



FRIENDS OF THE COURT

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Case Coordinators Meet in Hot Springs



New Case Coordinator Officers (L. to R.) Pam Murphy/10th-Member at Large, Jerlene Eason/6th-Member at Large, Joan Lester/4th-President, Suzanne Stanley/14th-Treasurer, Rilla Hundley/2nd-Secretary, and Janet Smith/12th-Parliamentarian. Not pictured Jeannie Pack/23rd-Vice President and Jackie Ridling/8th N-Past President.

Case Coordinators met in Hot Springs on March 4th and 5th for their annual conference. Sixty-six coordinators attended the two day event which included programs on *Mediation Skills* by Melanie Ewell, Alternate Dispute Resolution Coordinator, "Who Are You" by psychologist Dr. Bo Thomas, *Legislative Update* by J.D. Gingerich, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts and "What's Buggin' You?" by Kay Palmer, Judicial Education Coordinator.



(L. to R.) Nancy Hargett/13th, Laura Berryman/10th and Karen Davis/18th E listen to Rose Sykes'/6th (far left) comments on "What's Buggin' You?".



(L. to R.) Rhonda Thomason/9th E, Laura Hagen/2nd, Vickie Kell/19th E and Mariesa Baker/21st prepare to participate in "What's Buggin' You?".

State Court Caseload Statistics

Available for 1997

Almost 90 million new cases were filed in our nation's state courts in 1997. The highest totals ever have been reached for filings of the largest segments of state court workload: 14 million criminal cases, 15 million civil cases, 5 million domestic relations cases and 2 million juvenile cases. When the nearly 53 million traffic and ordinance violations cases are counted, we see that there is an average of one case filed in the state courts for every three people living in the United States.

Examining the Work of State Courts, 1997, and its companion volume, *State Court Caseload Statistics, 1997*, offer a full portrait of the state courts in a nontechnical fashion. Produced by the Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts, they analyze and interpret the work performed in the nearly 16,500 state trial and appellate courts by more than 29,000 state judicial offices. A small sample of findings shows that:

- Civil and criminal cases are now growing about 3 times faster than the U.S. population.
- Two-thirds of the states are having difficulty keeping up with the flow of civil and criminal cases.
- Tort law suits have actually fallen by 9 percent since 1986.
- The Welfare Reform Act of 1966 has led to a fall in the number of paternity and interstate support filings.
- Alcohol consumption, the number of alcohol related traffic fatalities, and the number of DUI cases filed in state courts are all declining.

Examining the Work of

State Courts, 1997 (\$25), and *State Court Caseload Statistics, 1997*, (\$15) (\$35 the set) are available from the National Center for State Courts, Fulfillment Department, P.O. Box 580, Williston, VT 05495-0589; or call toll free 1-888-228-NCSC; or e-mail ncsc.orders@aidcvt.com.



Mary Ann Rose
"Administrative Office of the Courts"

For those who call the Administrative Office of the Courts, the voice you usually hear on the other end is that of Mary Ann Rose, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant for the AOC. Mary Ann has been with the AOC since July of 1991.

Being the main monitor of calls coming into the AOC, Mary Ann has become very skillful in recognizing and greeting those who call in and need to speak to employees in the office. In addition, she competently handles a wide assortment of calls from the general public who need information assistance or who need to be redirected to another agency.

So, now you know the face with the voice!

Governor Signs Bill to Increase Jury Pay

The proposal of the Arkansas Judicial Council to increase the level of compensation for jurors is now law with the signing of Act 629 of 1999 by Governor Huckabee. Under current law, which was established in 1953 and has never been changed, some counties pay as little as \$5.00 per day for service as a juror. The new act will set a minimum of \$35.00 per day for persons who are actually selected to serve on a jury panel and \$15.00 per day for those who are required to report



but are later excused. The lead sponsor of the proposal, Representative Jim Luker of Wynne, successfully encouraged the Association of County Judges to support the bill, even though counties are responsible for the payment of jurors. With their support, the measure passed unanimously in the Senate and the House.

The issue of jury compensation is one of many issues currently being studied by the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Public Trust and Confidence in the Court System. It is expected that other matters related to jury reform will be discussed as a part of this committee's action. The juror pay act will become effective sixty days following the adjournment of the 1999 legislative session.

Healthline

The nation's courts are embracing technology as they never have before to gain the tremendous time and cost-saving advantages that technology can provide, helping them be more efficient and effective in the business they do.

