



Friends of the Court

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Contractor Selected for Arkansas Court Automation Project

After almost two years of study and research, the development of system specifications, and a lengthy process of request, receipt and review of proposals, final contract negotiations are now underway for the Arkansas Court Automation Project. ACS Government Systems, a division of ACS and headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, has been chosen as the major provider of the court management software which will be the central focus of the project. The contract will allow for the incremental implementation of a comprehensive integrated automated justice system for the Circuit and District Courts in all seventy-five counties.

The central offices of ACS are located in Dallas, Texas. The company has more than 30,000 employees and 500 offices worldwide. The Government Systems Division has extensive experience working with state and local governments and specific experience with state and local courts. They currently provide software and services for a statewide system for the Missouri courts and have been selected to implement a similar system in Rhode Island. Several other trial and limited jurisdiction courts utilize the system in state

courts across the nation.

The selection of ACS was made after a rigorous process of request and review of proposals by the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Automation. Formal proposals were received from 10 national vendors. Four finalists were selected and full day presentations were made in Little Rock to an audience which included the members of the Supreme Court Committee, judges, Circuit, County and District Clerks, and other state and local officials. Two of these ven-



dors were asked by the Committee to submit further financial information and, as a result, ACS was selected as the final choice. Contract negotiations are currently underway between the company and the Administrative Office of the Courts with a goal of having a contract in place by July 1, 2002.

The first year of the project will involve the detailed design of the system and software for use in Arkansas courts. For this purpose,

a limited number of pilot courts have been chosen to receive the initial implementation and assist in the developmental phase. The initial courts will be connected through two central data centers, one located in northwest Arkansas and including the Sebastian County Circuit Court and the Fayetteville, Waldron and Clarksville District Courts, and the other in central Arkansas and including the Hot Springs and Faulkner County Circuit Courts and the District Courts in Malvern, Conway, Lonoke, Carlisle and Clinton.

According to J.D. Gingerich, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the implementation plan is deliberately designed to proceed slowly to allow ample time for the development and testing of the software and network before any attempt is made to roll out the system to other courts. Several teams of local court specialists including clerks, judges, case coordinators and others who regularly interact with the court system will be asked to participate in the developmental and testing phase. "This is an exciting time for the Arkansas court system", said Gingerich., "one which we have

(See "Automation" next page)

("Automation" continued)

awaited for a long, long time and which has the potential to radically improve the way we do business. I am extremely grateful to the members of the General Assembly and to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department for the funding support which they have provided to the project and to the Supreme Court Committee on Automation and the Project Director, Mr. Tim Holtholf, for all of the work which has been done so far and which has resulted in the creation of an outstanding partnership between ACS and the Arkansas court system."

Examining the Work of State Courts

A few highlights from

Examining the Work of State Courts, 2001: A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project.

* 92 million state court filings in 2000 represent an eight-year high.

* Criminal filings decreased in state courts while growing by almost 5 percent in federal courts.

* Civil caseloads dropped for the second consecutive year in 2000.

* Tort and contract cases make up the largest share of nondomestic civil caseloads.

* Domestic relations filings increased 5 percent between 1996 and 2000.

* Juvenile filings declined 3 percent from 1998 to 2000.

* DWI filings rose 9 percent between 1997 and 2000.

* 15 states account for 73 percent of total criminal filings.

* Felony filings increased slightly in 2000.

* The number of cases filed with state appellate courts has grown modestly in recent years.



Judicial Election Results

The following are election results for contested circuit judges races in the May 21st election. Any position listing more than one candidate indicates a runoff in the November, 2002 general election.

District 1

Division 5 - Baird Kinney

District 2

Division 1 - Pam Honeycutt & H.T. Moore
Division 2 - Lee Fergus & Ron Hunter
Division 10 - Larry Boling

District 3

Division 2 - Philip Smith

District 6

Division 6, Subdistrict 6.2 - Tim Fox
Division 7 - Subdistrict 6.2 - Barry Sims & Ellen Reif
Division 14 - Subdistrict 6.2 - Van Smith
Division 15 - Subdistrict 6.2 - Richard Moore

District 8 South

Division 3 - Kirk Johnson

District 10

Division 3 - Bynum Gibson

District 11 East

Division 1 - David Henry

District 11 West

Division 3, Subdistrict 11.2 - Bill Benton & Wilson Bynum

District 14

Division 3 - John Putman
Division 4 - Gordon Webb



District 15

Division 2 - David McCormick

District 16

Division 2 - Norman Harkey
Division 4 - Tim Weaver

District 17

Division 3 - Craig Hannah & Tom Hughes

District 19 West

Division 4 - John Scott

District 20

Division 1 - David Reynolds
Division 2 - Mike Maggio
Division 4 - Linda Collier

District 21

Division 2 - Mike Medlock



Jackie Wright, recently retired Arkansas Supreme Court Librarian of nearly 20 years is to receive the Marian Gould Gallagher distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Law Libraries.

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1984 to recognize extended and sustained service to law librarianship, for exemplary service to the Association, or for contributions to the professional literature.

