



Friends of the Court

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Workload Evaluation of Arkansas' Limited Jurisdiction Courts

Recently, the Administrative Office of the Courts, in conjunction with the District Judges' Council, began a workload evaluation of district and city courts based upon the Delphi workload technique. The Delphi method of workload analysis, named for the mythical, all-knowing Oracle of Delphi, involves surveying the opinion of "experts" with regard to how much time is needed to do their work. The study, when completed, will provide baseline information for assessing possible changes to the courts in light of Amendment 80.

AOC Research Analyst Kellye Mashburn has been coordinating the study that includes participation from both limited jurisdiction judges and local law enforcement. Two phases of the research have



District Court Judges listen to business meeting agenda. (L.toR.) Judges John Finley/Ashdown, Dennis James/Wrightsville, Mike Robinson/Benton, Marcia Hearnberger/Hot Springs, and Jim Hamilton/North Little Rock.

already been completed. During the month of August, survey information was collected from district and city court judges regarding the amount of time it takes to process criminal, traffic, and civil caseloads as well as administrative judicial tasks. Local law enforcement was also surveyed about

judge availability for processing their warrant requests.

The next phase of the research took place at the District Judges' Judicial Council at the end of September. A focus group of approximately 30 district court judges reviewed the survey findings and discussed other factors that should be noted with regard to the time estimates.

The information collected from the survey and the focus group will be combined to assess how judgeships should be distributed based upon caseload reporting from the past 10 years, population, and other geographic factors. The target date for completion of the analysis is December 2003. For more information on this project, contact Kellye Mashburn via email at kellye.mashburn@mail.state.ar.us or by phone at (501) 682-9400.



6th Annual CASA Conference



CHIEF JUSTICE ARNOLD PRESENTS THE CASA JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD TO JUDGE KEVIN KING.

“Making the Connections,” the Sixth Annual Arkansas CASA Conference on Child Abuse was held September 4th-6th in Little Rock. The conference featured two plenary sessions on Friday. In the morning, Gary Mallon from the National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning presented a session on Permanency Planning and Concurrent Planning. The afternoon plenary, given by Dr. Donna Rosenberg, focused on Child Fatality Review.

The conference included numerous presenters covering a wide range of topics, including Meth, Working with Latino Clients, Education Advocacy, and Legislative Updates. Next year’s CASA Conference is scheduled to be in Little Rock, September 9th-11th.

Chief Justice W.H. “Dub” Arnold presented awards during the Awards Banquet. Judge Larry Chandler served as key note speaker. Judge



Kevin King/3rd Judicial Circuit received the CASA Judge of the Year Award. In addition, the 3rd Judicial Circuit received the CASA Program of the Year.

For more 2003 conference highlights, you can log on to: www.arkansascasa.org

Judiciary Website

The Arkansas Judiciary website <http://courts.state.ar.us> contains an abundance of information for viewing by those who work in the judiciary and the interested public. The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals most recent decisions can be found, along with links to opinions back to the Spring of 1996 term and the oral argument schedule for both Courts is also available, plus docket information.

ARCAP, Arkansas Court Automation Project, has a link that describes the project and lists contact information. For those wanting to learn about upcoming education, the Judicial Branch Education Calendar lists meetings and conferences through December,

(See **Website** next page.)

JUDICIAL BRANCH EDUCATION 2004

February

20

District & City Court Clerks Certification (2nd & 4th Districts)/Little Rock

March

4-5

Case Coordinators Conference/Little Rock

April

22-23

Education Committee Meeting/Heber Springs

May

13-15

District Judges Spring College/Springdale
District & City Court Clerks Annual Meeting/Springdale

June

9-11

Spring Judicial College/Judicial Council Meeting/Hot Springs

August

TBA

Appellate Staff Orientation/Little Rock

19

District & City Court Clerks Certification (Chief Clerks)/West Memphis

September

23-25

District Judges Fall College/Hot Springs

October

20-22

Fall Judicial College/Judicial Council Meeting/Springdale

22-23

Official Court Reporters Conference/Rogers

November

19

District & City Court Clerks Certification (1st & 3rd Districts)/Mountain View

National Center's New State Court Trends

The National Center for State Courts recently released its annual *2002 Report on Trends in the State Courts*, which for the first time includes *An Environmental Scan for State Courts, 2002*, as a way to provide a longer-range look to the future to help courts better anticipate and manage change. The environmental scan can help to recognize and to possibly influence trends before they affect the courts.

