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Alabama Court News

March 1997



Vol. V No. 1

Newsletter of the Unified Judicial System

Scholarship Fund for Law Students Serves as Memorial

The Circuit Judges Association is entering its sixth year of awarding scholarships to law students in memory of a fellow circuit judge. Recently, the Association presented a plaque with the names of those honored since 1991 to Chief Justice Perry O. Hooper Sr. The plaque will hang in the formal conference room.

The Circuit Judges Memorial Scholarship Fund was established July 1, 1991, by members of the Circuit Judges Association to promote the education of deserving students of the law and honor the memory of deceased Alabama circuit judges for their dedicated service. Presiding Circuit Judge Inge Johnson, 31st Judicial Circuit



Chief Justice Perry O. Hooper Sr., left, receives the Memorial Scholarship Fund plaque from Presiding Circuit Judge Randall Cole, 9th Judicial Circuit.

(Tuscumbia), served as chairperson of the committee that initiated the scholarship fund.

Presiding Circuit Judge Bradley Bryne, 21st Judicial Circuit (Brewton), currently serves as chairperson of the committee.

(see "Memorial" next page)

CAMPAIGN REFORM:

Judicial Elections Task Force
Submits Findings to Chief Justice

The second meeting of the Task Force on Judicial Elections resulted in recommendations to the Chief Justice on tougher regulations for the conduct of judicial candidates and the nonpartisan election of judges.

The 26-member group was appointed by Chief Justice Perry O. Hooper Sr. in November, following the general election.

Chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Hugh Maddox, the Task Force submitted its "Statement of Findings" to Chief Justice Hooper January 21. The following is an excerpt from the commission's study.

(see "Campaign" next page)

Judicial Security Update

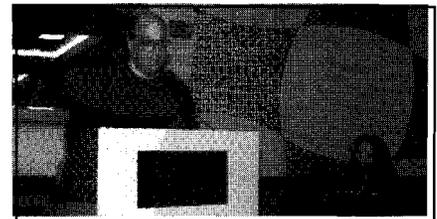
While the issue of judicial security has been present for many years, steps were taken during the past year to develop a statewide judicial security plan. First, a Judicial Security Committee, made up of circuit and district judges, was formed to focus on the problem. Next, a security questionnaire was distributed to the judges to determine attitudes concerning judicial security. The results of the ques-

(see "Judicial" page 3)

Rep. Fuller Addresses Court's Winter Conferences

While addressing the judges and clerks winter conferences, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Fuller, LaFayette, covered several issues that will affect the courts if passed during this legislative session.

Rep. Fuller is sponsoring the Judicial Education Trust Fund, supporting legislation for a state employee pay increase as well as working to ensure that the courts



Rep. Bill Fuller, LaFayette, addresses the Clerks Conference in Montgomery. Kim Adams, right, chief counsel for the Chief Justice, also serves as the court's legislative liaison.

receive adequate General Fund Budget appropriations.

(“Memorial” continued)

By establishing this scholarship fund, Alabama’s circuit judges recognize that an education in law, whether it be used to practice law or in public service as a judge, equips one to contribute in a significant way to the preservation of our democracy, which is premised upon an adherence to the rule of law.

Scholarships have been given in the memory of the following circuit judges:

- Judge Ingram Beasley served from 1959-1977 in the 10th Judicial Circuit (Birmingham).
- Judge L.S. Moore served from 1943-1977 in the 4th Judicial Circuit (Centerville).
- Judge Julius S. Swann Jr. served from 1977-1992 in the 16th Judicial Circuit (Gadsden).

- Judge J. Russell McElroy served 1927-1977 in the 10th Judicial Circuit (Birmingham).
- Judge Cecil M. Deason served from 1961-1977 in the 10th Judicial Circuit (Birmingham).
- Judge Joe G. Barnard served from 1977-1993 in the 10th Judicial Circuit (Birmingham).
- Judge William H. Cole served from 1971-1989 in the 10th Judicial Circuit (Birmingham).
- Judge Michael E. Zoghby served from 1971-1994 in the 13th Judicial Circuit (Mobile).
- Judge Robert E. Hodnette Jr. served from 1970-1985 in the 13th Judicial Circuit (Mobile).
- Judge Joseph D. Phelps served from 1976-1995 in the 15th Judicial Circuit (Montgomery).

