



# Friends of the Court

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## District Judges and District & City Court Clerks Meet

District Judges and District/ City Court Clerks met May 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> in Springdale for their annual spring



**Incoming President, Judge David Saxon, (r.) presents plaque to Judge David Stewart.**

meeting. Judge David Stewart/Little Rock has served as President of the District Judges Council for the past year. Judge David Saxon/Fort Smith was elected President



**New District/City Court Clerks Association President, Dena Titsworth of Mena.**

for the 2004 - 2005 term. Other officers for the District Judges Council in the coming year are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Hon. Jim Hamilton/North Little Rock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Hon. Rusty Porter/West Helena
- Secretary/Treasurer - Hon. John Finley/Ashdown
- 1<sup>st</sup> District Rep. - Hon. Mike Irwin/Heber Springs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District Rep. - Hon. Mike Robinson/Benton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District Rep. - Hon. Doug Schrantz/Rogers
- 4<sup>th</sup> District Rep. - Marcia Hearnberger/Hot Springs

Judy West, District Clerk in North Little Rock, has served as President of the Clerks Association for the past two years. The new president of the organization is Dena Titsworth/Mena.

- Other officers will be:
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Cheri Mitch/Greenwood
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Vickie Weed/North Little Rock

- Secretary - Betty Campregher/Menifee
- Treasurer - Vicki Asher/Hot Springs
- Historian - Del

Rae Templeton/Bryant

Parliamentarian - Ruth Kolb/DeQueen

- 1<sup>st</sup> District Rep. - Nola King/Gosnell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District Rep. - Barbara Gipson/Perryville
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District Rep. - Becky Caler/Elkins
- 4<sup>th</sup> District Rep. - Melba Russell/Malvern
- At-Large Rep. - Melissa Ogden/Huntsville



**2003 Clerk of the Year, Valerie Buster/Texarkana (r.) presents 2004 Clerk of the Year award to Vickie Weed/North Little Rock.**

## Juvenile Courts Receive Courtroom Technology Grants

The AOC's Juvenile Division Court Improvement Program (CIP) awarded courtroom technology grants to seven courts this year. The grants were designed to provide courts that hear dependency-neglect cases with computers, printers and copiers so that judges can issue orders immediately following a hearing to expedite permanency for children in these cases. In order to be eligible, courts had to agree to schedule time-specific hearings and to issue orders at the end of dependency-neglect hearings. Computers, printers, copiers and sup-



**Judge Joyce Warren, 6th District, and her court reporter, Ranaye Cameron, check out their real time capability.**

plies were awarded in the Third, Eighteenth East, Eleventh West and Twenty-Second Judicial District.

The Second Judicial District, Division 10 and the Sixth Judicial District Divisions 10 and 11, were awarded computer technology grants to augment real time software programs used by the court reporters. Additional monitors were also provided to these circuits so that the parties at counsel table are able to view court orders.

## New NCSC President Named

The National Center for State Courts' Board of Directors has announced the selection of Mary Campbell McQueen, Court Administrator of the Washington State Courts, as the next president of the National Center. McQueen replaces Roger K. Warren, who announced November, 2003, his plans to retire. She will assume her new position in August.

McQueen earned a law degree from Seattle University and has attended post-graduate programs in judicial administration through American University, the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the National Center's Institute for Court Management.

She has worked with the Washington State courts for 25 years, the past 17 as state court administrator. Prior to joining the Washington State courts, McQueen served as court planning officer for the Washington, D.C. courts and as court planning officer for the Kentucky Department of Justice. She served on the National Center's Board of Directors for three years in the mid-1990s and in 1996 was president of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and vice chair of the NCSC Board.

## "Parent Wars" Film to Air.

As mentioned in the March issue of "Friends of the Court", the film is a project of the Arkansas Bar Association's Family Law Section and was funded by the Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, the Arkansas Bar Foundation and the IOLTA Foundation.

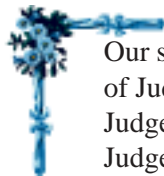
All the dates are set for airing "Parent Wars", a film about high conflict divorce and its effects upon children. The premier will be June 16th from 5:30 - 7:00 at the IMAX Theater in Little Rock. The film will then air on AETN on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Justice Data Sharing Project

Arkansas is one of 26 states that received funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) under a National Governor's Association (NGA) Center cooperative agreement helping states develop information sharing systems. In Arkansas the Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) Program began implementing an automatic criminal justice data sharing system in Faulkner County. This pilot project electronically integrates the offices of the Faulkner County Sheriff, the Prosecuting Attorney, the Faulkner County Detention Facility, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Community Corrections. The IJIS program will roll-out this model system to other counties and apply the lessons learned in the pilot project to the statewide effort.



Kellye Mashburn, Research Analyst for the Administrative Office of the Courts, recently graduated as a Fellow of the Institute of Court Management of The National Center for State Courts.



Our sympathy to the families of Judge Ted Coxsey and Judge Andrew Ponder. Judge Coxsey, of Berryville, passed away February 12, 2004. He served as a circuit judge for one year, 1945-1946. He then served as a chancellor from 1969-1977.

Judge Ponder, of Cherokee Village, passed away April 15, 2004. He served as a chancellor for one year, 1951-1952 and as a circuit judge from 1952-1987.

## Enhanced Jury List Project

In 2003, the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 1404, which outlined the methodology for the creation of an Enhanced Jury List. The Act requires the Secretary of State's office to merge voter registration records with licensed drivers, or persons issued an identification card who meet the following requirements:

- (1) *Be a citizen of the United States;*
- (2) *Be eighteen (18) years of age or older;*
- (3) *Be a resident of the applicable county;*  
*and*
- (4) *Not have pleaded guilty or nolo contendere, or been found guilty of any felony offense.*

After compiling the driver's records with the registered voters list, the Secretary of State must provide the list to the Arkansas Crime Information Center to delete the felons.

