



Friends of the Court

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Conference on Collection of Fines, Fees and Costs

A Conference on Collection of Fines, Fees and Costs was conducted in Little Rock by the Administrative Office

of the Courts and under-written with funds from the Traffic Safety Division of the Arkansas Highway

Transportation Department. Those funds were made available by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

157 participants attended the 1 1/2 day conference, and invitees included circuit, chancery and municipal court judges, designated court staff, designated court clerks, designated probation officers, sheriffs, legislators, city officials, and county officials. Faculty for the conference were the Hon. Kathleen Bell/Chancery-Probate Judge in the 1st Judicial Circuit, Keith Caviness/AOC staff attorney

for courts of limited jurisdiction, Judge Gayle Ford/Circuit-Chancery Judge in the 18th West Circuit, Judge Bynum Gibson/Circuit-

Chancery Judge in the 10th Circuit, J.D.Gingerich/ Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Judge Robert Gladwin/ Prairie Grove Municipal Judge, Vicki Rima/Garland County

Circuit Clerk, Judge Barry Sims/ North Little Rock Traffic Judge, and Shaun Zallaps from the National Center for State Courts.

Judge Leslie Johnson, Director of the Mississippi Judicial College, was the moderator for the sessions.

Millions of dollars of court imposed fines, fees and costs go uncollected each year in Arkansas. The Administrative Office of the Courts invited members of the criminal justice community to come together to address problems and issues that hinder collections and to jointly explore methods to effec-

tively collect fines, fees and costs.

Conference sessions provided discussion about judicial and community philosophies regarding collections, awareness of problems that hinder collections, current law on collections, fine management systems, alternatives to fines and ethical issues all members of the criminal justice community must consider.

ARKANSAN BECOMES NEW AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Judge Chris E. Williams

A resolution from the Arkansas Supreme Court was issued on September 14, 2000, honoring Judge Chris E. Williams for his investiture as President of the American Judges Association. Judge Williams presently serves as Municipal Judge for Malvern and previously served as Malvern City Attorney. Congratulations to Judge Williams!



Fort Smith Municipal Judge David Saxon and Clerks Rachel Sims and Kathy Miller look over educational material.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

On September 14, 2000 at a joint meeting of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Judiciary, Representative Barbara King (D. Helena) presented to the Committee testimony and evidence of the effectiveness of specialized drug courts. The main witness at the Committee was Judge Mary McGowan, Circuit/Chancery Judge in the Sixth Judicial District and judge for the Post-Adjudication Court (PAC), Pulaski County's drug court.

Arkansas' first drug court, the Supervised Treatment and Education Program (STEP) Court, became fully operational in June, 1994 in Pulaski County. The Court grew out of the inspiration of former Chief Justice Jack Holt who brought together the necessary parties to plan and develop the Court and appointed its first judge, former Circuit Judge Jack Lessenberry. The Court operated for almost five years in the form of a pre-trial diversion/treatment program for non-violent drug addicted adult offenders. With the expiration of federal funding support for the program, a new court was begun in 1999 established as a post-trial alternative sentencing program funded through the Department of Community Punishment and led by Judge Mary McGowan. While drug courts across the country take many different forms and target different groups of offenders, all involve a collaboration between the court and one or more drug treatment programs in order to attack the root cause of the defendant's



reason for being in the court system - drug

addiction. As the testimony which Representative King presented before the Arkansas Judiciary Committee confirmed, drug courts across the country and in Arkansas have been highly successful in dealing with criminal defendants who have drug addictions and have resulted in impressively low rates of recidivism. Programs are also successful because they divert defendants from jail and prison into successful treatment programs at a fraction of the cost of incarceration without producing an increased risk to public safety. At a time when Arkansas is faced with increased demand for prison beds and decreasing tax dollars available for distribution, the drug court model offers a unique and important alternative.

Since the development of the Pulaski County court, an additional program has been developed in the Fourth Judicial District (Washington and Madison Counties). Recent planning grants offered to local jurisdictions by the Federal Office of Drug Court Programs has led officials in a number of other judicial districts, under the leadership of their circuit judges, to begin the planning process for the development of additional courts. In light of increased local interest, demonstrated success in the state, and an intense desire by legislators to spend scarce correction's dollars in as effective a manner as possible, it is likely that much attention in the upcoming 2001 General Assembly will be focused upon the creation of additional drug courts in the state.