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will be premiering its Education and Technology (Ed Tech) Center, a new facility dedicated to improving the administration of justice nationwide through distance education, on April 9, 1999, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. The demonstration will involve live hookups with the College of William and Mary Law School's Courtroom 21; the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C.; the Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix, Arizona; and with a yet-to-be-determined site in Mexico City. Other participants may also join this inaugural event on-line through NCSC's Web site at www.ncsc.dni.us. More than 200 officials and honored guest, including state chief justices, state court administrators, and representatives of the U.S. Supreme Court, are expected to attend in Williamsburg and at remote sites in Washington, D.C.; Phoenix, Arizona; and Mexico City.

The theater-style classroom features the latest in presentation and transmission technology to reach out to courts not only nationwide, but around the world. NCSC can now conduct conferences and workshops for judges, administrators, and other court officials all over the country via satellite, point-to-point or multi point videoconferencing or the Internet.

Try to get your daily needs of vitamins and minerals from FOOD first! It is the position of the American Dietetic Association that the best nutritional strategy for promoting optimal health and reducing the risk of chronic disease is to obtain adequate nutrients from a wide variety of foods. Vitamin and mineral supplementation is appropriate when well-accepted,



peer-reviewed, scientific evidence shows safety and effectiveness. - Journal of the American Dietetic Association, 1996.

Here are some sources of a few vitamins and minerals:

Vitamin C: tomatoes, oranges, cantaloupe, honeydew, strawberries. Vitamin A: carrots, yellow squash, tomatoes, papayas, oranges. Vitamin D: fortified milk, fish, liver, sunlight. Zinc: meat, poultry, eggs, seafood, whole grains. Potassium: cantaloupes, bananas, avocados, potatoes, meats. Vitamin K: green leafy vegetables, dried beans and peas, brussels sprouts. Iron: poultry, dark molasses, enriched breads, legumes, shellfish. Calcium: milk, broccoli, yogurt, cheese, tofu, salmon with bones. Folic Acid: cabbage, corn, cauliflower, grapefruit juice. Vitamin B-12: meats, fish, poultry. Vitamin E: almonds, safflower oil, sunflower seeds, peanuts, peanut butter.

Municipal Court Officers Elected

The Municipal Court Officers Association met Friday, February 26th at the Holiday Inn Airport in Little Rock. Their educational program was on the Freedom of Information Act. Debby Nye of the Mitchell Law Firm taught the session.

Bylaws were adopted at the meeting and officers were elected. The new officers for the Association include President, Eddie Davis/Little Rock, Vice President, Jim Godfrey/Fayetteville, and Secretary-Treasurer, Jill Hudson/Jonesboro.

Court Reporters to Meet

The Arkansas Court Reporters' Association will meet at the Capital Hotel in Little Rock, April 23-24. For further information, contact Mike Ashcraft: (870) 226-7656.



HUMOR IN THE COURT

Sarah Bird, Case Coordinator for Judge Carol Anthony in the 13th Judicial Circuit sent *Friends of the Court* the following Humor in the Court.

"Despite the ever-increasing amount of work, our job sometimes provides humor in unexpected places. Like the penitentiary.

We recently received a Petition for Transcript from an inmate. The petition contains the following statement: 'Petitioner is an indigent prisoner incorreceted in the Arkansas Department of Correction.'

I see several interpretations of that 'sentence'."

CALENDAR

New Faces in the Judiciary

City Judges

Calico Rock - **Dwayne Lawrence** replaces Connie Barksdale.
Shannon Hills - **Steve Fisher** replaces Sandra Partridge.

City Clerks

Alexander - **Barbara Mescke** replaces Brenda Lee.
Concord - **Tracy L. Murrell** replaces Cynthia Robinson.
Shannon Hills - **Marilyn Moore** replaces Doris Eoff.
Bradford - **Greba June Edens** replaces Karen Little.
Mt. Vernon - **Ann Armstrong** replaces Cathy Harrison.

Municipal Judges

Murfreesboro - **Jim Bob Steel** replaces Daniel Graves.

Municipal Clerks

Dernott - **Sonya Mays** replaces Debra Lynn.
Pine Bluff - **Debbie Lewis** replaces Linda Burroughs.

Circuit/County Clerks

Lawrence County - **Ann Phillips** replaces Reggie Lewis.

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)

SEPTEMBER

Municipal Judges' Fall College 9-11
(Hot Springs)
Municipal & City Court Clerks' Certification Program 17
(North Little Rock)

OCTOBER

Fall Judicial College 27-30
Joint program with Mississippi Judges.
(Olive Branch, Mississippi)

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The business of the law is to make sense of the confusion of what we call human life-to reduce it to order but at the same time to give it possibility, scope, even dignity.

Archibald MacLeish (1892-1982), U.S. poet.



Friends of the Court

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Address
Correction
Requested