



# Friends of the Court

Published by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Volume 8, Number 4  
January, 2001

## NEW FACES ON THE APPELLATE COURT LEVEL

The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals have new faces

as of January 4<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>, respectively. On January 4<sup>th</sup>, Justice Jim Hannah, formerly a chancellor in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, was duly sworn in by Chief Justice Arnold. He takes the place of Lavenski Smith who had been appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee to finish the term of retiring Justice David Newbern.

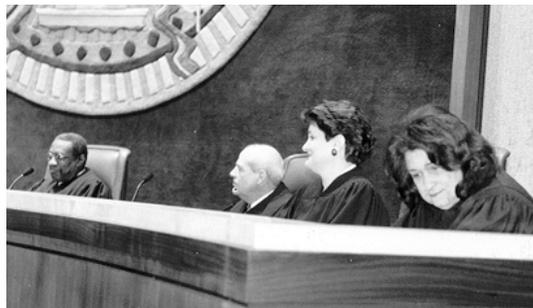
On January 10<sup>th</sup>, two new judges became members of the Court Appeals. Judge Karen



**Associate Justice Jim Hannah (right) makes comments after being sworn in.**



**Court of Appeals Judge Larry Vaught, accompanied by his wife, Sheila, is sworn in by Chief Judge John Robbins.**



**Judge Karen Baker, (second from right) new member of the Court of Appeals, listens to remarks following her swearing in.**

Baker, formerly a circuit/chancery judge in the 20<sup>th</sup>. and Judge Larry Vaught, formerly the Pulaski County Municipal Judge, were

sworn in and joined the 12 member Court. In addi-

tion to Judge Baker and Judge Vaught, present Court members, Judges John Pittman, Wendell Griffen, John Stroud, Olly Neal, Terry Crabtree, and Andree Roaf, were sworn in again.

By appointment of the Chief Justice, Judge John Robbins has served as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the last four years. Judge John Stroud has now been appointed by the Chief Justice to serve in that capacity for the next four years.

## **Arkansas Web Site Revamped - <http://courts.state.ar.us>**

The Arkansas Judiciary Web site celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January. The site received almost 2 million hits in 1998-1999 and 3 million in 1999-2000. In the Summer of 2000, the site received

one of the Top Ten Court Websites award from *Justice Served*. Those that have been involved with the five year old site have been working on the creation of a new Arkansas Judiciary home page and are

pleased to announce the move to the newly designed site which will continue to provide quick, informative access to many aspects of the State's Judiciary. The address for (see "Web" on page 3)

## **PROGRESS OF AMENDMENT 80 IMPLEMENTATION**

At the general election last November, Arkansas voters approved significant changes in the Arkansas court system with the adoption of Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution. In response to the election, the Arkansas Supreme Court appointed a committee to study the issue and make recommendations to the Court and the Arkansas General Assembly. The Committee has now received the first recommendations from the Arkansas Judicial Council, the Arkansas Municipal Judges Council and the Arkansas Bar Association and, at a meeting held on Friday, February 3, 2001, adopted its first recommendations for statutory changes. They include the following:

**Non-Partisan Election** - Several recommendations to implement the changes from partisan to non-partisan selection of judges were adopted. After debating several conflicting recommendations on the timing of the elections, the Committee voted to adopt a primary election to be held in May at the

time of the party primaries with a separate ballot labeled "non-partisan judicial election ballot." In races where no candidate received at least 50% of the vote, the run-off would be in November at the general election. The filing fee for the offices would be set by the State Election Commission. All statutory provisions and filing deadlines which relate to ballot access for independent and write-in candidates would be revised so that all candidates would be determined prior to the May primary.

**Description of Trial Court Positions** - Proposed legislation was approved which lists each of the current trial court judgeships and re-designates each of those positions for purposes of election. The legislation is needed because in many districts there exist, for example, "Circuit Judge Division 1" and "Chancery Judge, Division 1." With the unification of trial courts, all positions must be re-designated.

**Elimination of Courts of Common Pleas** - One of the provisions

of Amendment 80 is the abolition of Courts of Common Pleas. The courts are authorized by statute in 13 counties but have been inactive for several years. The proposed legislation repeals all of Chapter 16 of the Arkansas Code.

**Changes in Court Rule** - One of the main set of issues to be resolved relates to the consolidation of circuit, chancery and probate courts and the designation of subject-matter divisions, the assignment of cases to individual judges, the role of circuit and county clerks, and related issues. Several groups have provided input on these issues but no recommendations have been adopted at this time.

The Committee will meet again at the Justice Building on Friday, March 2, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. All interested parties are welcome to attend or to provide written input through the Administrative Office of the Courts by writing to 625 Marshall St., Little Rock, AR, 72201.

- J.D. Gingerich, Director  
Administrative Office of the Courts

## **Justice Building Addition Completed & Renovation Begins on Original Building**

Effective January 1, 2001, the Arkansas Supreme Court Justices and personal staff, the Office of Professional Programs, the Office of Professional Conduct, and the Clerk of the Courts permanently relocated to the Justice Building's West Wing Addition, which was recently completed after two years of construction. The remaining Justice Building tenants, the Arkansas Court of Appeals Judges and personal staff, the Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office, the Reporter of Decisions' Office, and the Administrative Office of the



**New Justice Building Addition**

Courts have moved into temporary offices located in downtown Little Rock. They will occupy these offices while the original Justice Building space

is renovated.

As previously announced, the Supreme Court Library is now closed to the public for the duration of the renovation; it will also be temporarily relocated to an offsite location. It is anticipated that the renovation of the original Justice Building will be completed in approximately 18 months (July, 2002), at which time all of its temporarily-relocated tenants will be permanently returned there. Telephone numbers for all of the relocated offices will remain the same.