(“Campaign” continued)

“We recommend that judicial candidates adopt and abide by guidelines governing their campaign activities in those instances where there might be doubt relating to the power of the Supreme Court or the Legislature to regulate campaign conduct.

“We recommend that the Alabama Supreme Court promptly study the various reports pending before the Court relating to judicial campaign conduct and adopt rules that would govern both campaign funding and campaign conduct, to the extent, of course, that the Court can legally do so under both the State and the Federal Constitution, and in that connection we recommend that Canon 7, as proposed by the Report to the Supreme Court of Alabama by the Supreme Court

Standing Committee on Rules of Conduct and Canons of Judicial Ethics, be modified.

“We recommend that the Chief Justice, as the administrative head of the Unified Judicial System, work with the President of the Alabama State Bar, the Governor, and the legislature to adopt reasonable legislation regulating campaign funding for judicial elections.

“We recommend that the Chief Justice also encourage the Judicial Inquiry Commission and the Court of the Judiciary to strictly enforce the Canons of Judicial Conduct, to the extent that the Canons can be enforced without violating a person’s right to freedom of speech, so that the people’s faith in the impartiality of the judiciary would not be destroyed.

Law Day’s 40th Anniversary

This year, the Alabama State Bar Association celebrates the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Alabama Constitution. The one word that best describes America’s greatest strength is freedom that we bought when we created this country. The freedom that still sets us apart from most of the world’s nations is freedom’s lamp that shines on the oppressed from all corners of the globe.

This Law Day gives us the opportunity to reaffirm how the law protects our right to express our opinions, elect our leaders, worship where we please, and pursue our livelihoods to the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, and protected by our laws and courts. We Americans have the opportunity to reach anywhere in the world to develop our capabilities to the fullest.

“We further recommend that the Chief Justice consider recommending legislation establishing minimum qualifications for judges and judicial candidates.

“We have made each of the foregoing recommendations on the assumption that the Court will continue to be partisan elected by judges; however, the committee, by a majority vote, recommends to the Chief Justice that appellate, circuit, and district court judges of this State, be elected in non-partisan elections. The committee further recommends that no judicial candidates be required to sign any political party loyalty oath and that no citizen be denied the right to run for any judicial candidate because of a loyalty oath that citizen may have signed in any previous election.

Personnel Profile

by Sheila Wall

With helicopters buzzing overhead and the National Guard on alert, they watched as tens of thousands gathered on the steps. It was 1965, and Gov. George Wallace called the legislature into special session before the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March. In the Alabama State Capitol building, then Rep. Loy Campbell anxiously watched the gathering on the front steps.

Thirty two years later, the black and white photo of the 1962-1966 members of the House of Representatives hangs in the retired circuit judge's Scottsboro office. In fact, the walls are filled with historical records of his life's works, loves and reminders.

He sits in the midst of these records but doesn't draw attention to any of them unless prompted. With the mention of the accident that confined him to a wheelchair, he points to a picture hanging to the right of his office door. It's a small picture of the demolished car he was rescued from after a car bomb detonated. "I'm lucky to be alive," he said. "I keep it hanging because there is more religion in that than anything else."

The story about the car bomb and the three men involved in the crime will be told in a book that was expected in the bookstores last



Retired Circuit Judge Loy Campbell, passes the gavel of his judgeship to Judge Jenifer Holt.

month. Judge Campbell said he has reviewed the book entitled *Lie Down With Dogs* by author Byron Woodfin of Jackson County.

That incident, which has since been the topic of many school and civic speeches, has not stopped him from living. "I decided a long time ago," he said, "that I wasn't going to let this affect me."

