



# Friends OF THE COURT

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## Retired Justices Unveil Official Portraits



Annabelle Imber Tuck and artist Bob Crane of Little Rock.

Retired Supreme Court Justices Annabelle Imber Tuck and Robert L. Brown unveiled their official portraits at the Justice Building April 10.

Justice Tuck retired at the end of 2009 before the expiration of her term. In 1996, she was the first woman to be elected to serve on the state's highest court. Tuck asked her friend and local artist Bob Crane to paint her portrait in his distinctive style.

"The people that wear these robes are as multi-faceted [and]...as subtle as [the robes] are," said Crane when describing his artistic process. "Black is the inclusion of all color and as a supreme court justice, I think that in and of itself states a lot about what [justices] do. They include everything: all aspects, all nuance, all character."

Tuck is now a commissioner for the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission. She remains active in the community and within the legal field.

First elected to the high court in 1990, Justice Brown retired at the end of 2012, two years before his term expires. He is currently "of counsel" at Friday, Eldredge & Clark in Little Rock.

Brown's portrait artist is Nancy Harris of Williamsburg, Virginia. "It has, let's say, a little different twist," Harris said of the portrait. "Robert is a prolific writer, and this painting is somewhat... allegorical in nature. He has finished one chapter... in his life, and he is starting into another chapter. So armed with pen, we shall see where he goes."



Charlotte Brown, Robert Brown, artist Nancy Harris of Williamsburg, VA, and her fiancé, David Marbain.

## 2013 District Court Clerk of the Year



Cheryl Spade, chief clerk in Benton, was named the 2013 District Court Clerk of the Year at the District Judges Spring College/District Clerks Annual Meeting in Rogers.

The clerk of the year award is given by the Arkansas District Court Clerks Association to an individual who has made significant contributions to the profession of court clerk. Spade, who has served the courts for 23 years, has held the role of secretary, at-large representative, second representative, and president of the Association. She has been a member of every committee and is currently serving on the executive committee, certification committee, constitution and by-laws committee, and audit committee.

Spade was recognized for her achievement at the Association's awards luncheon, held during the conference on April 26.

Cheryl Spade poses with her Clerk of the Year award at the Association's annual awards luncheon. © Veronica Henry

## Botswana to Adopt Arkansas's eFiling System

Court staff from Botswana visited Little Rock this month to learn more about the eFiling system currently in use in Arkansas. Botswana has been using the Contexte case management system since 2005 and because they are interested in implementing an electronic filing project, wanted to visit a site that is using Tybera eFlex electronic filing in conjunction with the Contexte case management system.

Staff met with Judge Vann Smith in Pulaski County Circuit Court to observe how Arkansas clerks and judges use eFiling. They met with Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Hannah, toured the Supreme Court courtroom, were briefed on the progress of the Arkansas project, and visited with David Fuqua, a Little Rock attorney, to see how eFlex is used by attorneys.



Botswanan court staff tour Pulaski County District Court and the Arkansas Supreme Court. From left to right: Justice Karen Baker; Maggie Serekwe Seroke, Systems Analyst; Monageng Monageng, CRMS Implementation Manager; Galaletsang Dintsi, Chief Clerk of Court; Chief Justice Jim Hannah.

## Juvenile Division Courts Director Named ICM Fellow

Connie Hickman Tanner, Administrative Office of the Courts Juvenile Division Courts Director, was named a 2013 Fellow of the Institute for Court Management. Tanner, along with 12 other court employees from around the nation, recently completed a three-day class, held in Washington D.C. She presented her research project on how educational stability improves outcomes for foster children and youth to Daniel Staub, Dean of the ICM Fellows program and three former ICM graduates. Following her presentation, Tanner was recognized at a graduation ceremony at the U.S. Supreme Court, where she was awarded her certification.



Connie Hickman Tanner with Delaware Chief Justice and President of the Conference of Chief Justices Myron Steel, NCSC President Mary McQueen, and NCSC Vice-President of ICM John Meeks. © National Center for State Courts/ICM

The ICM Fellows Program is part of the Institute's Court Management Program, a three-tiered system of certification. The first, the Court Management Program, is currently underway in Arkansas. It consists of six courses and when concluded, participants earn their Certified Court Manager (CCM) certification. The second phase, the Certified Court Executive Program, consists of six additional courses. When completed, participants earn their Certified Court Executive (CCE) certification. Currently, Arkansas does not offer this program but has plans to implement it soon. The third and final phase is the ICM Fellows program, during which candidates must complete an individual research project and present a written report to the Dean of the ICM Fellows program. Upon completion of this phase, participants are awarded their ICM Fellows certification. Tanner is the fifth Arkansan to achieve completion of this program.

## Like Father, Like Daughter



Jennifer Corbin with Chief Justice Hannah, Justice Corbin, and Dorcy Corbin.

Jennifer Corbin, daughter of Supreme Court Justice Donald Corbin, was sworn in as a new Arkansas attorney on May 3, in the Supreme Court courtroom. Along with other new attorneys, Corbin took the oath and was sworn in by Chief Justice Jim Hannah, while her father looked on from the bench. This historically significant event marks only the second time, in the history of the Supreme Court, that a child of an appellate court judge has been sworn in while his or her parent served on the court. The first was Griffin Smith, sworn in by his father, Chief Justice Griffin Smith, in 1941.

# CALENDAR

## June

- CMP Class '15: Caseload Mgmt (Little Rock) 5-7
- Court Interpreter Assessment Exam (Little Rock) 8
- Basic Mediation Training (Little Rock) 10-14
- Spring Judicial College/ Judicial Council Meeting (Hot Springs) 12-14
- CMP Class '14: Purposes & Responsibilities of Courts (Little Rock) 19-21
- CMP Class '13: Managing Court Financial Resources (Little Rock) 26-28

## July

- Juvenile Probation Officer Qualification (Little Rock) 16-19

## August

- Family Mediation Training (Little Rock) 5-7
- CMP Class '15: CourTools (Little Rock) 7-9
- District Court Clerk Certification Chief Clerks (Hot Springs) 16
- CMP Class '14: Managing Technology Projects (Little Rock) 21-23
- CMP Class '13: Managing Human Resources (Little Rock) 28-30

## New Faces in the Judiciary

### County Judges

Marion County - **Terry Ott** replaces James Giles.

### County Clerks

Arkansas County - **Melissa Wood**  
 Crittenden County - **Paula Brown** replaces Ruth Trent.  
 Howard County - Brenda Fitts is now **Brenda Washburn**.  
 Mississippi County - **Janice Currie** replaces Lib Shippen.  
 Randolph County - **Bobie Lane** replaces Janice Mock.  
 Saline County - **Doug Curtis** replaces Freddy Burton.  
 Sevier County - **Debbie Hughes** replaces Amanda Mitchell-White.  
 Van Buren County - **Bobbye Bennett** replaces Ester Bass.  
 White County - **Cheryl Evans** replaces Marquita Teague.

### Official Court Reporters

18th E. Cir. (Williams) - **Pat Jester**  
 16th (Harrod) - **Carrie Crow** replaces Megan Wood.

### District Court Clerks

Ouachita County/Stephens Dept. - **Sarena Peace** replaces Margie Wagnon.  
 Saline County/Alexander Dept. - **Katrina Wilcox** replaces Christi Miller.



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