Environmental scanning primarily involves trying to understand what issues might take a court beyond its current ways of doing things. A good scan gives the court a wider angle and longer-range view of the future. By looking out farther and anticipating the opportunities or threats that trends might pose, the courts will have greater leverage in shaping

their own future.

In this edition of the *Trends Reports*, the National Center offers the latest on what is happening and what the courts need to know. The following are just a few examples of topics included in this year's report:

- *Introduction to Biometrics
- *Budget Woes and Resourceful Thinking
- *The Paperless Law Practice
- *Diversity in the Courts
- *The Ethics of Problem Solving
- *Teen Courts - Juvenile Justice Diversion Program.

These two documents were printed in one publication, which is available on the National Center's website at www.ncsconline.org.

(Website continued.)

2003 for court personnel, with the 2004 Education Calendar to be placed there soon.

The CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, website has a link on the home page, and ADR, Arkansas Dispute Resolution, information such as Commission members, requirements for being a certified mediator, and a roster of certified mediators can be located. In addition, the Registry of Foreign Language Interpreters is available as well as the Interpreter Certification Application.

The Arkansas Judicial Directory is on the web site and is updated monthly. It contains names, addresses, and phone numbers of court personnel at all levels of the court system; all Judges, District/City Court Clerks, County/Circuit Clerks, Court Reporters, Case Coordinators, AOC staff, Prosecuting Attorneys and Public Defenders.

The Weekly/Monthly Child Support Charts can be viewed and a State map, with the general jurisdiction districts on it, can be located. The map has been set up so that by "clicking" on a particular circuit, the names/pictures of the judges in that circuit will open.

Court forms, annual reports dating back to 1994, *Friends of the Court* newsletters back to 1998, and *Benchmarks and Bar Charts* from 2001 to present are convenient to see. Likewise the *Appellate Update*, a highlight of the previous month's Supreme Court and Court of Appeals cases handed down is placed on the judiciary website each month.

Check it all out!



A group of Arkansas general jurisdiction judges gathered for a picture during their education classes at the National Judicial College this summer.(L. to R.) Front row: Judges Richard Moore/6th, Pam Honeycutt/2nd. Second row: David McCormick/15th, Tim Fox/6th, Mike Medlock/21st. Third row: James Moody/6th, Xollie Duncan/19thW., Craig Hannah/17th, and Larry Boling/2nd.

New Faces in the Judiciary

District Court Clerks

Lepanto - **Diane Taylor** replaces Vicki Barnett.
Tyronza - **Chasity Lucas** replaces Judy Easley.
Hamburg - **Lucille Bierbaum** replaces Dianne Parker.
Heber Springs - **Tammy Verser** replaces Brenda Long.
Trumann - **Kim Muse** replaces Marilyn Pineda.

Court Reporters

4th (Gunn) **Vickie Hassell** replaces Teresa Sawyer.
2nd (Hill) **William Kisselburg** replaces Iris Brooks.
2nd (Honeycutt) - **Brandy Stuart** replaces Margie Woods.
19th West (Finch) - **Janis McLeod** replaces Teresa Rich.

Case Coordinators

4th (Lindsay) **Denise Mulliken** replaces Adell Ralston.
19th West(Finch) - **Bonnie Ridley** replaces Barbara Burgess.
23rd (Hanshaw) - **Michelle Stracener** replaces Melissa Thompson.

City Court Clerks

Bauxite - **Tandi Coppock** replaces Shara Davis.
Bradford - **Melissa Goad** replaces Greba June Edens.
Turrell - **Carol Horton** replaces Birdia Thompson.

CALENDAR

October

Fall Judicial College/Judicial Council Meeting (Little Rock) **15-17**
Official Court Reporters Conference (Little Rock) **17-18**
Juvenile Officer Certification Training-Part One (Little Rock) **22-24**
Juvenile Officer Certification Training-Part Two (Little Rock) **29-31**

November

District & City Court Clerks Certification (Little Rock) **21**
Juvenile Judges Conference (Red Apple Inn - Heber Springs) **12-14**

December

District Court Officers (Heber Springs) **4-5**



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



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Address
Correction
Requested