



Friends of the Court

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Supreme Court Adopts Foreign Language Interpreter Policy on September 21, 2001

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER COMPENSATION POLICY

The 2001 Arkansas General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 for the purpose of reimbursing the services of eligible foreign language interpreters who serve during in-court proceedings in the state's circuit and district courts. Because the amount of money available is insufficient to provide for the large number of interpreters providing services in the state, local courts are urged to continue to rely upon available local resources or the resources of the parties involved in the litigation. The Administrative Office of the Courts has also employed a full-time Spanish interpreter who is available on request and as time permits to provide direct interpreter services to local courts.

ELIGIBLE FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

An eligible foreign language interpreter is one whose name appears on the current registry of interpreters maintained by the AOC and who has been appointed by the presiding judge to serve in a particular case or cases. An eligible foreign language interpreter may also be an interpreter currently certified or qualified by another state which is a member of the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification or who is certified by the U.S. Courts. Written verification of current certification/qualification by the certifying entity is required.

PROCEDURE FOR PAYMENT

When a state circuit or district court becomes aware that a foreign language interpreter will be needed for an in-court proceeding, the AOC should be notified by calling the Foreign Language Interpreter Program Coordinator, Mr. Raul Marquez at 1-800-950-8221. If a Spanish interpreter is required and Mr. Marquez is available, he will be scheduled to interpret for the proceeding. If interpretation for a language other than Spanish is required or if Mr. Marquez is not available, he will assist the local court in finding an available interpreter who is listed on the registry of interpreters.

At the conclusion of the interpreter's court appointed services, the interpreter will complete the appropriate portion of the interpreter payment form prescribed by the Administrative Office of the Courts and present it to the judge for approval. The judge will certify that the party requiring the interpreter was indigent and unable to otherwise afford the services of an interpreter and that the interpreter provided the services for the court. The interpreter will then forward the form to the Administrative Office of the Courts for payment.

RATE OF PAYMENT

A certified interpreter, as denoted on the registry of interpreters, will be paid \$50.00 per hour for in-court services with a guaranteed one hour minimum. Additional hours in increments of 15

minutes will be paid at a rate of \$40.00 per hour. Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of 29 cents per mile when the certified interpreter is required to travel outside of the county where he or she resides.

An interpreter whose name on the registry of interpreters appears as a candidate for certification will be paid \$20.00 per hour. There is no guaranteed minimum. Hours should be billed in increments of 15 minutes. Mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of 29 cents per mile when the candidate for certification is required to travel outside of the county where he or she resides.

Nothing contained herein precludes the presiding judge from ordering exclusive or additional payment from another source as he or she deems appropriate (provided, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits courts from including interpreter's fees in the "court cost"). 56 Fed Reg 35705-06 (July 26, 1991).

LIMITATION

Any payment from state funds is contingent upon verification by the AOC that (1) the interpreter is eligible for payment, (2) the procedures outlined in this policy have been followed, and (3) sufficient funds are available. Should it become necessary, based upon balances within the fund, preference for payment will be given first to felony criminal cases and then to juvenile delinquency matters. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts will be the final arbiter for contested payments.



Prof. Scott Stafford, President of the Supreme Court Historical Society, presents a plaque to the Supreme Court in commemoration of the restoration of the old Supreme Court courtroom in the Capitol.



Supreme Court Librarians were acknowledged at the reception in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Supreme Court Library. (L.to R.) Interim Director Ava M. Hicks, Ms. Ruth Lindsey (Supreme Court Librarian, 1960-1979), Ms. Jacqueline Wright (Supreme Court Librarian, 1979-1998) Mr. Tim Holthoff (on leave of absence).

On September 6th, in the old Supreme Court courtroom in the State Capitol, the Arkansas Supreme Court heard arguments in the first cases of the 2001-2002 term of court. As part of the opening ceremony, the Court presented a plaque to Arkansas Secretary of State Sharon Priest to acknowledge the recent restoration of the courtroom by the Secretary of State to its original 1912 appearance. The plaque will be installed outside the courtroom in the Capitol.

