



FRIENDS OF THE COURT

Published by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Volume 7, No. 1/ July, 1999



*Drawing of finished new addition to Justice Building
Completion Date Target - May, 2000*

Special committee appointed to help design educational area in Justice Building addition

The Arkansas Supreme Court has appointed a special committee to assist with the development and design of a museum area in the addition to the Justice Building currently under construction. Each year thousands of school children, international visitors and other groups visit the Justice Building. The space will be designed to provide an educational experience about the history, importance, and workings of our justice system.

Members of the committee include Scott Stafford of the UALR

School of Law, Barbara Patty of the Arkansas Education Department, Tom Dillard of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Don Hollingsworth of the Arkansas Bar Association, Tony Curtis of Cromwell Architects and Engineers, Bill Worthen of the Arkansas Territorial Restoration, Frances Ross of the UALR Department of History, Bill Jones of the Arkansas Supreme Court Reporter's Office, and J.D. Gingerich and Karolyn Bond of the Administrative Office of the Courts.



JUSTICE BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION
PROGRESS
AS OF
JUNE, 1999

Grant money issued to CASA programs around Arkansas

The Arkansas Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is very pleased to announce our first state grants to local CASA program. The funding for these grants has come from the State of Arkansas. The following CASA programs have already applied for and received funding from the state grants:

Northwest Arkansas CASA
(serving Benton, Washington, and Madison Counties)

CASA of the 16th Judicial District (serving Cleburne, Independence, Stone, Izard, and Fulton Counties)

CASA of the 2nd Judicial District (serving Craighead, Greene, Clay, Poinsett, Mississippi, and Crittendon Counties)

Pulaski County CASA
CASA of Saline County
CASA of Garland County
Northeast Texas CASA
(serving Miller and Lafayette Counties with plans to expand to Little River, Sevier, Howard, and Pike Counties)

CASA of the 13th Judicial District (serving Ouachita, Calhoun, Union, Columbia, Dallas, and Cleveland Counties).

In addition, the following communities have indicated an intent to begin a CASA program in the next year and are expected to also receive state grants:

(See CASA, next page)

Crime Lab preparing for testimony via closed-circuit /satellite transmission

Act 565 of the 1999 Regular Session now allows the testimony of State Crime Laboratory analysts via closed-circuit or satellite transmitted television in criminal trials. Act 565 states, "In all criminal trials, except trials in which the defendant is charged with capital murder or murder in the first degree, upon motion of the prosecutor, after notice to the defendant, and upon proper showing of good cause and sufficient safeguards to satisfy all state and federal Constitutional requirements of oath, confrontation, cross-examination, and observation of the witness' demeanor and testimony by the defendant, the court and the jury, and absent a showing of prejudice by the defendant, the court may allow the prosecutor to present the testimony of the appropriate analyst by contemporaneous transmission from a State Crime Laboratory facility via two-way closed circuit or satellite transmitted television which shall allow the examination and cross-examination of the analyst to proceed as though the analyst were testifying in the courtroom."

Jim Clark, Executive Director of the State Crime Lab, stated that because of Act 565, they are in the process of applying for a grant from the Office of Science and Technology in order to imple-

ment a pilot project dealing with testimony of Crime Lab analysts via closed-circuit or satellite transmitted television. Plans for the pilot project include transmitting testimony from three different types of sites; a rural setting that has less technical support, a jurisdiction with a high subpoena rate, and Jefferson County which is already wired for sound and has technical support.

Clark indicated that the Crime Lab receives 9,000 - 11,000 subpoenas each year for analysts to appear and testify in cases. Statistics for 1997 show that lab analysts spent 3,789 hours in their capacity as witnesses in trials. However, 51% of those hours were spent driving to and from the court site, 40% were spent waiting to testify, and only 9% of the time was actually spent on the witness stand. With the implementation of Act 565, Clark stated that one analyst could conceivably testify in several different cases across the State on the same day, thus greatly reducing travel time. In addition, the Executive Director perceives that this new Act will enhance the ability of the state's court system to proceed with cases more quickly because Crime Lab analysts will be more readily available to testify. ■

(CASA, cont. from page one)

Jefferson County (tentative start up October 1, 1999)

Faulkner County (tentative start up January 1, 2000)

Sebastian County (tentative start up January 1, 2000)

Clark County

White County

Carroll County

Baxter County

Sharp County

Pope County

Ashley, Chicot, Drew,

Bradley, and Desha Counties (the 10th Judicial District)

CASA is an organization that helps abused and neglected children reach safe, permanent homes through the use of volunteer advocates from the community. Volunteers are appointed by a juvenile judge to work with one or two sibling groups, monitor the case, talk with those involved with the case, and submit reports to the court.

