



# FRIENDS OF THE COURT

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## TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ARKANSAS COURT INTERPRETERS

Arkansas has the nation's fastest growing Hispanic community as well as citizens of many other non-English speaking countries. Each day, people who speak and understand little or no English must make their way through our justice system. Court interpreters are a crucial resource, helping the judiciary to ensure that those who least understand our system are afforded due process and real presence in the courtroom.

Take the following quiz to test your understanding of interpreters in the Arkansas courts.

1. Who should serve as an interpreter during a courtroom proceeding?(a) Any bilingual person who is not a party in the case. (b) An attorney, if he or she is bilingual. (c) A family member or friend who came to court with the non-English speaking party.(d) None of the above.

*Answer:* (d) Only a qualified interpreter should be used in the courtroom. Being bilingual does not suggest a person has an understanding of the requirements and ethical responsibilities necessary to interpret, nor does it give an indication of the multiple cognitive skills required in interpreting.

2. When is an interpreter needed in court? (a) After an examination of a party or witness, the court concludes

that the person cannot understand English well enough to participate fully in the proceeding. (b) After an examination of a party or witness, the court concludes that the person cannot speak

*State your name?*

*How old are you?*



*When did you build the house?*

*What happened next?*

*Did you sign the document?*

English well enough to be understood by counsel, the court, or the jury. (c)Both of the above. (d) None of the above.

*Answer:* (c) The judge should examine a party or witness to insure that he or she understands English well enough to participate fully in the proceeding and speaks English well enough to be understood by others in the courtroom.

3. True or False: To be included on the Arkansas registry of interpreters maintained by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and provided to the courts, the interpreter must call and tell the AOC to put his or her name on the list.

*Answer:* False. To be included

on the registry of interpreters as a "candidate for certification" the interpreter must attend an orientation training and agree in writing to adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct. To be listed as "certified" the interpreter must *also* pass a language examination in the foreign language which he or she plans to interpret.

The AOC is charged by statute and Arkansas Supreme Court Order with developing and administering the certification program for foreign language interpreters. Arkansas is a member of the Foreign Language Interpreter Consortium, a group of states which focuses on training and testing persons who wish to serve as interpreters in the courts. The AOC conducted its first orientation training for interpreters on June 2-3, 2000, in Springdale, AR. A second training will be offered on October 27-28, 2000, in Little Rock. A Spanish language examination will also be offered later this year. For further information regarding the program and its requirements, contact the AOC at (501) 682-9400.



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## *Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society Holds First Meeting*



*Mort Gitelman (left) and Scott Stafford*



*(Top to bottom) Bill Jones, Peg Smith, and Mary Worthen*

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society, Inc. took place on Friday, May 19, 2000 at the offices of the Administrative Office of the Courts in the Justice Building. Members of the newly formed Society include: Mort Gitelman, Tom Dillard, John Ferguson, Bill Jones, J.D. Gingerich, John Gill, Scott Stafford, Peg Smith, Frances Ross, and Mary Worthen.

Copies of the Articles of Incorporation of the Society were distributed and reviewed by the members. Consistent with Article VII

of the Articles of Incorporation officers were elected as follows: President - Scott Stafford, Vice-president - Mort Gitelman, and Secretary/Treasurer - J.D. Gingerich. Terms of office were also drawn at random for each of the members of the Board.

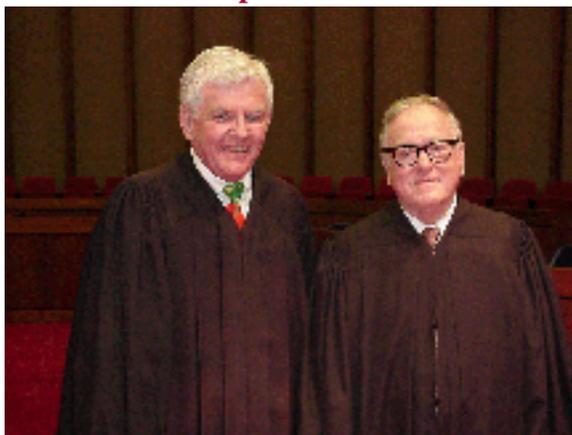
It was agreed that the Society should be established as a membership organization, with appropriate levels and classification of membership. Extensive discussion took place concerning the scope of activities which could be undertaken by the Society. Initial projects

