



Friends of the Court

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VOTERS APPROVE NEW JUDICIAL ARTICLE

On November 7, the voters of Arkansas overwhelmingly approved major changes for our state court system with the adoption of Amendment 3 to the Arkansas Constitution. The unofficial results totaled 305,794 (56%) for the change and 239,209 (44%) against the change. The proposal was sponsored by the Arkansas Judicial Council and the Arkansas Bar Association. Similar proposals were rejected by the voters after Constitutional Conventions in 1970 and 1980. Major changes include the consolidation of our separate courts of law and equity into a unified trial court, the creation of a more unified system of limited jurisdiction courts, and the elimination of the partisan election of judges.

Amendment 3 places the

primary responsibility for its implementation on the Arkansas Supreme Court. Immediately following the Amendment's passage, the Court approved the appointment of a special committee to receive and make recommendations to the Court. The Committee is chaired by Chief Justice Dub Arnold and includes Judge David Bogard, President of the Arkansas Judicial Council, Judge Robert Gladwin of the Arkansas Municipal Judges' Council, Arkansas Bar Association President Ronald D. Harrison, James L. Julian, Chair of the ABA Amendment 3 Committee, Judge John Stroud, Chair of the Judicial Article Committee of the Arkansas Judicial Council, and Supreme Court Justices Annabelle Clinton Imber and Robert L. Brown.

The primary duty of the Committee will be to oversee the implementation of Amendment 3 and to coordinate the efforts of all persons and entities concerned, including the Arkansas Judicial Council, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Arkansas Municipal Judges' Council, the Arkansas Circuit and County Clerks Association, the Arkansas Municipal and City Court Clerks Association, the Association of Arkansas Counties, the Arkansas Municipal League and others. The Committee will also coordinate the work of the judiciary with appropriate representatives of the legislative and executive branches. The primary implementation date for the Amendment is July 1, 2001.

Supreme Court Library Closing for Renovation



Beginning December 27, 2000, the Arkansas Supreme Court Library, the oldest library in the State of Arkansas, will be closed to the public until further notice. Because of the forthcoming renovation of the Justice Building, resulting in the temporary relocation of the Arkansas Supreme Court Library, the Library must close to the public with plans to re-open in the renovated Justice Building in July 2002.

After the Library closes, requests for legal reference assistance should be directed to the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law/Pulaski County Law Library at 1203 McMath Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202 - (501) 324-9444.

Also, beginning December 27, 2000, requests for copies of Arkansas Supreme Court and Arkansas Court of Appeals briefs, records, and opinions should be directed to the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court, Justice Building, 625 Marshall Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 - (501) 682-

6849. Unofficial opinions from 1996 to present are available on the Arkansas Judiciary Home Page at <http://courts.state.ar.us>.

The staff apologizes for the inconvenience, but looks forward to serving the public again in the renovated facility.



AOC Receives Arkansas Quality Interest Award



Judge Joyce Warren/6th Judicial Circuit has written a booklet entitled "A Booklet for Parents, Guardians, and Custodians in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases". Funding for the printing was made possible by the Court Improvement Project of the Arkansas Supreme Court. The handbook was written to tell parents, guardians and custodians about their rights and responsibilities, and help them understand what will happen in the court process of child abuse and neglect cases.

Topics covered in the material include "Why Do You Have to Go to Court?", "What Happens if Your Child Is Removed From Your Home?" and "Your Rights as a Parent, Guardian, or Custodian". The booklet also describes who will be involved in dependency/neglect proceedings and what they do. In addition, it explains the various types of court hearings possible for these types of cases.

The booklet was disbursed to Juvenile Judges at the October Judicial Council meeting and is in its second printing.



The sixth annual awards celebration for the Arkansas Quality Award was held October 26th at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Governor Mike Huckabee hosted the major awards ceremony, which was attended by approximately 500 business and civic leaders from throughout the State of Arkansas. Receiving one of the Quality Interest Awards was the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Arkansas Quality Award program was created through a special partnership between the State of Arkansas and the private business community. The program's goal has been to encourage as many Arkansas



On behalf of the Administrative Office of the Courts, J.D. Gingerich, Director, received the Quality Interest Award from Governor Mike Huckabee.

for Arkansas organizations that have demonstrated achievements in the implementation of quality principles and practices. Based on the broad representation of Arkansas organizations attending the October 26th celebration, the program has met with statewide acceptance by organizations who understand the value of quality in today's workplace. The Administrative Office of the Courts was the only state agency to receive an award at the ceremony.

organizations as possible to engage in continuous quality improvement and to provide significant recognition at its awards celebration

Trends in State Courts

The National Center for State Courts' Knowledge Management Office has developed its 1999-2000 edition of *Report on Trends in the State Courts*. The Report was developed by the Knowledge Management Office under a State Justice Institute grant and features updates on trend findings in previous years, current trends, and what to watch for in the future.

Current trends featured in the Report consist of therapeutic jurisprudence, specialization and consolidation in State courts, and two important family violence

concerns - the enforcement of protection orders across State lines and standards for batterers' treatment programs. Updates of issues addressed in previous years include alternative dispute resolution, the use of science in the courtroom, and the status of foreign language interpretation in the court.