If you are interested in helping to start a CASA program or in serving as a CASA volunteer, please contact Diane Robinson or Will Johnson at 501-682-9400.

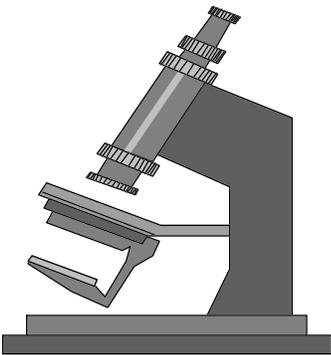
Diane Robinson, Director

E-mail:

diane.robinson@mail.state.ar.us

Website:

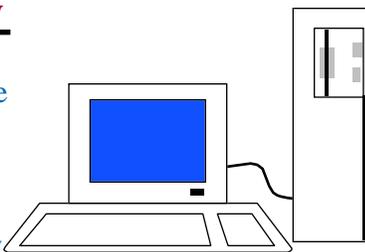
www.ar.ncasaa.org



Y2K Ready

Recently the Administrative Office of the Courts used \$30,000 of Capital Outlay

funding to purchase twenty-five (25) new desktop computers for case coordinators. These comput-



ers were purchased to replace older systems that had been supplied many years ago by a federal grant. This effort was in large part implemented to insure that these older NON-Y2K compliant computers could be retired.

SJI wants to hear from you

The State Justice Institute wants to hear from judges and court staff about issues of foremost concern in Arkansas in order to update its funding priorities.

Established by Federal law in 1984, SJI awards grants to improve the quality of justice in State courts, facilitate improved coordination between State and Federal courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common problems faced by all courts. Since becoming operational in 1987, SJI has awarded over \$120 million to support more than 1,000 projects benefiting the nation's judicial system and the public it serves. Of all Federal funding sources, only SJI has the authority to assist all State courts—criminal, civil, juvenile, family, and appellate—and the mandate to share the success of one State's innovations with every State court system as well as the Federal courts.

Please provide your suggestions to David Tevelin, the Institute's Executive Director, who can be reached by phone at (703) 684-6100 x214; fax at (703) 684-7618; letter at 1650 King Street, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314; or e-mail at dteveln@statejustice.org.

More information about the Institute is available on the SJI website:

<http://www.statejustice.org>

Combo Meal? Bank Deposit? Traffic Ticket!



Hungry and want a combo meal? Need to make a bank deposit? Well, neither of those tasks can be accomplished at this window. However, if you have a traffic ticket issued from the North Little Rock Traffic Court, with fines and costs indicated, you can drive through at this location and pay what you owe! Judy West, Municipal Clerk for North Little Rock Traffic Court, stated some tickets indicate "court appearance" and the bearer of such a ticket must appear in court. But otherwise, if you have received a traffic ticket from that Court and you're out running errands, drop on by!



AOC staff (l. to r.) P.C. Support Specialist, Wade Hankins, Deputy Dir., John Stewart and Computer Information Systems Dir., Jack Marks, prepare to send new notebook computers to judges.

In a continuing effort to provide portable computer technology to circuit and chancery judges, the AOC recently distributed fifteen (15) Gateway notebook computers complete with portable Hewlett Packard printers and carrying cases. The 300 Mhz computers complete with 13.3 inch screens, 4GB hard drives, 128 MB ram, 24 speed cd-roms, 56K modems and Windows 98 represent the best yet in our continual effort to purchase more comput-

er for the dollar. Since 1995 the Arkansas Supreme Court and the AOC have funded the purchase of portable computer systems, bringing the total distributed to eighty eight (88). The portability of these systems provides judges with instant access to case law and statutes on CD-ROM, and the ability to print orders out immediately upon completion of a case regardless in which courthouse they are conducting court.

New Faces in the Judiciary

Case Coordinators

18th East - (Cook) **Robin Gerkin** replaces Shari Hamilton

City Judges

Shannon Hills - **Doug Mays** replaces Steve Fisher.

City Clerks

Waldo - **Ora L. Radford** replaces Bethel Flowers.

Shannon Hills - **Wendy Denley** replaces Marilyn Moore.

Barling - **Debra Underwood** replaces Shannon Pappas.

Municipal Judges

Mountain View - **Adam Harkey** is the new municipal judge.

Municipal Clerks

Fort Smith - **Ruth Freeman** replaces Rose Riggs.

Court Reporters

18th East (Wright) **Stacie Givens** replaces Terry Jackson

CALENDAR

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)

Court Reporters Association 29-30
(Fort Smith)

NOVEMBER

Municipal and City Court Clerks' Certification Program 19
(Hot Springs)

**"Age is important only if you're
cheese or wine."**



**Carpet mural in
Supreme Court courtroom.**

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.

Friends of the Court

Administrative Office of the Courts
Justice Building/625 Marshall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Address
Correction
Requested