included the preservation of the Supreme Court records which are housed in the basement of the UALR Law School, a compilation of brief biographies of each person who served as a justice of the Supreme Court, and the preparation of a publication to accompany the dedication ceremony for the Justice Building addition.

The next meeting of the Board was set for Monday, July 17 at 12:15 p.m. at the UALR Law School. The meeting will include a tour of the space which houses the original Supreme Court records.

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### **Arkansas Supreme Court First?**



**Justice Tom Glaze (left) & Special Justice Sam Laser**

A first for the Arkansas Supreme Court? On Thursday, May 25, 2000, a father-in-law and son-in-law served together on the Arkansas Supreme Court. Justice Tom Glaze, who has been a Supreme Court Justice since 1987 and his father-in-law, Sam Laser, who had been appointed to serve as a Special Justice on that day, sat on the Court together. It was a special day for both Justices and a very unique day for the Court.

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### **Amendment 3 Beneficial**

Additional benefits have resulted from Amendment 3 which was passed by the voters of Arkansas in November, 1998. Amendment 3 authorized the temporary service of retired Arkansas state court judges in both the state trial and appellate courts. On most occasions, the Chief Justice appoints a special judge to hear one particular case. However, in a particular situation in the Fourth Division of Chancery Court in Jefferson County, Chief Justice Arnold appointed retired Chancery/Probate Judge Lawrence Dawson to handle in excess of six hundred (600) backlog paternity and child support cases that were pending.

It has been reported to the

## Municipal Judges and Municipal/City Court Clerks Hold Spring Meeting

89 Municipal Judges and 217 Municipal/City Clerks attended their Spring meeting in Little Rock on May 18<sup>th</sup>-May 20<sup>th</sup>. Judge Robert Abney/Des Arc



**President Robert Abney**

was elected President of the Municipal Judges Council and Geneva Vance/Forrest City was elected by her peers as President of the Municipal and City Court Clerks Association. Other officers for the Municipal Judges Council include: Dennis James/Wrightsville-1st Vice-President, Stephen Routon/Forrest City-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Kirk Johnson/Texarkana-Secretary/Treasurer, "Rusty" Porter/West Helena-1st District Rep., David Stewart/Little Rock-2nd District Rep., Rodney

Owens/Bentonville-3rd District Rep, and David Saxon/Fort Smith-4th District Rep.



**Pres. Geneva Vance (left) and Valerie Buster**



**Clerk of the Year, Betty Whittaker**

Past President of the Council is Bob Gladwin/Prairie Grove.

The Municipal & City Court Clerks also elected Linda Clark/Eureka Springs-1st Vice President, Denise Henley/Stuttgart-2nd Vice-President, Judy West/North Little Rock-Secretary,

Connie Carman/Dumas-Treasurer, Cindy Walker/Fort Smith-Historian, and Valerie Buster/Texarkana-Parliamentarian. District Representatives for the Association are: 1<sup>st</sup>-Nola King/Gosnell, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Wanda Price/Benton, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Jean Billings/Waldron, 4<sup>th</sup>-Debbie Lewis/Pine Bluff, At Large-Pat Lipps/Nashville and Rebecca Knox/Rogers. Past President of the Clerks' Association is Ruth Calloway. Betty Whittaker of Johnson was given the honor of "Clerk of the Year".

### **(Amendment 3 continued)**

Court that under Assignment Order No. 99-347, dated September 20, 1999, all 600 cases, except for one set for June 28<sup>th</sup>, have been disposed of by Judge Dawson with assistance from the local office of Child Support enforcement and the staff of Judge Thomas Brown.

