

FRIENDS OF THE COURT

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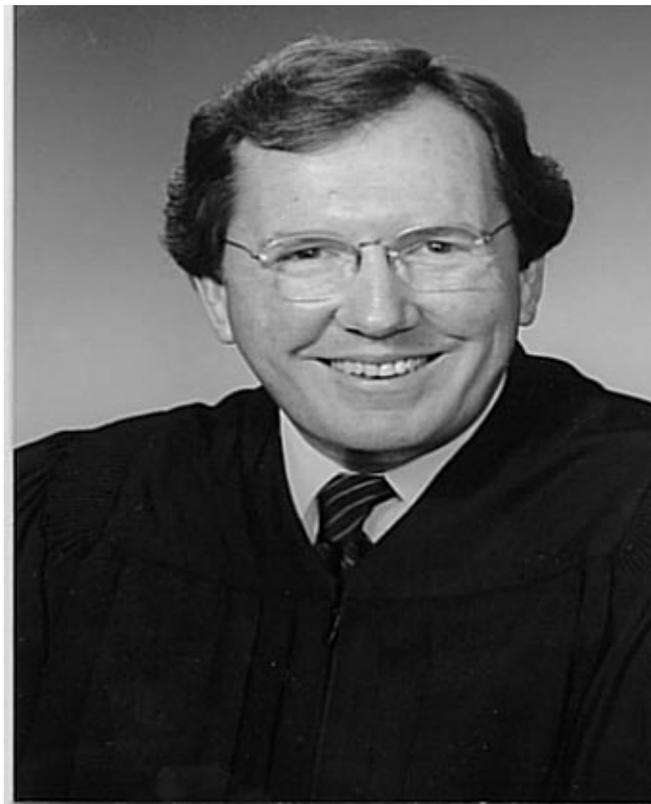
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Senior Supreme Court Justice Announces Retirement

Justice David Newbern, Senior Judge of the Arkansas Supreme Court, announced his upcoming retirement on September 24, 1998.

"It is my intention to retire from my position as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas in January, 1999. The opportunity afforded to me by the citizens of Arkansas to serve on the Court has been the high point of my life as a lawyer, and I am grateful for it.

No one could ask for more in the way of a collegial relationship with my judicial colleagues over the fourteen years I will have served on the Supreme Court and the year and a half I served on the Arkansas Court of Appeals. I have been privileged to work with distinguished jurists and to share their insights, judicial philosophies, knowledge of the law, and their desire to do justice. I have learned from them every day and have admired them greatly. I have also been very fortunate in my



JUSTICE DAVID NEWBERN

relationships with my law clerks who have also been my teachers. The Clerk of the Court, the Criminal Justice Coordinator, and Staff Attorney with whom I have had special liaison responsibilities, as well as the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Supreme Court Reporter, the Librarian, and their respective staffs have been supportive of me far beyond the call of duty, and I

am most appreciative. No doubt I will miss my colleagues and the challenge of deciding important and difficult legal issues with them.

My decision to retire stems from no reason other than my feeling that it is time for me to move on and to seek a new direction. I had the same feeling when I departed from my earlier careers as an Army officer (almost nine years) and law professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law (fourteen years). I have no particular plans for 1999 other than to assume additional responsibility for family business affairs and

to expand the time I spend on my hobby and work as a semiprofessional musician. If opportunities for me arise in the legal profession or perhaps a related one, I will be open to them.

Again, I wish to thank the citizens for having twice elected me to serve them as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas. It has been an honor and a privilege."

- Justice David Newbern -

Judicial Council Holds Fall Conference

The Arkansas Judicial Council Fall Judicial College &



State Senator Jodie Mahony

Meeting was held in Springdale, October 21st-24th. 118 trial and appellate judges registered for the event. Judge Robert McCorkindale, Circuit Judge in the 14th Judicial Circuit was elected to be President of the Council for the coming year. Judge McCorkindale replaced outgoing President, Judge Graham Partlow, Chancery Judge in the 2nd Judicial Circuit. Judge Ben Story, Chancellor in the 1st Judicial Circuit is now President-Elect. J.D. Gingerich, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts is Treasurer and Judge Kathleen Bell, Chancellor in the 1st Circuit is Secretary. Board members for the coming year include Judge Ralph Wilson/2nd Circuit, Judge Edward Jones/ 13th Circuit, Judge

John Dan Kemp/16th Circuit, Judge David Switzer/18th-E Circuit, Judge Bill Storey/4th Circuit and Judge Sam Bird, Court of Appeals.

