



Friends of the Court

Published by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Volume 12, Number 3
November, 2004

Judicial Council Holds Annual Fall Meeting

The Arkansas Judicial Council met in October in

Springdale for their fall meeting. Judge Ted Capeheart, 9th Judicial



Judge Logan (I.) spoke to Council members after receiving the presidential gavel from Judge Capeheart (seated).

Circuit West, has served as President of the Council for the past year and passed the presidential gavel to Judge Roger Logan, 14th Judicial Circuit, for the 2004 - 2005 term.

Each fall a "Community Service Award" is presented



Justice Brown presents award to Judge Spears.

to a judge that is chosen by his/her peers for off the bench activities in service to the community. This year Judge Jim Spears, 12th Judicial Circuit, received the award for his many activities and accomplishments in

his community. He has served as a circuit judge for the 12th Circuit since 1993.

historical preservation he has worked to commission oil paintings of the courthouses in Fort Smith and Greenwood. In addition, he led the effort in collecting and exhibiting the portraits of all judges who have served in Sebastian County.

He has worked on the Fort Smith Convention Center



Rep. Sam Ledbetter was presented his award by Judge John Stroud.

Judge Spears has been involved with Boy Scouts for many years where he has held numerous positions. In the area of history and

Board for a new Convention Center, and has been president of the County Heart Association, SCAN, the Old Fort River Festival, the County Bar Association and the Fort Smith Rotary Club. In addition, he has worked to locate the U.S. Marshall's Museum in Fort Smith, presided over a project to send books to Belize, and secured hospital equipment for the

Board for a new Convention Center, and has been presi-

(See Council next page)

2003 - 2004 Judicial Council Officers & Board

(Council continued)

Ukraine. Congratulations Judge Spears for an honor well deserved.

Also at the Council meeting, Representative Sam Ledbetter of Little Rock was awarded the "First Branch Award" in recognition of his outstanding legislative service on behalf and for the improvement of the state judicial system. Representative Ledbetter has been in the House of Representatives since 2001 and has served as Vice Chair of Judiciary and also as a member of the Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development, Rules, and Joint Budget Committees. ●



Judicial Council Officers and Board for 2003 - 2004 gathered together before the Board meeting at the October Judicial Council meeting in Springdale. (Front row/l. to r.) Judge Roger Logan, Justice Robert Brown, Judge Ted Capeheart. (Back row/l. to r.) Judge Norman Wilkinson, Judge Wiley Branton, Judge Vicki Cook, Judge Robert Shirron and J.D. Gingerich.

Supreme Court Holds Court in Fort Smith

The Arkansas Supreme Court conducted oral arguments in Fort Smith on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, in the Reynolds Room of the Smith - Pendergraft Campus Center at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith.

This was only the second occasion in modern times that the Supreme Court has held court

outside of Little Rock. The first time was in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 2002. Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution, adopted by vote of the people in 2000, provides that the Supreme Court may meet at such times and places as designated by the Court.



Supreme Court in Fort Smith

New Jury Management System Put Into Place in the 20th Cir.

On November 17th, Faulkner County implemented for the first time in Arkansas a new computer system for selecting jury pools. Circuit Judges Charles Clawson, David Reynolds and Michael Maggio selected their jury pools for the 2005 term. Previously, pulling names for jury duty took a couple of days work; voter registration numbers were randomly selected from a computer generated list and then each number was keyed into the computer, which would then bring up the name, address and date of birth of each individual. This information would be given to the Sheriff's Office that would then issue jury summons. But with the new system, it only takes a few seconds.

(See Jury next page.)



Court of Appeals Celebrates Birthday

The Arkansas Court of Appeals was created in 1978 and just recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. A “birthday party” was held in the Court’s honor in the Justice Building in October. In remarks to guests at the party, Court of Appeals Chief Judge John Stroud stated that the Court, since its inception, had handed down 19,016 opinions.

In 1978 Arkansas voters approved Arkansas Constitutional Amendment 58 which enabled the Legislature to create the Court of Appeals. Six judges were appointed in 1979 by then Governor Bill Clinton. The appointees included Hon. Marian F. Penix, Chief Judge Ernie Wright, Judge George Howard, Judge James Pilkinton, Judge

Steele Hays and Judge David Newborn. These appointees served from July, 1979 until January, 1981, at which time six

new judges, who were elected in the 1980 election, took their place.



Birthday party attendees included: (l. to r.) Court of Appeals Judge Olly Neal, Court of Appeals Judge Robert Gladwin, Supreme Court Chief Justice (Ret.) W.H. “Dub” Arnold, and Court of Appeals Judge Andree Roaf.

(Jury continued.)

All Circuit Clerk Sharon Rimmer had to do was enter the judge’s name, date of jury orientation and the number of potential jurors into the system. Then the computer randomly selected 350 names from the voter registration lists.

An enhanced jury list program is available for any counties using the new system who wish to include names of those with driver’s licenses that have not registered to vote. The driver’s license list is provided by the Department of Finance and Administration and the merged list of voters and license holders is provided by the Secretary of State.

New Official Interpreters Presented Certificates



Two new court interpreters have been officially certified and formally received their certificates at a ceremony in the Supreme Court courtroom on September 30th.

Nicolas Durand and Anney Yancey passed all necessary requirements to become official foreign language interpreters in the courts in Arkansas. Pictured (left to right.) Nicolas Durand, Mara Simmons, Foreign Language Interpreting Coordinator, Anne Yancey, Sara Fals-Borda, a previously certified interpreter, and J.D. Gingerich, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.



New Faces in the Judiciary

District Court Clerks

Ozark - **Sherry Lowrey** replaces Pat Brashears as Chief Court Clerk.

Public Defender

14th - **Bruce Buck** replaces Rick Parker.

Court Reporters

2nd - (Fogleman) **Elvetta Stacy** replaces Al Barnett.

THE PAOMNNEHAL PWEOR OF THE HMUAN MNID

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oreder the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit plae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it

wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Amzanig huh?



Friends of the Court

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



CALENDAR

February

District & City Court Clerks Certification (2nd & 4th Districts-Little Rock) **18**

District Court Probation Officers **24-25**

March

Case Coordinators Conf. (Hot Springs) **3-4**

April

Spring Judicial College/ Judicial Council Mtg. (West Memphis) **20-22**

May

District Judges Spring College & District & City Court Clerks Annual Mtg. (Hot Springs) **12-14**

Children & the Law (Little Rock) **25-27**

Friends of the Court is a bi-monthly publication by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to **Friends of the Court**, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400. Karolyn Bond, Editor.

**Address
Correction
Requested**