



# Friends of the Court

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## ARKANSAS APPELLATE COURTS CONDUCT OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONIES



**Circuit Judge Craig Hannah (l.) - 17th Judicial Circuit, administers oath of office to his father, Chief Justice Jim Hannah.**



**Circuit Judge Duncan Culpepper (l.) - 8th N. Judicial District, swears in Justice Jim Gunter.**

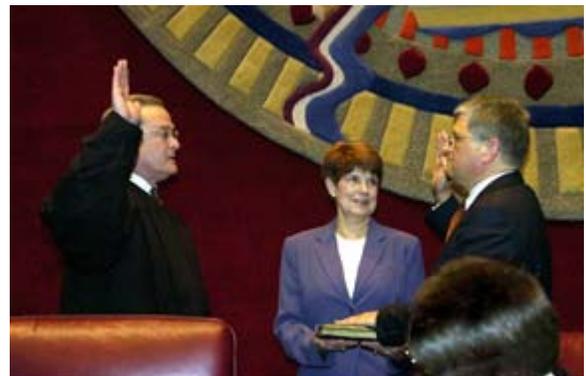
The new year brought position changes and new members on the Arkansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. On Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Arkansas Supreme Court Associate Justice Jim Hannah was sworn in as Chief Justice by his son, Judge Craig Hannah - 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, and former Chief Justice Betty Dickey was sworn in by Associate Justice Tom Glaze to take the position vacated by Chief Justice Hannah. Judge Jim Gunter, circuit judge in the 8<sup>th</sup> North Judicial District was also sworn in for a full term to succeed Associate Justice Ray Thornton who retired at the end of 2004.

On Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Court of Appeals held its swearing in ceremony. Court of Appeals Judge John Pittman was sworn in as Chief Judge by Chief Justice Jim Hannah. Oaths of Office for additional terms were administered to current Court of Appeals' Judges John Robbins, Sam Bird, and Karen Baker by Chief Judge John Pittman.

The newest Judge on the Court of Appeals, Judge Mac Glover, was the final oath of office on the 5<sup>th</sup>. He was sworn in by Judge Chris Williams - 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, and fills the vacancy left by Chief Judge John Stroud who also retired at the end of 2004.



**Chief Judge John Pittman (l.) takes the oath of office, given by Chief Justice Jim Hannah.**



**Circuit Judge Chris Williams (l.) - 7th Judicial Circuit, administers the oath to Judge Mac Glover.**

## Retirement Party Held for Justice Ray Thornton and Chief Judge John Stroud



**Justice Ray Thornton and his wife, Betty Jo, listen as tributes are made to him upon his retirement.**



**Court of Appeals Chief Judge John Stroud addresses the crowd after presentations were made in his honor.**

December brought about a retirement party for Supreme Court Associate Justice Ray Thornton and Court of Appeals Chief Judge John Stroud. Justice Thornton has held a position on the Supreme Court since 1997 and Judge Stroud has served on the Court of Appeals since 1996, having served for one year in 1980 on the Supreme Court.

Best wishes to these two distinguished jurists as they venture off into new endeavors.

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## 2005 Brings Many Position Changes

### Case Coordinators

6<sup>th</sup> (Kilgore) AiLien Drahein replaces Melissa King.  
13<sup>th</sup> (Landers) Vickie Evans replaces Nancy Hargett.

### Circuit Judge

5<sup>th</sup> - Gordon W. "Mack" McCain, Jr., replaces Stephen Gardner.  
8<sup>th</sup> N - Keith Wood replaces Jim Gunter.  
10<sup>th</sup> - Teresa French replaces Jerry Mazzanti.  
13<sup>th</sup> - Mike Landers replaces Ed Jones.

### County Officials

Bradley - Donna Smith replaces Catherine Richardson as the circuit clerk.  
Dallas - Janice McDaniel replaces Shirley Williams as the circuit/county clerk.  
Drew - Pat Savage replaces Kay Craig as the circuit clerk and Lyna Gullledge replaces Carolyn Cook as the county clerk.  
Fulton - Vickie Bishop replaces Gene Maguffee as the circuit/county clerk.  
Jackson - Dottie Calhoun replaces Paulette Dunn as the county clerk.

Lawrence - Tina Stowers replaces Billie Dunlap as the county clerk.

Lee - Lee Ann Wilkinson replaces Flora Grady as the circuit clerk.

Lincoln - Charlie Cole replaces

Berzent Blagg as the county clerk.  
Little River - Linda Coleman is the county clerk.  
Logan - Lynda Brooks replaces Linda Core as the county clerk.  
Lonoke - Deborah Oglesby replaces Karol DePriest as the circuit clerk.  
Mississippi - Donna Bray replaces Donna DiCicco as the circuit clerk.  
Newton - Donnie Davis replaces Vickie Bartholomew as the circuit/county clerk.  
Pike - The offices of circuit and county clerk have been separated. The circuit clerk is Donna White and Sandy Campbell is the county clerk.  
Pulaski - Pat O'Brien replaces Carolyn Staley as the circuit/county clerk.  
White - Tami King replaces Alice Barker as the circuit clerk.

### District Courts

Ash Flat - Mark Johnson replaces Raymond Starcken as the judge.  
Batesville - Chaney Taylor replaces John Gregg as the judge.  
Beebe - Teresa Hughes replaces Thomas Hughes as the judge.  
Biscoe, DeValls Bluff and Hazen - Jim Rhodes replaces Gary Rogers as the judge.  
Bradley County - Bruce Anderson replaces Robert Garner as the judge.  
Charleston - Paul Eford replaces Joe Ramos as the judge.  
Eureka Springs - Marianne McBeth replaces Tim Parker as the judge.