This year's "First Branch Award" was presented to Senator Jodie Mahony. The "First Branch Award" is given each year to a member of the General Assembly for outstanding support of the administration of justice in Arkansas. Senator Mahony was recognized for his leadership in the area of child support enforcement and for the improvement of both the judicial and administrative process for the collection and enforcement of child support. He was also recognized for his sponsorship of legislation which requires an objective review of all requests for the creation of new judicial positions. The process, which has now been in place for some ten years, requires a statistical review and analysis of the need for any new judicial position and is credited with a better allocation of judicial resources in the state as well as the savings of substantial tax dollars which would otherwise have been expended on judicial and staff salaries.

Judge Holland, Circuit Judge in the 12th Circuit, received the "Community Service Award"

from his colleagues. The award recognizes off-the-bench activities



Judge John Holland

in service to the community by a trial judge. Judge Holland has been on the bench since 1975 and is retiring as of the end of this year. In receiving the award, Judge Holland was noted for his work in the First Baptist Church of Fort Smith for over 40 years, the Kiwanis Club, participation in Criminal Law Educational Program for the public elementary schools in Fort Smith, and Leadership Fort Smith. He was also an original member of the State Crime Laboratory Board and served in that capacity from 1977 to 1997. In the spring of 1998, Judge Holland received from the Arkansas State PTA the first ever Children's Champion Award.

State of Arkansas/Crime Summary

According to Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC), during January through June of 1998 there were 53,069 index crimes reported to law enforcement agencies in Arkansas. This is a 6% decrease compared to the 56,614 index crimes reported for this same period in 1997.

In addition, violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) has decreased 8% compared to this period in 1997, with a decrease for

every offense. Rape showed the largest decrease (16%).

Property crime (burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson) has decreased 6% compared to last year. As with violent crime, a decrease took place in all reported offense totals, except arson. The largest decrease was for motor vehicle theft (8%).

Although the amount of stolen property has only decreased 2% in the past year, various categories show more

significant changes. The highest increases in type of property stolen were with livestock (93%), office equipment (28%), and household goods (14%). The most significant decreases were with fur/clothing (31%), consumable goods (27%), and jewelry (16%).

Compared to 1997, a 17% increase in the number of drug related arrests took place during this period. There has been a 2% increase in the total number of arrests.

The Arkansas VINE Program - What Is it?

VINE stands for Victim Information and Notification Everyday. The Arkansas VINE program is a free, automated hotline that provides crime victims with vital information and notification 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This service will allow you to obtain inmate information and to register for notification of inmate release and court dates.

What does the Arkansas VINE Program provide? This program will allow you to do three things.

1. Confirm the custody status of Arkansas criminal offenders. VINE monitors the custody status of criminal offenders in Arkansas state prison and county jail facilities. VINE will tell you if an offender is in custody and give you the name and address of the custodial agency.

2. Register to receive automatic notification upon a change in custody or court status. VINE tracks the case status of offenders with cases pending in the Arkansas court system. VINE will give you the next scheduled court event, including the date, type of court, court location and time of court event.

3. Receive information on additional crime victim service agencies in Arkansas. VINE provides a listing of several state crime victim services. A short description and telephone number is available for each.

How do I use VINE?

By calling the Arkansas VINE Hotline at 1-800-510-0415 you may locate an offender using basic information such as the offender's name, arrest tracking number or Arkansas Department of

Correction number. Live Operator assistance is available.

How do I register with VINE?

Once an offender is located, VINE gives you the option of registering for notification. You will need to provide a telephone number and a four digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) code.

How does VINE notify the registered person?

