



Friends of the Court

Published by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Volume 12, Number 1
July, 2004

State Interpreters Busy

JOINT INTERPRETING SEMINAR HELD

The AOC made history on Saturday, June 22, 2004 by hosting the first joint seminar in Arkansas for spoken and sign language interpreters who provide interpreting services to the courts on a regular basis. AOC Court Interpreter Program Managers, Shirley Herald for sign language and Mara Simmons for foreign language arranged and conducted the event. Approximately 15 sign language and Spanish language interpreters attended.

Ethical issues and dilemmas were presented to the group and after discussion, the best solutions were determined and documented. The purpose of the seminar was to establish written guidelines for all working interpreters to use in their work and for future training purposes.

Another goal for the seminar was to bring together interpreters to share their problems and solutions that they encounter in the courtroom. Interpreters often feel that they **work in a vacuum**. So the seminar gave everyone an

opportunity to become acquainted with each other and to broaden the resource pool for interpreters to discuss problems and issues with more experienced interpreters.

The seminar was deemed a big success by those attending and it is anticipated that more will be held in the future.

Telephone Interpreting Pilot Program

Due to the overwhelming demand for qualified foreign language interpreters and the lack of funds to supply every courtroom with a qualified interpreter, the AOC will be conducting a Pilot Program for Telephone Interpreting. The primary purpose of this pilot project is to facilitate access to the courts for non-English speaking individuals in isolated areas and to decrease the use of non-certified interpreters. The pilot project is also intended to minimize the number of delayed or continued cases and better utilize the State of Arkansas' limited supply of qualified interpreters. It is NOT intended to replace

an available, live, certified interpreter, but is an acceptable alternative to using a live, non-certified, unqualified interpreter.

Many state and federal courts are currently using this technology with a great success. It is both efficient and less costly. A certified interpreter will still be interpreting, but instead of being present in the courtroom, he/she will be at a different location. This method is appropriate for certain non-emergent, short matters of 30 minutes or less. Standards for telephone interpreting are being developed to assure the same high quality of interpretation as that done in person in the courtroom.

Yell County and Sevier County both met the criteria to participate in this program: distance from a certified interpreter, type of cases often heard (arraignments, pleas, misdemeanors, short hearings), and frequency in which these courts need an interpreter.

The equipment is installed at the AOC and will be installed and operating in these courtrooms by the end of the summer.

Circuit Court Commission Meetings Being Held

The Circuit Court Commission is inviting members of the public to the hearings listed below to voice their concerns about the state's circuit courts. The meetings will be run as open forums. All meetings will be transcribed and will be utilized, in addition to the filing statistics and court user surveys, in creating a final report for the legislature.

During the months of July and August, the Commission is holding public hearings throughout the state to assess public opinion regarding the efficiency of the circuit courts. The public hearings schedule is listed below.

The General Assembly established the Circuit Court Apportionment Commission during the last legislative session to review the current jurisdiction and geographic boundaries of the state's courts. The Commission is comprised of several judges, legislators, and attorneys and is chaired by the state's Chief Justice. A listing of Commission members is listed below.

- (1) Chair—Chief Justice Betty Dickey
- (2) Hon. Norman Wilkinson, Judge in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit
- (3) Mike Everett (attorney-former state Senator) (Senate Pro-Tem. selection)
- (4) George Steel, jr. (attorney) (Senate Pro-Tem. selection)
- (5) Hon. Bynum Gibson (Designee of Representative Mike Hathorn)
- (6) Rep. Sam Ledbetter (House Speaker selection 5-15-03 memo to Chief)
- (7) Rep. Chris Thomason (House Speaker selection 5-15-03 memo to Chief)
- (8) Hon. Ted Capeheart, President, Judicial Council, Judge in Ninth Judicial Circuit West
- (9) Hon. Wiley Branton (Judicial Council appointment), Judge in the Sixth Circuit
- (10) Hon. Jim Hudson (Judicial

Council appointment), Judge in the Eighth Circuit South

(11) Hon. John Stroud, Chief Judge (Arkansas Bar Association designation) Court of Appeals

(12) Hon. John Fogleman (Governor's appointment), Judge in the Second Circuit

(13) Darrell F. Brown (attorney) (Governor's appointment), Little Rock Attorney

Non-voting ex-officio members (1)

Mr. Bob McMahan, Prosecutor Coordinator

(2) Ms. Didi Sallings, Executive Director, Public Defender Commission

(3) Richard B. Atkinson, UAF Law School Dean

(4) Charles W. "Chuck" Goldner, Dean, William H. Bowen School of Law

The public hearing schedule is as follows:

Thursday, July 22, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Justice Building, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR - Faulkner, Garland, Lonoke, Perry, Prairie, Pulaski, Saline, Searcy, Van Buren, and White Counties.

Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at 6:30 pm at the Washington County Courthouse, Quorum Court Room, 280 North College Avenue, Fayetteville, AR - Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Conway, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pope, Scott, Sebastian, Washington, and Yell Counties.

Tuesday, August 10, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hempstead County Courthouse, Small Court Room, 400 Washington Street, Hope, AR - Calhoun, Clerk, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Grant, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Montgomery, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union Counties.