In addition, Act 1404 requires the administrative circuit judge for each county to determine whether the list of registered voters or the enhanced list will be utilized in the selection of prospective jurors. The judge makes this determination based on whether the use of registered voters creates a sufficient pool for the selection of jurors to offer an adequate cross section of the community. If the judge determines that the enhanced voter list should be used, the judge will inform the circuit clerk, on or before October 1, who will notify the Secretary of State that the enhanced list will be requested for their county. The Secretary of State will then make this enhanced list available to the requesting circuit clerk by November 1.

Tim Holthoff, Director of Court Information Systems Division, AOC and Susan Torrans, Project Manager, ACAP are working through a magnitude of technical issues with five other state agencies in designing and testing the data merges. This cooperative effort, which started in January 2004, has produced a technical group with the goal of a quality implementation. For example, although the legislation does not require it, this tech-team sought participation by the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Division, to remove the names of deceased people from the list of potential jurors. The re-

moval of deceased persons is an additional filter that would provide an even more accurate jury pool, limiting complaints to the clerk by survivors upon receiving a summons for a deceased loved one.

People matching and de-duplicated merged databases will continue to take a massive technical effort. Currently the Secretary of State shows 1,568,283 registered voters, and 442,487 cancelled voters. Presently the Secretary of State sends paper printouts of deaths to the counties, and relies on the counties to correct the voter lists. Because of the efforts of the Act 1404 group, Vital Records will begin sending death information electronically to both the Secretary of State and Drivers Services. There are also approximately 17,000 divorces each year with corresponding name changes within the vital records database. There are approx 2.1 million driver records to merge with the voter list. These records must also be matched against the State's criminal history files. This is just another reason that it is imperative that ACIC receive the disposition information to matching law enforcement arrest records. The biggest challenge to the project is matching voter and driver records where a person has one name on their driver's license and is registered to vote under another name, perhaps because of marriage; or for those who move but fail to notify driver services or county clerks, it will be difficult to match persons with different addresses in the two files. Nevertheless, Fletcher Allen, with the Secretary of State's Office is working diligently with AOC, ACIC, Vital Records, and Driver Services to create the enhanced jury list for the courts.

For additional information on the Enhanced Jury List Project contact Susan Torrans, Project Manager, at [Susan.Torrans@Arkansas.gov](mailto:Susan.Torrans@Arkansas.gov) or at 501-683-1092.



## **Request For Comment From ABA On Model Code of Judicial Conduct**

The ABA Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct is in the process of reviewing and updating the Model Code of Judicial Conduct. The Joint Commission has completed its initial draft of revised Canons 1 and 2 and seeking comment from the judiciary, the legal profession and the public. The link to that draft can be found at <http://www.abanet.org/judicialethics/home.html>. An initial decision of the Joint Commission was to reorganize the structure of the Canons, moving various code provisions to other parts of the Model Code. Please note that, due to the reorganization of the Model Code, the revised Canons 1 and 2 do not directly correlate with the existing Canons 1 and 2 in the Model Code.

In addition to the revised Canons on the above-mentioned Web site, you will find a memo that poses a series of questions. These questions represent issues related to Canons 1 and 2 that have been the subject of extensive discussion within the Joint Commission. The Joint Commission requests that you consider the issues posed in this memo together with the revised Canons when providing comment. These are preliminary drafts of Canons 1 and 2 presented for public comment and accordingly do not represent the final version of the revised Model Code.

The Joint Commission requests that public comment be submitted in writing, preferably by e-mail, to Eileen Gallagher at: [gallaghe@staff.abanet.org](mailto:gallaghe@staff.abanet.org), or at mailing address 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610. Written submissions should be received by the American Bar Association no later than the close of business on July 15, 2004.



## New Faces in the Judiciary

### Case Coordinators

23rd (Hanshaw) - **Stephanie Bevis** replaces Michelle Stracner.

### District Clerks

Brinkley - **Arria Brasseur** replaces Beverly Meyers.

Clarksville - **Dana Phillips** replaces Jan Golden.

Hoxie - **Pat Goodin** replaces Terrell Downing.

Little Rock - **Nena O'Rourke** replaces Michelle Tacket as chief court clerk.

England - **Diana Wilkins** replaces Darla Cole.

### City Judges

Dover - **Bob Hardin** replaces Steve Gardner.

Bradford - **Jimmy Simpson, Jr.** replaces Thomas Bryant.

Haskell - **Aaron Jones** replaces Bobby McCallister.

### City Court Clerks

Joiner - **Arbedella Kimbrough** replaces Sissy Rogers.

McRae - **Mary Lynn Claiborne** replaces Mary Ann Pruitt.

Friendship - **Katie Wilson** replaces Tilda Garrett.

Sulphur Springs - **Regina Kuykendall** replaces Debra Ghent.

## CALENDAR

### **June**

Spring Judicial College/  
Judicial Council Meeting  
(Hot Springs) **9-11**

District Court Probation  
Officers (Jonesboro) **24-25**

### **July**

Juvenile Officers Training **13-15**  
Part I - (Little Rock)

Juvenile Officers Training **28-30**  
Part II - (Little Rock)

### **August**

District & City Court Clerks  
Certification (Chief Clerks)  
(West Memphis) **19-20**

CASA Conference **26-28**

### **September**

District Judges College **23-25**  
(Hot Springs)



### **Friends of the Court**

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**Address  
Correction  
Requested**