### New Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator Chosen

Jennifer Jones Taylor has been chosen as the new Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator. Ms. Jones Taylor graduated from the Univ. of Ark./Little Rock for her undergraduate degree and also received her law degree from UALR/Law school. She replaces Shannon Hall who is now serving as Director of the Access and Visitation Mediation Program.



Jennifer Jones-Taylor, ADR Coordinator

### **Automation in Arkansas Courts**

The Supreme Court Committee on Automation met on Friday, May 26th at the Administrative Office of the Courts/Justice Bldg. The Committee is chaired by Judge David Bogard. The agenda addressed the following issues: Pulaski County Chancery Docket availability online; communication lines availability in courthouses; Attorney General's FOI Initiative; laptops for trial judges; providing briefs electronically; and an electronic

filing demonstration by Internet Network of Arkansas.

The committee at the next meeting in July will see a demonstration of access over the internet of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals dockets. This access then will be provided to attorneys across the state and will bring the dockets of both courts to the desktops of attorneys on a daily basis.

## New Faces in the Judiciary

### AOC

ADR Coordinator - **Jennifer Jones Taylor** replaces Shannon Hall.

ADR Director of Access & Visitation Program - **Shannon Hall**.

### City Judges

Edmondson (new court) - **Tonya Alexander** is the judge.

Turrell (new court) - **Fred Thorn** is the judge.  
Allport - **Clint McGue** replaces Howard Martin.

Black Rock - **Vicki Warner** replaces Harry Hayes.

### City Clerks

Edmondson - **Artee Gillard** is the clerk.

Turrell - **Birdia Thompson** is the clerk.

Black Rock - **Donna Brawley** replaces Terrell Downing.

### Municipal Judges

West Fork - **Jim H. Boyd** replaces Mark Lindsay.

### Municipal Clerks

Brinkley - **Beverly Meyers** replaces Dot Glover.

Conway - **Donna Clifton** replaces Shirley Garrett.

Lake Village - **Mildred Donaldson** replaces Lynn Wiltcher.

Gould - **Tanzania Walker** replaces Tabitha Brown.

### Court Reporters

(12th Hewett) - **Lavern Ball** replaces Edna Patton.

(4th-Zimmerman) - **Richard Fourt** replaces Vicki Hassell.

### Case Coordinators

(4th-Zimmerman)-**Yolanda Copeland** replaces Tonyia Tannehill.

## CALENDAR

### JUNE

Judicial College/Ark. Bar Ass. **14-17**  
(Majestic Hotel, Hot Springs)

Official Court Reporters **17-18**  
(Majestic Hotel-Hot Springs)

### AUGUST

Collection of Costs, Fines and Fees **17-18**  
(Holiday Inn Select, Little Rock)

Juvenile Officers Certification Course I **23-25**  
(Holiday Inn Select-Little Rock)

### SEPTEMBER

Municipal Judges' Fall College **7-9**  
(Lake Hamilton Resort, Hot Springs)

Juvenile Officers Certification Course II (Holiday Inn Select Little Rock) **13-15**

Municipal & City Court Clerks' Certification Program **14-15**  
(Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs)

CASA Conference **20-23**  
(Arlington-Hot Springs)

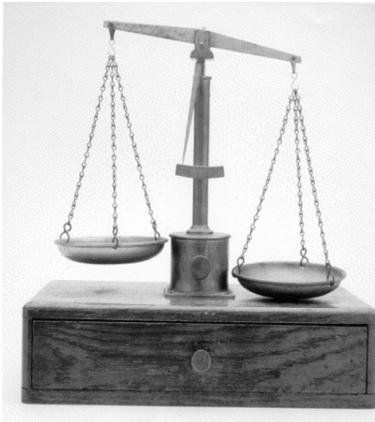
### OCTOBER

Fall Judicial College **18-20**  
(Fayetteville Hilton)

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### Friends of the Court

Administrative Office of the Courts  
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**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. Karoly Bond, Editor.

Address  
Correction  
Requested