Judge Jim Spears, 12th

Judicial Circuit, received the Lawyer-Citizen Award from the Arkansas Bar Foundation at the Arkansas Bar Association meeting held in June in Hot Springs. Judge Spears' latest project in Fort Smith is working towards getting a larger than life size statute of Zachary Taylor on his horse, Old Whitey. Taylor is the only U.S. President who has ever lived in Fort Smith. He arrived in Fort Smith in 1841 to command the Army's 2nd Division. Congratulations to Judge Spears.



Eye halve a spelling chequer. It came with my pea sea.

It plainly marques four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word and weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write. It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is made, it nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite. Its rarely ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it, I am shore your pleased two no.
Its letter perfect in it's weigh. My chequer tolled me sew.

Sauce Unknown

COURT SECURITY CONFERENCES HELP RAISE AWARENESS

Recently the Administrative Office of the Courts sponsored four court security summits that were held in Springdale, Jonesboro, Camden and Little Rock. Steve Steadman, a court security consultant from Denver, took a commonsense approach at analyzing the needs of a particular courthouse. A laundry list of low cost security measures were pointed out as he examined the “big three” of courthouse safety: protecting people, protecting property, and protecting information.

Eddie Davis, Chief of the Arkansas Supreme Court Police, reminded us that no matter what we spent on equipment, if we did not take care of it, maintain it and use it correctly, it would become useless. He warned of getting lax in a daily routine and offered a court security checklist that would be beneficial for all courts to maintain.

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, the Governors Office and arpublicsafety.net offered lists of resources to aid courts with little or no money for security funding. This proved that there was help available to those that chose to stop a tragedy before it happened.

Since the summits, Garland County District and Juvenile Court has hired a full time security guard to operate their metal detectors (which they owned but were not using before the summits). From May 10th until July 2nd, 953 weapons, including knives, stun guns and mace, were stopped before they made their way into the courtroom. The security guard also monitors various security cameras that track the number of people

that visit the courthouse; an amazing 47,447 people visited the courthouse in those short four weeks!

It is important to remember that when people enter a courtroom they expect to be in a safe environment. It is our duty as court personnel to make sure we do our part to preserve the public trust.

Marty Sullivan

CORRECTION



2003 Clerk of the Year, Valerie Buster/Texarkana (r.) presents 2004 Clerk of the Year award to Vickie Weed/North Little Rock. (Valerie Buster was incorrectly identified in the May issue of “Friends of the Court”).

Test Your Knowledge About Arkansas Symbols

1. What is the State flower?
2. What is the State bird?
3. What is the State tree?
4. What is the State gem?
5. What is the State insect?
6. What is the State instrument?
7. What is the State beverage?
8. What is the State fruit/blossom?

(Answers on back page.)

Chief Justice -Elect to Visit All Circuits

Chief Justice-Elect Jim Hannah will be traveling to each of Arkansas’ judicial circuits to meet with court staff, judges and local legislators between now and the beginning of his term on January 1, 2005. Hannah will be accompanied by J.D. Gingerich, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The meetings will include a tour of court facilities as well as a “listening session” with local court employees.

“It is extremely important that we understand the problems and concerns of our judges and employees who are in the courtroom everyday and in direct contact with both the trial process and those who appear in court as litigants, witnesses, jurors and attorneys”, said Hannah. “We have sometimes had a lack of communication between the trial courts and the Supreme Court. I want to make sure that I am doing all that I can to learn about the issues which are

(See Chief next page)



Judge H.A. Taylor, 11th West Judicial Circuit, passed away Friday, May 21st. Judge Taylor was the most “senior” circuit judge in the state, having taken the bench on January 1, 1975. He served as President of the Judicial Council in 1992-1993. Our condolences to his family on their loss.

New Faces in the Judiciary

Circuit Judges

11th West - **Jodi Dennis** replaces H.A. Taylor.

Case Coordinators

19th West (Scott) **Betty Schrader** replaces Mary Ann Putman.

Court Reporters

6th (Smith) **Krystal Jones** replaces Maudine Day.

District Judges

Lonoke - **Barbara Elmore** replaces Kenneth Williams.

Circuit Clerks

Lee County - **Flora Grady** replaces Willa Dean Spath.

Arkansas Quiz Answers

1. Apple blossom (1901)
 2. Mockingbird (1929)
 3. Pine (1939)
 4. Diamond (1967)
 5. Honeybee (1973)
 6. Fiddle (1985)
 7. Milk (1985)
 8. South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato (1987)
-

(Chief continued)

important to local courts so that, when appropriate, I can take the necessary steps to respond to those issues as Chief Justice on behalf of our state court system. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting and visiting with all of my colleagues across the state.”

While the schedule for the visits may vary slightly, they will typically include a tour of court facilities at 10:00 a.m., a session with court

employees at 11:00 a.m. and a meeting with judges and local members of the Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives at noon.

Hannah and Gingerich will travel to thirty communities in twenty-eight judicial districts. Steps are now being taken to finalize the schedule for each of the visits. Invitations to the events will be sent from the Administrative Office of the Courts.



Friends of the Court

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



CALENDAR

August

District & City Court Clerks Certification (Chief Clerks) (West Memphis) **19-20**

CASA Conference (Little Rock) **26-28**

September

District Judges Fall College (Hot Springs) **23-25**

October

Fall Judicial College/ Judicial Council Meeting (Springdale) **20-22**

Official Court Reporters Conference (Rogers) **22-23**

November

Juvenile Judges Conference (Heber Springs) **10-12**

District & City Court Clerks (1st and 3rd Districts) (Mountain View) **19**

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**