Later that morning, in the lobby of the newly constructed section of the Justice Building, the Court marked the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Arkansas Supreme Court Library with the opening of a series of historical exhibits prepared by the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society. Remarks were made by Associate Justice Tom Glaze and former and current directors of the library were recognized.

Judge, Volunteer, Attorney and CASA Staff Receive Awards for Work with Children

Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice W.H. "Dub" Arnold presented awards at the fourth annual Arkansas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) conference to individuals in our state who work with abused and neglected children in the court system.

The Honorable Gary Cottrell, Circuit Judge for the 21st Judicial District, was awarded the Juvenile Judge of the Year. Judge Cottrell was recognized for his support of CASA of Crawford County.

Carla Reyes of Ouachita County was recognized as attorney ad litem of the year by Arkansas CASA. Attorney ad litem represent the best interest of children in juvenile proceedings.

Rhonda and Gene Dunn of Garland County were recognized as the CASA Foster Parents of the Year. Foster parents provide a safe and nurturing home for abused and neglected children.



Marcia Prewitt of Sharp County was recognized as the Family Service Worker of the Year by Arkansas CASA. Family Service Workers directly work to find the best home placement for children.

Mary Green of White County was awarded Arkansas CASA Board Member of the Year. Green provides committed leadership to her community in promoting the CASA cause.

Pat Lane of Garland County was recognized as the CASA Volunteer of the Year for her countless hours of volunteer service for abused and neglected children.

Two local CASA programs, CASA of the 3rd Judicial District and CASA of the 14th Judicial District, were selected as CASA Programs of the Year. Executive directors Karen Starken and Hope Wilkinson accepted the awards on behalf of their programs. Local CASA programs recruit and train volunteers to serve as powerful voices for children.

Technical Services Librarian Joins Supreme Court Library Staff

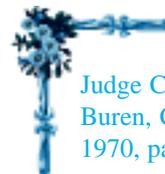
The Arkansas Supreme Court Library announces that (Mrs.) Shawn Pierce joined its staff this summer as its Technical Services Librarian, which is a new, full-time professional position created by the Arkansas General Assembly earlier this year. Mrs. Pierce was most recently employed as the Interim Director/Head of Technical Services of the Philander Smith College Library in Little Rock.

Her primary responsibility at the Library is to maintain and improve its online catalog

<http://themis.law.ualr.edu/>

as well as attend to all matters relevant thereto. She may be contacted by telephone at her direct number (501) 682-6878 or by e-mail at

shawn.pierce@mail.state.ar.us



Judge Carl Creekmore from Van Buren, Circuit Judge from 1950 - 1970, passed away in August.



Arkansas Judiciary Web Site Receives Recognition

Arkansas' Judiciary web site <http://courts.state.ar.us> received Honorable Mention from the Council of State Governments in the "Best Judicial Branch Site" category. North Dakota received the "Best Site" award, with Utah State Courts also receiving an Honorable Mention. Awards were made for the best executive, legislative, and judicial branch sites and for the best state portal. The Council of State Governments represents state officials in the executive, judicial and legislative branches.

A multi-branch panel of state officials judged nominations based on:

*innovative use of technology to streamline and integrate government services

*ability to make state government closer, more reliable and more trustworthy for citizens and businesses

*ability to meet the emerging needs of constituents and make government more relevant to their lives via the Web

*overall ease of use and accessibility

Governor Makes Judicial Appointment

Governor Mike Huckabee has appointed John Scott from Rogers as the replacement for retiring circuit judge, Don Huffman in the 19th Judicial Circuit. Scott received both his undergraduate and law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Before receiving the appointment, he was in private practice in Rogers. He will assume Judge Huffman's duties as circuit judge in the 19th circuit beginning October 1st.

