



# FRIENDS OF THE COURT

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## Arkansas & Mississippi Judges Meet Jointly

Trial and Appellate Judges from Arkansas and Mississippi attended a joint conference in October that was held in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Over 100



**Judge McCorkindale receives plaque of appreciation from incoming Council Pres., Judge Ben Story.**

judges from each state participated in the three day event.

On the first day of the conference, Professor Charles Whitebread of the USC School of Law discussed the decisions of the United States Supreme Court during its most recent term. The following day was devoted to issues concerning Restoring Public Confidence and Trust in the Judicial System. Concurrent sessions on the last day dealt with issues for Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges, reforming the jury system, therapeutic justice (a new, problem-solving orientation for courts that is

removed from the traditional model of the “dispassionate, disinterested magistrate”), and full faith and credit (recognizing and enforcing valid

protection orders regarding the Violence Against Women Act). At the business meeting of the Arkansas Judicial Council, Judge Robert McCorkindale handed over the reigns as President of the Council to Judge Ben Story. Other officers include: David Bogard, Pres. Elect, J.D. Gingerich-Treasurer and Judge Alice Gray-Secretary. The Board of Directors of the Judicial Council consists of Judge Gary Arnold, Judge Edward Jones, Judge David Switzer, Judge Leon Jamison, Judge Bill Storey, and Judge Sam Bird.

## Drug Court Established

The Fourth Judicial Circuit has received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Health/Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention in the amount of \$77,146 to start a pilot drug court program in that circuit effective December 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000. The program will target first time, nonviolent, drug related offenders. The prosecutor’s office in the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit, headed up by Terry Jones, will identify eligible candidates for the Drug Court. Denny Hsylyp from the Public Defender’s Office will also be involved. These offenders will be arraigned and then diverted into a 36 week inpatient/outpatient program at Decision Point treatment facility in Springdale. Judge William Storey will be involved as the “non traditional judge” who will oversee the program. Judge Storey indicated the pilot program expects to handle 100 cases during the six month trial period.

After an offender has completed the program, the charge will be dismissed. If a program participant fails to complete the necessary criteria, charges will then be reinstated in circuit court.



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## New ADR Coordinator Chosen

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission announces the employment of Ms. Shannon Hall as the new Coordinator of the ADR



**Shannon Hall**

Commission. Hall is a recent graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Master's Degree in Communication. She was formerly employed by the Walton College of Business Administration.

In January, 1995, the Arkansas General Assembly created the ADR Commission. The Commission consists of seven members and are appointed by the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Present members of the Commission are: Hon. Warren O. Kimbrough, Chair, Hon. Gary D. Corum, Hon. Stan Cummings, Professor Ken Gallant, Hon. Sidney H. McCollum, Mr. Rick Johnston and Hon. James Hall.

The purpose of the Commission is to promote in a systematic manner the appropriate use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes through the education of the courts, government agencies, and the public on methods, advantages, and applications of ADR. In addition to the education process, the ADR Commission is charged with the

responsibility to establish standards and regulations for the certification, professional conduct, discipline, and training of persons who will be eligible and qualified to serve as compensated neutrals in and for state and local courts.

For more information regarding the Commission, Ms. Hall may be reached at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 625 Marshall/Justice Building, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 682-9400.

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**June 14-17, 2000** - Judicial College/  
Arkansas Bar Association-Majestic  
Hotel, Hot Springs

**October 18-21, 2000** - Fall Judicial  
College-Fayetteville Hilton

**April 18-20, 2001** - Spring Judicial  
College - Location to be decided

**October 17-20, 2001** - Fall Judicial  
College-Fort Smith Holiday Inn

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## State Court Participants Attend Domestic Violence "Full Faith And Credit" Regional Meeting in New Orleans

Congress passed the full faith and credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in September of 1994 to establish nationwide enforcement of civil and criminal protection orders in state and tribal courts throughout the country. The VAWA explicitly directs that states, U. S. territories, and Indian tribes enforce protection orders issued by sister states, territories, and tribes. To date, forty-six states (including Arkansas) have passed some type of full faith and credit enabling legislation; however, at present there is considerable variation among states in terms of full faith and credit implementation.

On November 4 and 5, 1999, the National Center for State Courts and the National Criminal Justice Association presented the southern regional meeting on implementing the full faith and credit provisions of the VAWA. The meeting, which was held at the Doubletree Hotel, Lakeside, in New Orleans, was the first in a series of regional meetings designed to bring

together representatives of all the disciplines involved in making full faith and credit an effective tool in the campaign against domestic violence. The states representing the southern region were Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Representatives of the Arkansas court system attending the conference were Judge Jim Hannah, Judge John Lineberger, Judge Leon Jamison, John Stewart (Deputy Director—Administrative Office of the Courts), and John Millar (staff attorney—Administrative Office of the Courts).

The meeting program offered participants plenary and workshop sessions covering the VAWA full faith and credit requirements, federal and state firearms statutes related to domestic violence, tribal court order enforcement, attendant child support and custody issues, and promising implementation practices, including technological solutions, from across the region and the country.

