



ARKANSAS JUDICIARY

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## Arkansas Judicial Council



Judicial Council, fall 2015 meeting:

Seated: (l to r) Hon. Gary Arnold (Immediate Past President), Hon. Rita Gruber (Director)

Standing: (l to r) Hon. Robert Edwards; Hon. David McCormick (Director); Hon. David Clark; Hon. Earnest Brown, Jr.; Hon. Barbara Halsey (Director); AOC Director J.D. Gingerich (Secretary/Treasurer); Hon. Mary McGowan (President 2015-2016); Hon. Mike Medlock (Director); Hon. James Cox (Director)

## Information about Arkansas Judicial Council

Arkansas Judicial Council consists of all judges of the state circuit courts, judges of the Arkansas Court of Appeals, justices of the Arkansas Supreme Court, retired justices and judges of those courts, and the Director of the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. The Council acts as the official body representing the state's judiciary.

The Council was organized "to foster and preserve the integrity, dignity, and independence of the judiciary; to promote uniformity and dispatch in judicial administration; to develop, implement and maintain a program of judicial education preassisting members newly elected or appointed to the bench; to provide continuing legal education for members accommodating the diverse needs of chancellors, circuit judges and appellate justices; and to select member to the Judicial Retirement board."

The Council has statutory responsibilities which include making recommendations to the General Assembly on judicial redistricting and the addition of new judgeships in the state; and appointment of the five members of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System <sup>[1]</sup>. *Ark. Code Ann.* section 16-10-501 ("Development of criteria for new judgeships or redistricting"); *Ark. Code Ann.* section 24-8-203 ("Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System"). Formal business of the Council is conducted in spring and fall meetings each year.

### 2016-2017 Officers

Officer Name	Phone	Fax
<b>Hon. David Guthrie</b> , President Circuit Judge 101 North Washington, Suite 205 El Dorado AR 71730	870-864-1968	870-864-1968
<b>Hon. Mary McGowan</b> , Immediate Past-President Circuit Judge 401 W. Markham, Room 240 Little Rock AR 72201	501-340-5602	501-340-5602
<b>Hon. Wiley Branton</b> , President-Elect Circuit Judge 3001 W. Roosevelt Little Rock AR 72201	501-340-6666	501-340-6666
<b>Mr. J.D. Gingerich</b> , Secretary/Treasurer Director, Administrative Office of the Courts 625 Marshall Street, Justice Building Little Rock AR 72201	501-682-9400	501-682-9400

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Name	Phone	Fax
<p><b>Hon. Herbert Wright</b>            Circuit Judge            401 W. Markham, Room 440            Little Rock AR 72201</p>	501-831-4670	501-344-4670
<p><b>Hon. Barbara Halsey</b>            Circuit Judge            320 W. Court Street, Room 210            Paragould AR 72450</p>	870-926-9503	870-232-9503
<p><b>Hon. Mike Medlock</b>            Circuit Judge            220 South 4th Street            Van Buren AR 72956</p>	479-471-3290	479-471-3290
<p><b>Hon. Joanna Taylor</b>            Circuit Judge            123 North College            Fayetteville AR 72701</p>	479-444-1682	479-444-1682
<p><b>Hon. Carlton Jones</b>            Circuit Judge            400 Laurel Street            Texarkana AR 71854</p>	870-774-2421	870-774-2421
<p><b>Hon. Leon Johnson</b>            Circuit Judge            401 W. Markham, Room 420            Little Rock AR 72201</p>	501-340-8590	501-340-8590
<p><b>Hon. Shawn Womack</b>            Supreme Court Justice            625 Marshall Street            Little Rock AR 72201</p>	501-682-6861	501-682-6861

Name	Phone	Fax
<b>Hon. Ann Hudson</b> Circuit Judge P. O. Box 995 Forrest City AR 72336	870-633-5995	870-633-5995

**Hon. Edwin Keaton**  
Circuit Judge  
Ouachita County Courthouse  
Camden AR 71701

870-231-9145

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[1] <http://www.apers.org/ajrs/index.php>