



# Friends of the Court

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## “Marching Toward Justice” Exhibit Opens

“Marching Toward Justice: The History of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment”, an exhibit brought to the Justice Building by the Arkansas Supreme Court, the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society and the Administrative Office of the Courts was officially dedicated on Friday, October 25th.

“Marching Toward Justice” is an exhibit of more than one hundred images that tell the story of those who committed themselves to the creation and enforcement of the Fourteenth Amendment. Ratified in 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment created a new inclusive citizenry by requiring that states provide “equal protection of the laws.”

In conjunction with the

opening of the exhibit, a conference on “Race, Justice and the Law: Current Issues and a Historical Perspective” was held in the Supreme Court Courtroom throughout the day. The morning session included presentations by Philip Anderson, President of the Ameri-

can Bar Association, 1998-1999, on “Trust and Confidence in the Justice System: Battling a Perception of Bias”; “Diversity in the Legal Profession” by Troy Price, Co-Chair of the Arkansas Bar Association Commission on Diversity; “Disparity in Sentencing” by Dr. Brian Ostrom, National Center for State Courts; and “The History of Hunt v. Arkansas” a panel discussion with Lisa Kelly, Professor, University of Washington School of Law, Judge Don Glover/10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and Chair, Arkansas Judicial Council Biracial Advisory Committee, and Tim Humphries, Legal Counsel, Arkansas Secretary of State’s Office.

(See **Exhibit**, page three)



Exhibit panels surround the corridor outside Supreme Court/Court of Appeals Courtroom



Martin Luther King Elementary School choir sang at the exhibit opening.



Colette Honorable, Vice President of the Harold Flowers Law Society, spoke at the exhibit opening.

## Judicial Council Holds Fall Meeting

The Arkansas Judicial Council met in mid October in Eureka Springs for their annual fall conference. The educational classes for the three day event mainly involved “Tools for the Profession: Using the New Benchbooks”. The judges were given the opportunity to review and become acquainted with the new civil, probate, domestic relations, criminal and juvenile bench books that have been revised by staff attorneys in the Administrative



Judges Jim Spears, Harry Foltz, and Jerry Mazzanti lead a panel discussion in a benchbook session.

Fayetteville Boys and Girls Club. He is a 24 year member and past president of the Fayetteville Rotary, where he served as Community Projects chairman for several years and also for several years as the Chairman of the Youth Programs Committee.

Judge Smith is an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and served as an adult leader in the Catholic Youth Ministry. As a member of St.



Judge Jim Gunter, (left) outgoing President of the Judicial Council, congratulates Judge Kim Smith upon his receipt of the “Community Service Award”.



A few of the retiring judges got together for a picture: Judges Robin Mays, Gayle Ford, Eugene Harris, Don Huffman, Howard Templeton and Graham Partlow

Office of the Courts.

Judge Jim Gunter/8th N Circuit has served as President of the Council for the past year and turned the reigns over to President Elect, Judge David Burnett/2nd Circuit for the coming year.

Circuit Judge Kim Smith received the “Community Service Award” from his fellow judges.

The Award was established in 1992 by the Arkansas Judicial Council and recognizes off-the-

bench activities in service to the community by a member of the Council.

Judge Smith has served as Circuit Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit (for Washington and Madison Counties) since 1987. He has been a volunteer coach for both girls’ and boys’ youth basketball teams, girls’ softball teams, and boys’ baseball teams. Judge Smith is currently serving his 10<sup>th</sup> year on the Board of Directors of the

Thomas Catholic Church, he served as an adult leader for college students from St. Thomas on a mission trip to Honduras two summers ago.

The Judge encourages school classes to visit his courtroom and often speaks to 5th graders in the area. For the past several years, he has hosted students from the junior high schools in the Vital Link Project.



(Exhibit, continued)

The exhibit was formally dedicated midday and afternoon sessions were presented by Associate Professor Judith Kilpatrick, Univ. of Ark./Fayetteville-“Changing Practice Opportunities for Black Lawyers: A History”; Tom Dillard, Curator, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies-“Subtle but Persistent: The Life and Legal Career of Scipio Africanus Jones”, and Grif Stockley, attorney and author-“Arkansas Justice in the Aftermath of the Elaine Race Massacre of 1919”. A panel discussion finished the day’s agenda with “The Experience of the Black Legal Professional in Arkansas”, given by Circuit Judges Wiley Branton/6th Circuit, L.T. Simes/1st Circuit, and Court of Appeals Judges Olly Neal and Andree Roaf.