For copies of the Report, contact the NCSC Knowledge Management Office at 1-800-616-6164 or infoservice@ncsc.dni.us. An on-line request form may be filled out on the Center's web site at <http://www.ncsc.dni.us/IS/Isform.htm>

Judicial Council Bestows “Community Service & First Branch Awards”

The Arkansas Judicial Council, which is comprised of retired, trial and appellate judges throughout the State, awarded its 1999 and 2000 “Community Service Award” to Judge John Lineberger of Fayetteville and Judge Jim Hannah of Searcy, respectively. The “Community Service

Award” was established in 1992 and recognizes off-the-bench activities in service to the community by a member of the Council. Judge Lineberger is a chancery/probate judge in the 4th Judicial District

and has served in that capacity since 1977. He has been a member of the general faculty of the National Judicial College since 1983 and has served as a lecturer for the Mississippi Judges Association, the South Dakota Judges Association and the Institute of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Other awards he has received include Golden Gavel for Exemplary Service to Legal Profession-Arkansas Bar Association/1992, Best of CLE Speakers-Arkansas Bar Association/1992, and the V. Robert Payant Award for Teaching Excellence-National Judicial College-2000.

Judge Hannah has served as a chancery/probate judges in the 17th Judicial District since 1979. Judge Hannah is a former faculty advisor for the National Judicial College, a past member of the Arkansas Board of Pardons and Paroles, and past Chairman and a former

member of the Arkansas Court Reporters Examiners Board. In addition, he has previously served as Chairman of the Wilbur Mills Alcoholism Treatment Center, instructor at Harding University, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Kiwanis Club of Searcy.



Judge Jim Hannah receives the Community Service Award from Judicial Council President, Judge Ben Story. Judge Hannah’s parents, Frank and Virginia Hannah accompany him.

State Senators David Malone of Fayetteville and Mike Beebe of Searcy are recipients of the 1999 and 2000 “First Branch Award” respectively. This award was also established in 1992 as a

means of honoring outstanding legislative service on behalf and for the improvement of the state judicial system.

Senator Malone served for two terms in the House of Representatives and has been a State Senator since 1985. In the 82nd Arkansas Legislature he served as Chair of the Education Committee, and as a member of State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, Efficiency, Joint Budget, and Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology.

Senator Beebe was first elected to the Senate in 1983 and in the 82nd Session served on the Senate Judiciary and Insurance/Commerce Committees, Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth, and Joint Legislative Facilities, Joint Budget, and as Chairman of Efficiency Committee.

MUNICIPAL JUDGE VIC FLEMING SERVES AS INSTRUCTOR IN ALCOHOL AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Little Rock Municipal Judge Vic Fleming has been admitted to the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Judge Fleming, along with three other judges and four educators from other states, participated in September in “Courage to Live 2000” in which 55 middle school students and 11 educators were exposed to alcohol awareness programs that can be implemented in schools.

Judge Fleming’s “Campus Court” program in Little Rock involves holding DWI hearings in schools and giving a multi-media presentation called “Alcoholometry 101”. Judge Fleming will participate in follow-up presentations in 2001 where inter-disciplinary teams consisting of judges, educators and students will be trained in the local implementation of alcohol awareness programs.



CASA BESTOWS AWARDS

At the Third Annual Arkansas CASA Conference held in September, staff and volunteers from Garland County CASA and CASA of Saline County were awarded the Arkansas CASA Program of the Year by Supreme Court Chief Justice “Dub” Arnold. Kim Bibb of Jonesboro received the Attorney Ad Litem of the Year Award. Judge Vicki Cook -18th Circuit-East was awarded Judge of the Year, and Mary Jo Warren of Jonesboro was named Arkansas Volunteer of the Year.



NEW APPELLATE AND TRIAL JUDGES

Supreme Court

Jim Hannah

Court of Appeals

Karen Baker

Larry Vaught

Trial Judges

4th - Chancery Judge/1st Div. - Mike Mashburn

4th - Chancery Judge/2nd Div. - Mark Lindsay

2nd - Circuit Judge/Div. 6 - Victor Hill

5th - Circuit-Chancery Judge/Div. 2 - Dennis Sutterfield

6th - Circuit Judge/5th Div. - Willard Proctor



Accessing Court Records Through the Web

Union County Circuit Clerk, Cheryl Wilson, is quite pleased with the County's new computer technology. According to Wilson, dockets can now be accessed by attorneys and interested parties via the web site. www.recordsusa.com In addition, judges in the Union County Court-house are able to reach the site and make docket entries and the Sheriff's Office in Union County can check on the status of court costs, fines and warrants.

Wilson indicated that her office is discussing with Heritage Solutions, the company who implemented the system, a plan to begin scanning pleadings and entering them into the site and also the possibility of including real estate records.

For further information, you can contact the Union County Clerk's Office at (870) 864-1940.



Happy Holidays!



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.

New Faces in the Judiciary

AOC

Kellye Mashburn - Research Analyst

Municipal Judges

Charleston - **Joe Ramos** replaces Stephen White

Municipal Clerks

Gould - **Sandra Armstrong** replaces Tanazia Walker.

Murfreesboro - **Linda Twilley** replaces Barbara Foster.

City Clerks

Friendship - **Tilda Garrett** replaces Kim Burnett.

Palestine - **Darlene Walker** replaces Wesley Spain.

Lakeview - **Christine Jenkins** replaces Bobbie Mitchell.

Barling - **Tammy Castillo** replaces Debra Underwood.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

New Judges Orientation **10-12**
(Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select)

New Case Coordinators Orientation - (Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select) **12**

FEBRUARY

Municipal Court Officers (Lake Hamilton Resort-Hot Springs) **22-23**

MARCH

Case Coordinators' Annual Conference (Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select) **1-2**

Municipal & City Court Clerk Certification (Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select) **16**

APRIL

Spring Judicial College (Hot Springs-Arlington Hotel) **18-20**

Official Court Reporters (Hot Springs-Arlington Hotel) **20-21**

MAY

Children & the Law IV (Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select) **9-11**

Municipal Judges Spring College (Springdale-NW AR Holiday Inn) **17-19**

Mun. /City Court Clerk Cert. **17-19**
(Springdale-NW AR Holiday Inn)



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



Address
Correction
Requested