J.D. Gingerich

For Your Information

The federal government has just launched a new website entitled FirstGov, self-described as:

[T]he first-ever government website to provide the public with easy, one-stop access to all online U.S. Federal Government resources...FirstGov allows users to browse a wealth of information - everything from researching at the Library of Congress to tracking a NASA mission. It also enables users to conduct important business online - such as applying for student loans, tracking Social Security benefits, comparing Medicare options and even administering government grant and contracts. This monumental breakthrough in shopping for gov services will help across the count the world find the and resources the click of a mouse easily.

FirstGov is located at :

<http://www.firstgov.gov/index.html>.

(It also includes links to state and local government information.)



Judge Oliver L. Adams, chancellor in the 19th West Judicial Circuit, died August 18, 2000 after an extended illness. Judge Adams first came to the bench in 1982 when he was appointed to the newly created chancery judge's post in the 19th District, including Benton and Carroll Counties. Memorials may be made to the Rogers Public Library, designated for children's books.

Judge Lineberger Receives Honor



Judge John Lineberger (l .) and National Judicial College Dean Ernest Borunda

Judge John Lineberger, chancellor in the 4th Judicial District since 1977, has been awarded the V. Robert Payant Award for Teaching Excellence, which is given to a member each year by Judicial College in a. This award is the most prestigious award the college's past Judge V. Robert Payant. Dean of Judicial College Ernest Borunda, stated, "Judge Lineberger has been a member of the National Judicial College faculty for 17 years. In that time he has become one of the college's most popular faculty members as well as an incredible resource for the college."

Customer Service

Successful customer service involves many aspects; one of them is sending a positive attitude to others. The old adage "What goes around, comes around" is applicable in customer service. The attitude you project to customers is usually the attitude you get back.

When examining your attitude at work, it's helpful to ask yourself some of the following questions.



Do you enjoy assisting/serving others? Can you be cheerful to all customers despite their appearance? Is contact with your customers challenging and fun? Can you encounter difficult customers without losing your positive attitude?

Good ways to send positive attitudes to those around you include your having a neat appearance, a relaxed and natural body language, and a pleasant voice. A positive attitude in your job is really just liking your job and enabling your words and actions to reflect this to your customers and fellow employees.

HUMOR IN THE COURT

Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No, this how I dress when I go to work.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

A: Oral.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: July fifteenth.

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.



The "birthday cake" displayed the current progress of the new addition to the Justice Building.

The Arkansas Supreme Court opened the 2000 - 2001 term by celebrating its 164th "birthday". Article VI, Section 1, of the Arkansas Constitution of 1836 vested the judicial power of the State "in one Supreme Court, in Circuit Courts, in County Courts and in Justices of the Peace." Current Court members include Chief Justice W.H. "Dub" Arnold, and Associate Justices Tom Glaze, Don Corbin, Robert Brown, Annabelle Imber, Ray Thornton, and Lavenski Smith.



New Faces in the Judiciary

AOC

Donna Gay - Staff Attorney for Chancery/Probate Court

Chancery Judges

19th Circuit/Div. 1 - **Xollie Duncan** is the new chancellor.

Case Coordinators

10th Circuit (Gibson) **Penny Rosegrant** replaces Linda Bolding.
11th West Circuit(Davis) - **Sandra Starnes** replaces Darla Barr.

Court Reporters

13th Circuit (Guthrie) **Paulette Wright** replaces Marsha Smith.

Municipal Clerks

Huntsville - **Melissa Ogden** replaces Betty Lair.
Monticello - **Mandy Hogg** replaces Michelle Hammons.
Carlisle - **Fever McElyea** replaces Vicki Elder.

City Judges

Norfolk (new court) - **Van Gearhart** is the judge.

City Clerks

Austin - **LaVonda Lewis** replaces Stacey Hatfield.
Cammack Village - **Lynde Manley** replaces Sue Hall.
Norfolk (new court) - **Betty Baker** is the clerk.
Redfield - **Janet Reap** replaces Valerie Hollowell.
Rosebud - **Linda Moore** replaces Barbara Stubblefield.
Coal Hill - **Kim Tedford** replaces Nell Leinhart.
Cotton Plant - **Nicole Carroll** replaces Tammy Greenwood.
Lowell - **Darlene Baker** replaces Carol Carter.
Norfolk - **Peggy German** replaces Betty Baker.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Fall Judicial College (Fayetteville-Hilton) **18-21**

Foreign Language Interpreter Training (UALR Law School) **27-28**

NOVEMBER

Juvenile Judges Annual Conference (Red Apple Inn-Heber Springs) **8-10**

Municipal & City Court Clerks Certification (DeGray Lodge-Arkadelphia) **17**

FEBRUARY

Municipal Court Officers (Lake Hamilton Resort-Hot Springs) **22-23**



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**Address
Correction
Requested**