



Friends of the Court

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District Judges Attend Fall College



District Judges Fall College was held in Hot Springs September 23rd-25th. Pictured at left are members of the District Court Judges Council. (Front Row-L. to R.) Judges David Saxon, Mike Robinson, Jim Hamilton, John Finley and Marcia Hearnberger. (Back Row-L. to R.) Judges Mike Irwin, David Stewart, Doug Schrantz and Rusty Porter.

Justice Hannah Schedules Visits With Local Court Officials

In a continuation of his efforts to visit and communicate with all key court officials prior to assuming his position as Chief Justice on January 1, 2005, Justice Jim Hannah and State Court Administrator J.D. Gingerich have scheduled regional meetings in fourteen cities in the coming months. The meetings will include all District and City Court Judges and the chief clerk from each jurisdiction. Invitations have been distributed with a request that officials attend one of the following regional meetings, each of which will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Sept. 13	Searcy/Searcy District Court	Nov. 1	Helena/Helena District Court
Sept. 20	Russellville/Pope County Courthouse	Nov. 5	Monticello/Monticello District Court
Sept. 27	Arkadelphia/Clark County Courthouse Annex	Nov. 15	Jonesboro/Craighead County Courthouse Annex
Oct. 1	El Dorado/Union County District Court	Nov. 29	Stuttgart/Stuttgart District Court
Oct. 4	Murfreesboro/Pike County Courthouse	Dec. 6	Batesville/Independence County District Court
Oct. 11	Little Rock/L.R. District Court - 1 st Div.	Dec. 10	Harrison/District Court of Boone County
Oct. 21	Fayetteville/City Administration Bldg-Counsel Chamber Room 219	Dec. 17	Van Buren/Van Buren District Court

9th West Circuit Installs State of the Art Digital Evidence Presentation System

Courtrooms in the Ninth West Judicial Circuit now have the benefit of an integrated multimedia system which provides a state-of-the-art digital evidence presentation system. Judge Charles Yeargan and Judge Ted Capeheart, Circuit Judges in the 9th W, and the Administrative Office of the Courts jointly submitted a grant to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for the four courtrooms within the 9th W.

Evidence, in any form, including slides, currency, documents, VHS tapes, fingerprints, drug paraphernalia, accounting records, or maps can be projected on a high-resolution 46 inch flat panel plasma monitor concurrently with an enhanced projection display that fills a seven foot screen. This allows the judge, jurors, litigants, witnesses, court reporters and spectators to all

view the evidence simultaneously.

Attorneys and witness can use touch screens to highlight, underline and circle portions of displayed images and documents. Evidence in a trial can be instantly preserved with the system's high speed printing features. The court's file can preserve the exact image of what the jury saw during a witness's testimony.

An added feature to the new system allows crime lab chemists the ability to testify remotely from the Arkansas State Crime Lab, thus saving travel time and expense for crime lab testimony, and provides quicker access by the courts to crime lab testimony.

The evidence presentation stations have been installed in courtrooms in Howard, Pike, Little River and Sevier Counties.

Gingerich To Serve On Board Of National Center for State Courts

At a recent meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators in Salt Lake City, Utah, J.D. Gingerich, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, was elected to begin a four year term on the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. The National Center, located in Williamsburg, Virginia, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to modernizing court operation and improving justice in state and local court systems throughout the country. The Board of Directors is representative of the state courts in the United States and sets policy and priorities for the direction of the National Center's services and projects.

Justice Hannah Begins Statewide Visits



Justice Jim Hannah visits with circuit judges in the 11th West Circuit. (L. to R.) Judge Leon Jamison, Judge Jodi Dennis, Justice Hannah, and Judge Berlin Jones.



11th West Prosecuting Attorney Steve Dalrymple (left) met with Justice Hannah during his visit to that circuit.



Telephone Interpreting Pilot Program

The telephone interpreting Pilot Program has been a success. As predicted, the system has been able to assist in short, non-trial matters, saving both time and money for the State.

The first case was in Judge David McCormick's court in Danville, Yell County, on August 4, 2004.

