar Association members and mediators certified through the Arkansas ADR Commission will receive an early registration fee of \$150 until March 1, 2012. For more information, visit the Arkansas ADR Commission website at: <http://courts.arkansas.gov/adr> or the Arkansas Bar Association website at <http://arkbar.com>.

## E-Filing Gears Up to Go Live



**Pictured: (left to right) Steve Sipes (Pulaski County Circuit Court Administrator), Amanda Armstrong (E-Filing Business Analyst), Van Lamar (AOC QA Lead), and Beatrice Nelson (E-Filing Project Manager) test the E-Filing system.**

The Electronic Filing project (E-Filing) has reached a significant milestone. User acceptance testing is now underway. Members of the AOC Core Team and others in Pulaski County Circuit Court are assisting with the testing effort, which is scheduled to be complete by February 10. Beginning February 13th through March 2nd, training will be in progress on the new system for the pilot project.

Clerks and Judges in the Pulaski County Circuit Court, as well as Pulaski County attorneys will

receive training on the system.

Phase 1, which is limited to Civil, Domestic Relations, and Probate electronic case filings, will go live in Pulaski County on Monday, March 19th. Phase 2 will encompass juvenile case filings and Phase 3 will include filings in criminal cases.

After the third phase is finished, the E-Filing team will begin planning rollout strategy for other circuit courts that are already using Contexte in their county.

### Answers for Interpreter's Corner

1. 4 Full-time Staff Interpreters (1 ASL & 3 Certified Spanish).
2. An Interpreter of American Sign Language.
3. Yes.
4. Never.
5. No. Only individuals can be Court Certified.
6. A person with Limited English Proficiency.
7. A certified foreign language or sign language interpreter who works freelance. The AOC contracts their services in order to meet the demand in AR state courts.
8. No. The interpreter will interpret the question to the English speaker and interpret the answer back to the LEP.
9. Only two are recognized; Consortium State Certification and Federal Court Certification.



# New faces in the Judiciary

## AOC

Personnel Manager — **Millicent**

**Milner** replaces Vickie Herron.

Judicial Education Specialist —

**Kate Chagnon** replaces Ben Barham.

Assistant to ADR Coordinator —

**Pamela Beasley**.

## Circuit Court Judges

7th Circuit, Div. 2 — **Ed M.**

**Koon** replaces Phillip H. Shirron.

## Trial Court Assistants

6th Circuit, Div. 3 (Moody) —

**Kacie Glenn** replaces Debbie Hall.

13th Cir./Div. 4 (Harrell) —

**Becky Gilbert** replaces Sarah

Weeks.

## Official Court Reporter

14th Circuit, Div. 2 — **Rebecca**

**Burnham** replaces Suzanne Stanley.

19th E. (Crow) — **Laura**

**Carnahan** replaces Pat Hodge.

## District Court Clerks

Calhoun County District Court/Hampton Dept. — **Laura**

**Evans** replaces Cathy Hopper.

Saline County District

Court/Alexander Dept. — **Stacy**

**Cyz** replaces Brenda Hendrix.

Saline County District

Court/Bauxite Dept. — **Lindie**

**Landers** replaces Brenda Hendrix.

Washington County District

Court/Johnson Dept. — **Denny**

**Upton** replaces Betty Whittaker.

## CALENDAR

### February

District & City Court Clerks 17

Certification  
(Little Rock)

District Court Officers 23-24  
(Hot Springs)

### March

Trial Court Assistants Conference 1-2  
(Hot Springs)

### April

District Judges Spring 19-20  
College/Clerks Annual Meeting  
(Little Rock)

### June

Spring Judicial College/Judicial 6-8  
Council Mtg.  
(Hot Springs)

CMP Class 14 13-15  
(Little Rock)

CMP Class 13 20-22  
(Little Rock)

CMP Class 12 27-29  
(Little Rock)



### Friends of the Court

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Address Correction Requested

### Friends of the Court

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Karolyn Bond, Editor.