

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS
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**FIRST “HOPE COURT” IN SALINE COUNTY—
ARKANSAS ONE OF FOUR STATES TO RECEIVE
DEPT. OF JUSTICE GRANT FUNDS**

The U.S. Dept. of Justice announced that Arkansas, Oregon, Massachusetts and Texas will each receive two-year grants to fund and evaluate Hope Courts, which will be based on Hawaii’s Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program. According to the DOJ’s press release, the “program identifies probationers with a high risk for re-offending, focusing on reducing drug use, new crimes, and incarceration. Offenders are deterred from using drugs and committing crimes by frequent and random drug tests, backed by swift and certain jail stays, along with treatment, when necessary.”

The Administrative Office of the Courts worked with the state’s Dept. of Community Corrections to identify a jurisdiction with enough cases to be able to perform an appropriate statistical analysis. Another criterion was immediate and adequate jail space, which Saline County Sheriff Bruce Pennington is willing to provide. Saline County also has a solid probation staff in place, who will work with Judge Gary Arnold and the person he hires to help administer the program.

The DOJ release and more information on HOPE Courts can be found here:

http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2011/OJP_PR-101811.pdf

For additional information, contact:

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