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## Southern AOC's Meet

On November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> in Austin Texas, the Texas Office of Court Administration hosted a meeting of the Southern Regional Administrative Offices of the Courts. Keith Caviness attended as the Arkansas representative. Other states represented at the meeting were Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The meeting was held in the Texas State Capital in Austin.

The first day featured an overview of the Texas Office of Court Administration and an update on the National Consortium on Court Automation. This was followed by a round table discussion on the duties and responsibilities of public information officers. The Alabama AOC spoke about its Judicial Volunteer Program and the Georgia AOC outlined its Grants, Partnerships, and Outreach Program. The attendees heard from the Arkansas AOC on a Team Approach to Providing Services to Dependent-Neglected Children; Construction of the new Supreme Court/Justice Building; and Constitutional Changes to Create a Unified Court System. This was all followed by a tour of the Texas Supreme Court Courtroom and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Courtroom.

The second day included talks on Legislative/Judicial Relations and Judicial Performance Measures in the State of Texas. The group next heard from the staff of the Texas OCA on Technology in the Courts. The meeting concluded with an update from Timm Fautsko, Senior Management Consultant, National Center for State Courts on current trends at the NCSC and other Regional AOC Groups.

## Case Information on the Arkansas Judiciary Home Page

January 2000 marks the fourth anniversary of the Arkansas Judiciary Home Page. (<http://courts.state.ar.us>) Since its inception, the web site has received millions of hits by thousands of users looking for information from and about Arkansas courts. Although there are many pages of valuable information, most users visit the site looking for case information.

Each Wednesday and Thursday when the courts are in session, the decisions of the Arkansas Court of Appeals and the Arkansas Supreme Court, respectively, are handed down at 9:00 a.m. At the same time, the Supreme Court Clerk's Office releases the syllabus of the day's court proceedings. These documents are immediately available in print from the Supreme Court Clerk's Office and the Supreme Court Library. The Office of the Reporter of Decisions is provided with electronic versions of the opinions designated by the courts for publication. The Reporter also receives an electronic version of the day's syllabus. In addition to preparing the Arkansas Advance Reports and the official bound Arkansas Reports, the Reporter now prepares the electronic versions of the published opinions and the syllabus and posts them to the Arkansas Judiciary Home Page. The Internet-publishing process is completed within a few hours of the time the courts announce their opinions.

With a better understanding of how and when the case information is posted on the Internet, the challenge of finding the information becomes less daunting. There are two primary access points to informa-

tion about Arkansas Supreme Court and Arkansas Court of Appeals cases: through the syllabus by known date, or through the search engine.

To find a case where the date is known, users may select the "opinions" link from the Arkansas Judiciary Home Page to navigate to the main opinions page. To access the opinions, one must scroll down to the listing of fall and spring terms for each court. After clicking on the link for the term, the user will be presented with a list of court dates. Upon selecting a date, the syllabus for that date will be displayed with links to the published opinions.

Although access to cases by date is the easiest way to find a known opinion, this method of access is not conducive to legal research. The search engine was added to provide better access to the opinions. The Supreme Court librarians first posted opinions in 1996 when the web site was created. After the InformationNetwork of Arkansas (INA) made the search engine available, the Reporter of Decisions supplied INA with additional published opinions dating back to August 1994. The opinions from 1994 and 1995 may be found through the search engine, but they will not be found by browsing by date from the opinions main page as described above. To access the search engine, users should click on the "Search Opinions" link from the Arkansas Judiciary Home Page or from the opinions main page.

**<http://courts.state.ar.us>**

## New Faces in the Judiciary

## CALENDAR

### Case Coordinators

18th East (Cook) **Sarah Beaty** replaces Robin Gerkin.

### AOC

**Shannon Hall** is the new ADR Coordinator.

**Joyce French** is now Grants Administrator for the Dependency Neglect Division of the AOC.

**Lynne Talbert** replaces Joyce as AOC Administrative Secretary.

### City Judges

Jericho (new court) - **Jan A. Thomas, Jr.** is the judge.

### Municipal Clerks

Augusta - **Rebecca Boyles** replaces Tanya Baker.

McGehee - **Connie Moss** replaces Ashley Grimes.

### City Clerks

Bauxite - **Shara Davis** replaces Robin Lobbs.

Jericho (new court) - **Birdia Thompson** is the clerk.

### **FEBRUARY**

Municipal Court Officers **24-25**  
(Lake Hamilton Resort  
Hot Springs)

### **MARCH**

Case Coordinators' Annual **2-3**  
Conference (Lake Hamilton Resort-  
Hot Springs)

Municipal and City Court **17**  
Clerks' Certification Program  
(Riverfront Hilton, North Little Rock)

### **MAY**

Municipal Judges' Spring College **18-20**  
(Hilton Inn, Little Rock)

Municipal & City Court Clerks' **18-20**  
Certification Program  
(Hilton Inn, Little Rock)

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### Friends of the Court

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

**Happy Holidays!!!!**



**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