Fordyce - Robin Wynn replaces Ronnie Phillips as the judge.  
Fort Smith - Ben Beland replaces Daniel Stewart as the judge.  
Harrison - Fred Kirkpatrick replaces Gail Inman Campbell as the judge.  
Helena - Durwood King replaces Chalk Mitchell as the judge.  
Huntsville - Joanna Taylor replaces Justin Garrett as the judge.  
Jasper - Tommy Martin replaces Peter DeStefano as the judge.  
Jonesboro & Lake City - Keith Blackman replaces Ray Spruell as the judge.  
Lepanto, Marked Tree & Tyronza - Stephen Inboden replaces Jim Dunlap as the judge.  
Lonoke - Barbara Elmore replaces Kenneth Williams as the judge.  
Magnolia - Francis "Lucky" Crumpler replaces Rodney Chambers as the judge.  
Malvern - Sherry Burnett replaces David Mac Glover as the judge.  
Marianna - Robert Donovan replaces Dan Felton as the judge.  
Marion District Court is a new court. The judge is Mike Stephenson and the clerk is Angie Trotter.  
Maumelle - Roger Harrod replaces David Pake as the judge.  
Melbourne - Connie Barksdale replaces David Miller as the judge.  
Miller & Texarkana County - Wren Autrey replaces Carol Dalby as the judge.  
Newport - Barbara Griffin replaces Ronald Winningham as the judge.

( See **Changes** on page 4.)



# First Arkansas Court Goes Online with Case Management System

On Thursday, December 30, 2004, the Montgomery County District Court became the first Arkansas court to go online using the ACS Contexte case management system. After undergoing extensive training, and working with the Administrative Office of the Courts to customize the software for Arkansas courts, the pilot implementation got underway when Theresa Wilson, District Court Clerk, and Treva Lambert, Deputy Clerk, entered their active small claims and civil cases into the new case management system. On Wednesday, January 5, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Lambert entered the results of the small claims and civil court cases presided over by District Judge William McKimm on Tuesday night.

In addition to tracking cases, the new system will allow the court to process receipts and payments, and even create documents such as letters and court judgments. In the fall the court will begin entering criminal and traffic cases in the system. The new system is the foundation for allowing the public to access court case information on the Internet, to electroni-

cally file cases, and to pay traffic tickets online.

The Montgomery County District Court is playing an important role in this eventual statewide project. Judge McKimm, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Lambert are working with other courts around the state to standardize state court forms, reports, and even business processes. The state has some very large courts and very small courts, and the District Court in Mount Ida is deeply involved in making sure this new system satisfies the needs of all the courts in the state.

The Arkansas Court Automation Project began approximately two years ago when the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) entered into a contract with ACS Government Services, Inc. for a statewide license for case management software. The ultimate goal of the automation project is to provide statewide case management to all Arkansas courts. The project began as a pilot project with both circuit and district courts.

Montgomery County District Court was one of only three district courts originally selected for participa-

tion in order to represent the medium-sized district courts. The pilot courts were selected based on current technology, geographic location, and caseload.

The remaining pilot district courts will be going online with small claims and civil processing over the next two months. In the fall, the AOC will receive the next major software customization, after which the pilot district courts will begin processing traffic and criminal cases in the new system. At the conclusion of the pilot project, additional courts will be joining the system.

The AOC is bearing most of the costs associated with the new case management system through state and federal funds provided to the project. The ongoing funding for the project is supported by the state share of installment payment fees for fines. The software license, ongoing vendor support, and even travel expenses to the training classes have been paid by the AOC. However, the contribution of staff time by the pilot courts has been significant. The AOC has relied heavily on the expertise of "front-line" court employees to guarantee the project's success.

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## **Chief Justices Attend Ceremony**



**Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justices gathered together after the January 3rd oath of office ceremony. (L. to R.) Retired Chief Justice Jack Holt Jr., former Chief Justice Bradley Jesson, former Chief Justice Betty Dickey, Retired Chief Justice W. H. "Dub" Arnold, and current Chief Justice Jim Hannah.**



**(Changes continued)**

NLR, Div. 2 - Randy Morley replaces Brent Standridge as the judge.  
Pine Bluff, Div. 1 - Kim Bridgforth replaces Robert Tolson as the judge.  
Prairie Grove - Graham Nations replaces Jim Boyd as the judge.  
Wrightsville - Herbert Wright replaces Dennis James as the judge.

Public Defenders

12<sup>th</sup> John Joplin replaces Ben Beland.

District Clerks

Bryant - Debbie Broadway replaces Dianne Pittman.  
DeQueen - Phyllis Price replaces Ruth Kolb.  
Magnolia - Sandra Wilson replaces Rachel Waller.  
Newport - Omega Williams replaces Charlene Altom.

City Clerks

Alma - Karen Pointer replaces Angela Allen.  
Bauxite - Tammy Pettit replaces Tandi Coppock.

City Clerks (continued)

Coal Hill - Donna English replaces Diana Schneider.  
Gravette - Peggy Gunter replaces Vicki Ash.  
Shannon Hills - Sandra Wilson replaces Karen Brown.  
Turrell - Stephanie Sanders replaces Carol Horton.



Judge Mary Ann McGowan, 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, was awarded the Black Community Developers' Martin Luther King Community Service Award 2005 in the "Judicial" category for her Drug Court work. Congratulations to Judge McGowan!

**CALENDAR**

**February**

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

District Court Probation Officers (Hot Springs) **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**

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Justice Building/625 Marshall  
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Correction  
Requested