Chief Justice Arnold Receives Award

The American Judges Association has bestowed upon Arkansas' Chief Justice W.H. "Dub" Arnold the Chief Justice Richard W. Holmes Award of Merit for 2001. Up until the year 2000, the Award was entitled Award of Merit and was first given in 1971 to Chief Justice Warren Burger of the United States Supreme Court. Last year's recipient was the Honorable Thomas A. Zlaket, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona.

Chief Justice Arnold was presented the Award on October 1st during the American Judges Association conference in Reno, Nevada.

Effects of September 11th Disaster on New York Judiciary



Message from Judith Kaye, Chief Judge and Jonathan Lippman, Chief Administrative Judge - State of New York - September 20, 2001

To the Members of the Conference of Chief Justices and State Court Administrators:

We want to thank all of you for your supportive e-mails and phone calls in the aftermath of the horrific events of September 11th.

While our courts were closed in Manhattan for three days, and our courts elsewhere in New York City were closed for one day, the entire State court system was open Citywide as of Monday, September 17th. That being said, we are operating under difficult conditions; phone service has not yet been restored to six of the busiest state courthouses in the country; some 17,000 lawyers with offices in the original "frozen zone" in lower Manhattan have experienced serious disruption, including lost files and missed court calendars; and an untold number of lawyers in the immediate vicinity of the attacks - upwards of 1,400 in the World Trade Center alone - have had their offices destroyed. Although personnel of our Court of Claims, located at World Trade Center Tower 5, were safely evacuated and are all accounted for, three of our Court Officers involved in the rescue efforts are still missing. The court family is greatly distressed and anxious about their fate.

While the courts and lawyers remain shaken and saddened, we are strengthened in our resolve to carry on the vital business of the courts, to uphold the rule of law, and to demonstrate to those intent on destroying our institutions that America's system of justice will not succumb to terrorism. Our judicial and non-judicial personnel have demonstrated an overwhelming commitment to returning all courts to normal operations as soon as possible.

We are greatly appreciative of all of your offers of help and assistance and, most of all, for your support. We will not hesitate to take you up on those offers as needed.



The Administrative Office of the Courts has seven new employees. Pictured (left to right): Bridgette Newson/Administrative Assistant for Division of Dependency Neglect Representation, Maggie Honorable/Case Coordinator, Holly Hiett/Assistant Judicial Education Specialist, Raul Marquez/Spanish Court Interpreter-Program Coordinator, Angie Pearrow/Assistant A.D.R. Coordinator, Jamillaah Jones/Assistant CASA Coordinator, and Terri Wardlaw/Administrative Secretary.



New Faces in the Judiciary

AOC

Raul Marquez - Spanish Interpreter/
Program Manager

Jamillaah Jones replaces Jana Adams as
Assistant Director of CASA

Court Reporters

16th (Rutledge) - **Vickie Glasgow**.

District Judges

Pocahontas - **John Throesh** is the judge.

District Court Clerks

Camden - **Jamie Lawson** replaces Corin
Blackwood.

Nashville - **Pat Lipps** replaces Regina
Beeson.

City Judges

Rockport - **Lois Lloyd** replaces Bob
Frazier.

Police Courts

Leachville - **Rebecca Clowers** replaces
Tula Cagle as the court clerk.

Friends of the Court is always interested in hearing about innovative programs and services being provided in your court so that we can share your experience with other court personnel in the State.

Send the information to Karolyn Bond, Editor, *Friends of the Court*, Administrative Office of the Courts, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72205, Phone (501) 682-9400, FAX (501) 682-9410 or e-mail karolyn.bond@mail.state.ar.us .

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Fall Judicial College* 17-20
(Fort Smith-Holiday Inn)

Arkansas Court Reporters Assn. 19-20
Fall Meeting-(Little Rock)

NOVEMBER

Foreign Language Interpreters 2-3
Orientation Training Program
(Fort Smith - Holiday Inn)

Juvenile Judges Annual Conf. 7-9
(Heber Springs - Red Apple Inn)

District and City Court Clerk 16
Certification
(Little Rock - Holiday Inn Select)



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



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Address
Correction
Requested