“Marching Toward Justice” will be on display through January 2, 2003, during the normal business hours of the Justice Building. For further information, contact: Karolyn Bond, Administrative Office of the Court, Justice Building/625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 682-9400.



### November 5th Judicial Election Results

Due to judicial runoffs created in the May election, five circuit judge races were on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. Elected at the November general election were: Pam Honeycutt-2nd Circuit, Hon. Lee Fergus-2nd Circuit, Hon. Barry Sims-6th Circuit, Bill Benton-11th Circuit, and Hon. Craig Hannah-17th Judicial Circuit.

### Retiring from the Bench

Eighteen retiring general jurisdiction judges received Lifetime Memberships in the Arkansas Judicial Council at the Council’s October meeting. They include: Hon. Gayle Ford/18th-West, Hon. John Plegge/6th, Hon. David Bogard/6th, Hon. Robin Mays/6th, Hon. Graham Partlow/2nd, Hon. John Cole/7th, Hon. Russell Rogers/11th-East, Hon. Floyd “Pete” Rogers/21st, Hon. John Ward/6th, Hon. Van Taylor/15th, Hon. Robert McCorkindale/14th, Hon. Tom Hilburn/3rd, Hon. Philip Purifoy/8th-South, Hon. Eugene Harris/11th-West, Hon. William Bullock/15th, Hon. John Jennings/Court of Appeals, and Hon. Don Huffman/19th-West.



### Supreme Court Travels to Fayetteville

The Arkansas Supreme Court, for the first time in history, heard oral arguments outside of Little Rock when they convened in Fayetteville on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the University of Arkansas School of Law. With the enactment of Amendment 80, and changes it made, the Court was able to hear cases away from Little Rock. Prior to the voters passing Amendment 80, the Arkansas Constitution prohibited the Supreme Court from traveling outside Little Rock.

Seats in the School of Law Courtroom in the Leflar Law Center were completely full of observers as members of the Court heard two oral arguments that morning.

### New Foreign Language Interpreter Program Coordinator Joins AOC



*Mara Simmons*

Mara Simmons, Arkansas Certified Interpreter, has become the Interim Foreign Language Interpreter Program Coordinator, replacing Raul Marquez who has relocated to Northwest Arkansas.

Mrs. Simmons was born in Mexico City. Her father was Spanish and her mother is Costa Rican.

Before being officially certified to interpret here in Arkansas, she worked in the airline industry in the areas of interpreting/training and customer service in Spanish.

She is married and has two children. “To be here is to fulfill a life long dream”, stated Mrs. Simmons upon taking the position.



## New Faces in the Judiciary

### Circuit Judges

11th West - **Lawrence Dawson** replaces Eugene Harris.

### Case Coordinators

11th West(Dawson) - **Nell Stuart** replaces Tina Craig.

### Court Reporters

6th (Gray) - **Shiela Russell** replaces Marjorie Davis Gachot.

11th West (Taylor) - **Nancy Lindsey** replaces Barbara Bryant.

### District Court Clerks

Helena - **Belinda Davis** replaces Doris Greer.

### City Court Clerks

Guy - **Rebecca Hileman** replaces Rita James.

### AOC Staff

Interim Foreign Language Interpreter Program Coordinator - **Mara Simmons** replaces Raul Marquez.

## *Humor in the Court*

Q. She had three children, right?

A. Yes.

Q. How many were boys?

A. None.

Q. Were there any girls?

Q. How was your first marriage terminated?

A. By death.

Q. And by whose death was it terminated?

Q. You say the stairs went down to the basement?

A. Yes.

Q. And these stairs, did they go up also?

Q. Now, doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?



## CALENDAR

### **JANUARY**

New Judges' Orientation.....**15-17**  
(Little Rock)

Case Coordinators' Orientation.....**16-17**  
(Little Rock)

Official Court Reporters' Orientation....**17**  
(Little Rock)

### **FEBRUARY**

District & City Court Clerks' .....**21**  
Certification (Little Rock)

District Court Officers' Conference.....**27-28**  
(Little Rock)

### **MARCH**

Case Coordinators' Conference.....**6-7**  
(Little Rock)

### **APRIL**

Spring Judicial College/Judicial Council Meeting **30 - May 2**  
(West Memphis)



### **Friends of the Court**

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**Address  
Correction  
Requested**