The injuries of the accident have not hindered him in the courtroom. He did say, however, that his limited mobility was one factor in his becoming a judge.

Judge Jenifer Holt, his successor, said that while practicing law in Judge Campbell's courtroom, she found him to have a wealth of legal knowledge. "He understands the people who come in his courtroom, with no exceptions. He can talk to anyone on any level. The orders

and rulings he drafts are clear and concise as well." Most of all, she added, he is well respected. Judge Campbell practiced law 23 years prior to being appointed to the bench by Gov. Wallace. "I had wanted to be a lawyer about as far back as I can remember," he said. He received his degree from The University of Alabama School of Law.

As a judge, he became known for the notorious "snake preacher" case. This involved a preacher who tried to murder his wife by having a rattlesnake bite her, he said. It drew wide media attention and the publication of a book entitled *Salvation on Sand Mountain*.

For now, Judge Campbell works out of his office, a couple streets over from the Jackson County courthouse. He has been retired since Sept. 30, 1996, but accepts an occasional judicial assignment. Most recently he was appointed to serve as chief justice for a special court.

Judge Campbell, however, has plans to spend most of his time with his grandchildren, as well as to travel some out West. In addition, he enjoys fishing and boating on the Tennessee River.

If you know of someone who should be recognized in the personnel profile, please contact Miss Wall at AOC.

("Judicial" continued)

tionnaire showed an overwhelming concern for both courthouse and personal security.

Last Fall, the Judicial Security Committee requested authorization from the Supreme Court of Alabama to design and implement a statewide judicial security plan pursuant to Rule 37, Rules of Judicial Administration. The Supreme

Court issued the order authorizing the Judicial Security Committee and Frank Gregory, administrative director of courts (ADC), to formulate such a statewide plan and to present the plan to the Supreme Court for its adoption.

The Committee is currently reviewing a security plan. Upon the Committee's approval, the plan will be submitted to the Supreme

Court in the near future. *Court News* will report on the adoption of the Judicial Security Plan when it occurs.

Also in this issue of *Court News* are results of the judges' questionnaire, as well as some helpful tips concerning personal safety. For additional information about judicial security, please contact Rich Hobson at AOC.

PERSONAL SECURITY

Your Car:

- don't use vanity plates
- don't have your name or official title displayed at your office parking place
- lock your car
- take alternate routes to work occasionally
- keep gas in your car
- keep your car in good repair
- park in well lighted areas
- carry a cell phone
- lock your doors when driving

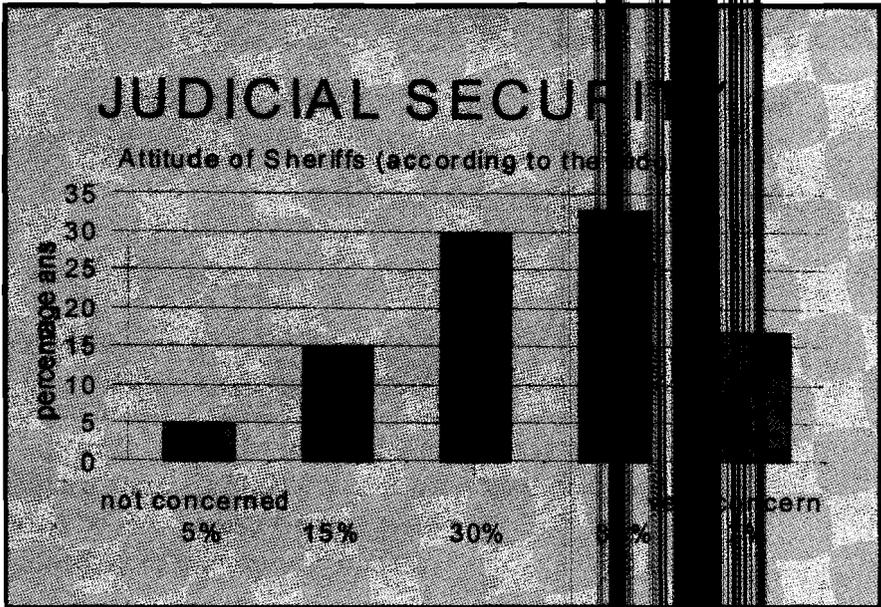
The Mail: at home or at work

Suspicious characteristics to look for include:

- an unusual or un-known place of origin
- no return address
- an excessive amount of postage
- unusual size
- oily stain on the package

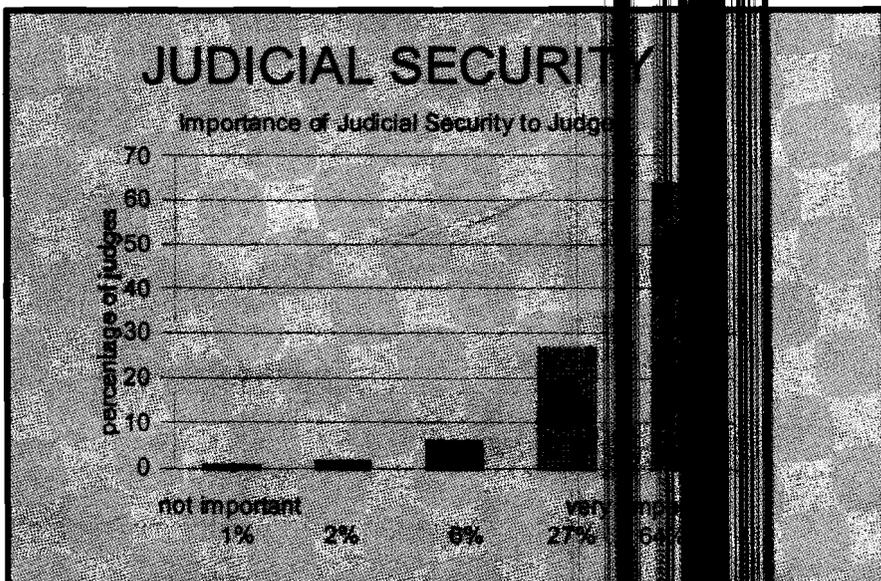
Your Home:

- have a solid door with dead-bolt locks and one-way peep hole
- lock your house, even when you are there
- have an unlisted number
- don't have your name on the mailbox
- when you go out of town:
 - use timers on lights
 - hide valuables
 - leave a radio on
 - don't leave messages taped to your door
 - leave house with "lived-in" look



- wires or strings protruding from or attached to an item
- incorrect spelling on a package label
- differing return address and postmark
- appearance of foreign style handwriting
- peculiar odor (like shoe polish or almonds)
- unusual heaviness or lightness
- never cut tape, strings, or other wrappings on a suspect-

- ed package, never immerse a suspected letter or package in water -- if these actions could cause an explosive device to detonate
- never touch or move a suspected package or letter
- report any suspicious packages or letters to law enforcement immediately



Court Referral Classes Continue to Expand in Northwest Alabama

by **Elizabeth Anderson**

director, Shoals Area Tri-County Adult Education Program

Since 1987, the Shoals Area Tri-County Adult Education Program has worked with the courts to provide educational classes that prepare juvenile and adult offenders for the workforce. Colbert and Lauderdale county court systems have been the chief collaborators, with Franklin County joining more recently in referring offenders as a condition of probation. These offenders are "sentenced" to receive educational evaluations, counseling, and recommendations concerning the type of classes to attend, such as pre-GED, GED preparation, basic skills, and/or preemployment skills classes.

The referred students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and offenses. Many referral cases involve nonsupport parents, DUI offenders, forgery and other nonviolent crimes; however, some physical abuse cases are required to attend. All of these referred offenders are unemployed and do not have high school diplomas or are unemployable at their present skill levels.



Elizabeth Anderson, director, displays the mobile advertising for the adult education classes.