District Judges and District & City Court Clerks Attend Spring Meeting



(Left) District Court Judge Steve Routon, incoming President for the 2002-2003 year. Geneva Vance, (center) outgoing President of the Clerks' Association. (Right) Judge Dennis James, outgoing President of the Judges' Council.



2001-2002 District Court Clerks' Officers. (Seated/L.toR.) Marla Wallace/Parliamentarian, Judy West/1st Vice President, Geneva Vance/President, Ruby Baker/Historian. (Standing/L.to R.) Judy DuVall/2nd Vice President, Sherry Casey/2nd Dist. Rep., Cheri Mitch/At-Large Rep., Carolyn Cole/4th Dist. Rep., and Debbie Lewis/Secretary. (Not pictured-Pat Lipps/Treasurer, April Rason/1st Dist. Rep., Jimmy Story/3rd Dist. Rep., and Mandy Hogg/At-Large Rep.)

Approximately 70 District Court Judges met in Hot Springs May 16-18 for their Spring College meeting. Their educational sessions included "Communications", "Issues with Commercial Drivers Licenses", the Arkansas Lawyers Assistance Program (ArLAP), "Bonds", and "Canon 5".

Outgoing President of the District Judges' Council, Judge Dennis James turned the presidential gavel over to Forrest City District Judge Steve Routon for the 2002-2003 term. District Judges' new officers also include Hon. Kirk Johnson/Texarkana, 1st Vice President; Hon. David Stewart/Little Rock, 2nd Vice President; Hon. David Saxon/Fort Smith, Secretary/Treasurer; Hon. J.R. "Rusty" Porter/West Helena, 1st District Rep.; Hon. Jim Hamilton/North Little Rock, 2nd District Rep.; Hon. Rodney Owens/Bentonville, 3rd District Rep.; and Hon. John Finley/Ashdown, 4th District Rep.

237 District & City Court

Clerks registered at the same time in Hot Springs and attended educational sessions including "Guides for Communicating in District Court", "Court Procedures for Processing Bonds", "Managing Stress", "The State of Drug & Alcohol Treatment in Arkansas", "Using the Freedom of Information Act in Courts", "Constitutional Issues: Separation of Powers", and "Maintaining Your Integrity in the Face of Change".

New clerk officers for the 2002-2003 year are: Judy West/North Little Rock, President; Dena Titsworth/Mena, 1st Vice President; Judy Carlisle/Wynne, 2nd Vice President; Cheri Mitch/Greenwood, Secretary; Katrina Turner/Pea Ridge, Treasurer; Del Rae Templeton/Bryant, Historian; Val Buster/Texarkana, Parliamentarian; Nola King/Gosnell, 1st Dist. Rep.; Donna Clifton/Conway, 2nd Dist. Rep.; Connie Watson/Rogers, 3rd Dist. Rep.; Cheryl York/Ashdown, 4th Dist. Rep.; Lori Nivens/Hope,

At-Large Rep.; and Tammy Garringer/Ward, At-large Rep.

Out going President, Geneva Vance of Forrest City received the "Clerk of the Year" award from her peers.



Geneva Vance, Clerk of the Year



New Faces in the Judiciary

City Judges

Bauxite - **John O. Payne** replaces Steve Risher.
Mount Vernon - **Christopher Acklin** replaces Casey Jones.

District Judges

Alexander - **Judy Wilber** replaces Richard Lawrence.

District Court Clerks

Alexander - **Tressie Mitchell** replaces Barbara Meseke.

Case Coordinators

14th (Isbell) - **Lorrie McNeil** replaces Suzanne Stanley.

Court Reporters

14th (Isbell) - **Suzanne Stanley** replaces Patti Honeycutt.
11th W (Jamison) - **Sandra Starnes** replaces Phoebe Spharler.

Humor in the Court

Q. And where was the location of the accident?

A. Approximately milepost 499.

Q. And where is milepost 499?

A. Probably between milepost 498 and 500.

Q. Did you blow your horn or anything?

A. After the accident?

Q. Before the accident?

A. Sure, I played for 10 years. I even went to school for it.

Q. What is the date of your birth?

A. July fifteenth.

Q. What year?

A. Every year.

Q. The youngest son, the twenty- year old, how old is he?

Q. Were you present when your picture was taken?



Friends of the Court

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



CALENDAR

JUNE

Spring Judicial College/Council Mtg. **12-14**
(Hot Springs - Majestic Hotel)

Official Court Reporters' Program **14-15**
(Hot Springs - Majestic Hotel)

SEPTEMBER

Adjusting Your Hats/Criminal & Civil **13**
(Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select)

District/City Court Clerks' Cert. **20**
(Little Rock - Holiday Inn Select)

CASA Conference (North Little Rock Hilton) **20-21**

District Judges' Fall College (Heber Springs - Red Apple Inn) **26-28**

OCTOBER

Fall Judicial College/Judicial Council Meeting (Eureka Springs-Inn of the Ozarks) **16-19**

NOVEMBER

Adjusting Your Hats - Domestic Relations & Probate (Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select) **8**

Juvenile Judges' Conf. (Heber Springs - Red Apple Inn) **13-15**

District & City Court Clerks' Certification (Hot Springs - Arlington) **15**

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