Once registered, you will receive notification of changes in custody status, upcoming court events, including cancellations and newly scheduled events. You will also be notified of case dispositions. Notification calls are made by VINE approximately every 30 minutes for 24 hours or until you enter your correct PIN. All telephone registrations through the program are anonymous. You are the only person who can access your telephone number or PIN through the system. ■

NEW JUDGES IN JUDICIAL CIRCUITS AS OF 1-1-99

2nd - **David Laser**, circuit/chancery judge

4th - **Stacey Zimmerman**, circuit/chancery judge

4th - **Mary Ann Gunn**, circuit/chancery judge

5th - **Ken Coker**, circuit-chancery judge

6th - **Mackie Pierce**, chancery judge

7th N - **Grisham Phillips**, circuit/chancery judge

8th N - **Duncan Culpepper**, circuit/chancery judge

9th E - **John Thomas**, circuit/chancery judge

10th - **Bynum Gibson**, circuit/chancery judge

A Look at the Arkansas Board of Legal Specialization

The Arkansas Board of Legal Specialization continues to monitor the administration of the Legal Specialization Program in Arkansas. To date, the only specialty attorney group that has sought and attained recognized specialization status are the Tax Lawyers. The Tax Specialty Committee functions each year in auditing the continued status of all the Tax Lawyers who have attained recognized status.

The Tax Specialty Committee is in the process of establishing rules and regulations to set forth procedural aspects of certain decisions such as the possibility of some lawyer not passing the test required of specialization or to otherwise handle issues such as delinquency in the annual reporting requirements.

The Board of Legal Specialization continues to be self-funded through annual fees paid by the Tax Lawyers who are participating in the specialization program. Present members of the Board include: A. Wyckliff Nisbet/Chair, Bill Penix/Jonesboro, Terry Poynter/Mountain Home, Murrey L. Grider/Pocahontas, Bobby L. Odom/Fayetteville, Patricia A. Page/Mena, Winfred A. Trafford/Pine Bluff, Richard N. Moore/Little Rock, and Hon. Ray Thornton/Little Rock, Supreme Court Liaison.

12th - **J. Michael Fitzhugh**, circuit judge

12th - **Jim Marschewski**, circuit judge

13th - **Edwin Keaton**, circuit/chancery judge

18th E - **John Homer Wright**, circuit judge

19th E - **Alan Epley**, circuit/chancery judge

21st - **Gary Cottrell**, circuit/chancery judge

New Faces in the Judiciary

CALENDAR

City Clerks

Lincoln - **Tracy Irwin** replaces Barb Draegen.
Gravette - **Linda McVittie** replaces Doris Raby.
Palestine - **Wesley Spain** replaces Cappi Vaughn.
Barling - **Shannon Pappas** replaces Ronald Naffziger.
Bearden - **Gale Vaughn** replaces Becky Arnold.

Municipal Judges

Stuttgart - **J.W. Green** replaces Norman Smith.

Municipal Clerks

Jacksonville - **Donna Brimmage** replaces Martha Boyd.
Jonesboro - **April Radson** replaces Brenda Tyler.
Marion County - **Martha Moore** replaces Ellen Cook.
Maumelle - **Sue McLawhorn** replaces Cathy Hill.
Monticello - **D.J. Hale** replaces Susan Deaton.
Clarendon - **Gail Mayville** replaces Phyllis James.
Lake City - **Tina Carmichael** replaces Betty Thompson.

JANUARY, 1999

New Circuit & Chancery Judges Orientation 11-15
(Little Rock)
Case Coordinators' Orientation 15-16
(Little Rock)

FEBRUARY

Municipal Court Officers 26
(Little Rock)

MARCH

Case Coordinators' Annual Conference (Hot Springs) 4-5
Municipal & City Court Clerks' Certification Program 19
(Little Rock)

APRIL

Spring Judicial College 21-23
(Little Rock)

MAY

Municipal Judges Spring College 13-15
(West Memphis)
Municipal & City Court Clerks' Certification Program 13-15
(West Memphis)



Friends of the Court

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Friends of the Court is a bi-monthly publication by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to **Friends of the Court**, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400. Karolyn Bond, Editor.

Address
Correction
Requested