It had not been determined that the uncontested divorce needed the services of a Spanish Interpreter until that very morning in court. Sherri Mitzel, Judge McCormick's case coordinator,

called the AOC requesting the services

of a Certified Spanish Interpreter from the remote location. The system was immediately put into place by the interpreter calling-in to the court room on designated telephone lines.

The courtroom is equipped with microphones strategically placed throughout which enables the interpreter to hear the voice of the Judge, attorney, or anyone else speaking. The non-English person wears a headset enabling the interpreter's voice to be heard as he/she interprets simultaneously what the court is saying. The non-English headset also comes equipped with a microphone that enables the interpreter to hear the non-English response and then, with a switch of a button controlled by the interpreter, the English interpretation comes through a loud speaker which is heard throughout the courtroom.

As many as four non-English parties can participate with this new

equipment. In this particular case the court had two non-English speakers.

Judge McCormick and the attorneys were very satisfied that the non-English parties understood the process, what was being said, and that the court heard the responses clearly.

Since that first call Judge McCormick

and Judge Terry Sullivan, both from Yell County, have been able to use the system several times.

Without the equipment this case would have either been continued to

a future date to allow time to have a certified interpreter come to court, costing \$250.00 to \$300.00, or in the worst of scenarios have a non-qualified bilingual person help the court communicate.

Most telephone interpreting calls are being handled by Mara Simmons, Foreign Language Interpreting Program Coordinator and AOC staff Certified Spanish Interpreter. Whenever Mara is not available, a Certified Interpreter is called-in to handle the call, costing the state an average of a one hour fee of \$50.00. "This is a great system, but it is designed to be used in short, non-trial matters, minimizing the number of delayed or continued cases. It is not intended for long, complicated hearings, it is a great way to utilize the State of Arkansas' limited supply of qualified interpreters", said Simmons.



Mara Simmons conducts the first telephone interpreting for the courts.

TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS AND PRIVACY ISSUES FOR COURT FILES

The Task Force on Public Access and Privacy has been created by the Supreme Court Committee on Automation. It is being chaired by retired Circuit Judge John Plegge.

The Committee on Automation is working on the development and implementation of a statewide automated case management system for District and Circuit Courts. One issue that must be addressed by the Committee on Automation is the access to information contained in an automated system easily accessed over the Internet. Policies need to be developed to provide the public "need to know" while protecting the individual's right to privacy.

Court files are accessible to anyone willing to go to the courthouse. However, with new technologies, one can view individual records or download an entire database from your home or anywhere around the world. Unintended consequences, such as identity theft, could result from this capability.

The Task Force will meet from September to December with the goal of a policy on public access to court records being provided to the Supreme Court for its review and adoption. Additionally, the Task Force will endeavor to identify the need for legislative changes to be addressed in the legislative session in January.



New Faces in the Judiciary

AOC

Lynne Osborn - ADR Coordinator
Assistant

Case Coordinators

6th (Gray) - **Debra Rhodes** replaces
Carla Daniels.
11th W.(Brown) - **Kathy Smoke**
replaces Debbie Hubanks.

District Judges

Fordyce - **Ronnie A. Phillips** replaces
Thomas Mays.

Circuit/County Clerks

Newton County - **Vickie Bartholomew**
replaces Hubert Robertson.

City Judges

Perryville (new court) - **Lisa Green-
wood George** is the judge.

City Court Clerks

Perryville (new court) - **Christi Hurst**
is the clerk.
Concord - **Pamela Davis** replaces
Tracy Murrell.
Menifee - **Linda Strickland** replaces
Betty Campregher.

CALENDAR

October

Fall Judicial College/ **20-22**
Judicial Council Meeting
(Springdale)

Official Court Reporters **22-23**
Conference (Rogers)

November

Juvenile Judges Conference **10-12**
(Heber Springs)

District & City Court Clerks **19**
(1st and 3rd Districts)
(Mountain View)

February

District & City Court **18**
Clerks Certification
(2nd & 4th Districts-Little
Rock)

District Court Probation **24-25**
Officers



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