## TRAINING, TRAINING & MORE TRAINING



(L.to R.) Case Coordinators Susan McGehee ,  
Chris Clark and Rosie Tolbert.



(L. to R.) Case Coordinators Andrea Benton and  
Penny Rosegrant and new judges Willard Proctor  
and Mike Mashburn.

New trial judges, case coordinators, and municipal judges underwent training in January, coordinated by Kay Palmer, Judicial Education Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Trial judges were instructed in areas such as evidence, pleas & arraignments, speedy trial, sentencing, family and probate law, and judicial ethics. They, also, shared part of a day with their case coordinators concerning docket management issues. Judges Fred Davis,

Mary McGowan, Jim Gunter, John Plegge, Ralph Wilson, Kim Smith, John Lineberger, Mary Ann Gunn and Justice Annabelle Imber were instructors for the trial judges orientation training. The rest of the day for case coordinators covered; scheduling, professionalism, security, media relations, handling pro se litigants, civil/criminal procedure, and the Code of Judicial Conduct. Present case coordinators Patrice Carey, Joan Lester, Ouida Puryear, Jackie

Ridling and Myra Wylie served as faculty for the new coordinators.

On January 19th, seven new municipal judges spent the day being educated by fellow judges who are already on the municipal bench. Municipal Judges Bob Gladwin, Jim Hamilton and Steve Routon served as instructors and discussed the procedures involved in municipal court.

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(“Web” continued from page one)



the new home page will remain the same as the old.

<http://courts.state.ar.us>

On the new site can be found information about the Supreme Court & Court of Appeals, the AOC (Administrative Office of the Courts), Publications (Judicial Directory, Annual Reports, House Style Guide, Court Forms), CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Court Interpreters, Supreme Court Boards and Commissions, the Office of Professional Programs

(Board of Law Examiners and Continuing Legal Education Board), Attorney Information, ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission), Judicial Branch Education Calendar, Searches (Appellate dockets and opinions, Parallel Citations, Court Rules and Administrative Orders, Court Rules Changes, Licensed Attorneys), Research Links (Attorney General’s Opinions, Arkansas Code, Arkansas General Assembly, Arkansas Legal Index, Supreme Court Library, UALR and UofA Law Library,) and a Citizen Resources Links



(Child Support Guidelines, with Jury Service and Children’s Pages forthcoming.)

For further information, you may contact Karolyn Bond, Coordinator - Public Education/Publications in the Administrative Office of the Courts (501)682-9400 or [karolyn.bond@mail.state.ar.us](mailto:karolyn.bond@mail.state.ar.us) or Tim Holthoff, Supreme Court Librarian (501)682-2147 or [tim.holthoff@mail.state.ar.us](mailto:tim.holthoff@mail.state.ar.us)



## New Faces in the Judiciary

### AOC

**Bruce Edwards** is the new Systems Analyst.  
**Tina Elliot** replaces Erin Foley as Administrative Secretary

### Trial Judges

2nd - **Victor Hill** replaces Samuel Turner.  
4th - **Mark Lindsay** replaces John Lindberger.  
4th - **Mike Mashburn** replaces Mark Lindsay.  
5th - **Dennis Sutterfield** fills a new position.  
6th - **Willard Proctor** replaces Leon Johnson.  
17th - **Darrell Hickman** replaces Jim Hannah.  
20th - **Mike Maggio** replaces Karen Baker.

### Case Coordinators

2nd (Fogleman) - **Andrea Hicks** replaces Rilla Spencer.  
4th (Mashburn) - **Kelly Montgomery** is the new case coordinator.  
5th (Sutterfield) - **Michele Matthews** is the new case coordinator.  
6th (Proctor) - **Sally Porter** replaces Linda Ray.  
6th (Brantley) - **Rosie Talbort** replaces Phyllis Nichols.  
9th East (Thomas) - **Chris Clark** replaces Rhonda Thomason.  
17th (Hickman) - **Andrea Benton** replaces Sharri Stewart.  
20th (Maggio) - **Susan McGehee** replaces Tami McHamm.

### Court Reporters

5th (Sutterfield) - Mark Scott is the new court reporter.  
6th (Proctor) - **Cheryl Nelson** replaces Madeline McClure.  
15th (Danielson) **Andrea Johnson** replaces David Ryles.

### Municipal Judges

Pulaski County - **Patricia Hays** replaces Larry Vaught.  
Paragould - **Dan Stidham** replaces Andrew Fulkerson.  
Pine Bluff - **Waymond Brown** is the new additional judge.  
Russellville - **Don Bourne** replaces Dennis Sutterfield.  
Searcy - **Phil Shoffner** replaces Leroy Froman  
West Fork - **Casey Jones** replaces Jim Boyd.

### Municipal Clerks

Trumann - **Shannon Vickers** replaces Marilyn Pineda.  
Crossett - **Tami Bays** replaces Rita Hyatt.

### Prosecuting Attorneys

10th - **Thomas Deen** replaces David Chambers.  
15th - **Tom Tatum** replaces Jerry Don Ramey.  
17th - **Chris Raff** replaces Clark Evans.  
18th East - **Steven Oliver** replaces Paul Bosson.  
19th West - **Bob Balfe** replaces Robin Green.

## CALENDAR

### **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 and the Law IV (Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select) **9-11**

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

Municipal & City Court Clerk Certification (Springdale-NW AR Holiday Inn) **17-19**

### **AUGUST**

Municipal Court Officers (Little Rock-Holiday Inn Select) **2-3**



### **Friends of the Court**

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



**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**