Colbert County circuit court judges Inge Johnson, presiding, and Pride Thompkins, and District Court Judge George Carpenter are using all possible resources to prevent these offenders from returning to jail. Working closely with both juvenile and adult probation officers, Court Referral Officers (CROs), Department of Human Resource caseworkers, and adult education staff, the judges require reports from the education staff as well as continued monitoring of the offender's progress.

In Lauderdale County, circuit court judges Mike Suttle, Don Patterson and Larry Mack Smith, as well as District Court Judge Deborah Paseur, are using educational evaluations and recommendations to improve offenders' lives.

One local juvenile probation officer, Diana Tidwell, takes the juvenile offenders, 16 years and older, into a special class to prepare them for the regular adult education class. The six-week preparation class provides evaluation, orienta-

tion and expectations of their participation and performance in a standard adult education class. After the evaluation period, they are placed in the adult education class. This has allowed a smoother transition for these young people into the format of independent study and individualized instruction.

The success of alternative sentencing that addresses educational needs is a reality because of the Shoals Area judges' belief in utilizing community resources for positive change. Lives have been turned around through the "coming together" of organizations that believe education can make a difference. But sometimes it takes a "push" in the right direction, and thanks to the local judges, the Shoals area has that "push." For further information, please contact: Shoals Area Tri-County Adult Education Program, P.O. Box 2610, Muscle Shoals, AL 35662, Telephone: (205) 389-2690, Fax: (205) 389-2605.

THE JUDGES WERE ASKED:

What are your biggest security concerns?

Top Five

- 1 violence in the courtroom
- 2 domestic relations cases
- 3 courtroom security
- 4 mentally disturbed defendants
- 5 there is no security at all

What can AOC do to provide you with better *courthouse* security?

Top Five

- 1 provide trained bailiffs
- 2 metal detectors
- 3 training
- 4 provide funding
- 5 get courthouse evaluation/give recommendations

What can AOC do to provide you with better *personal* security?

Top Five

- 1 training on personal security
- 2 provide trained bailiffs
- 3 provide handgun and training
- 4 cellular phone
- 5 funding

Life on the Outside



by Phyllis S. Nesbit

After officiating at a wedding, the uncle of the groom, who was an attorney from St. Louis, asked me why I had decided to be a judge. My reply to him was I did not decide, I just happened to become one! After I got home that evening, I began to think back upon the development of my career and tried to determine why I was a judge.

I was awarded a B.S. in Chemistry in 1948 from The University of Alabama. Since I had a minor in Commerce, the dean of the School of Chemistry suggested I go to law school and become a patent attorney. I thought about it for a while but took no further steps at that time. I had a husband to get through college and a daughter to get through high school. By 1955 I had succeeded in both endeavors. The daughter was engaged and the husband had gone to work for the Mobile high school system.

I awakened one morning in August and decided to resign from B.F. Goodrich, where I had been a

secretary and aide to the time-study engineers. I secured a position as secretary and statistician for the Business Research Council and enrolled in law school. After enrolling I discovered I was one of seven women in the school. Of the seven, five graduated. One of my classmates was Janie Shores, associate justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. She is the first woman to sit as a justice of that court. One died in the 1970's. One is retiring from the Federal Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services in New Orleans, where she was the attorney who worked with the contracts of the department. I retired in 1989 and was appointed supernumerary district judge. How did I get to the position?

I began the practice of law with the firm of Walters and Brantley in Baldwin County in 1958. At first some clients resisted the idea of having a 'woman lawyer.' One man told the secretary he wanted a "real lawyer." After six months of having me do his legal work, he changed his mind.

In 1964 the mayor of Daphne asked if I would take the municipal judge position that was open. I

became a judge. Was it a position to which I had aspired? No. It was an office that had been considered until it was offered.

In 1970, I decided to run for circuit judge because I had friends who did not approve of the judge sitting. I insisted. I did not win but I did receive 42 percent of the votes, which was a surprise considering I was a "woman." Later that year I was appointed to the position of judge of the Inferior Court in Baldwin County. I eventually replaced the Justices of Peace in Baldwin County. I did not win that office either. Two years later when the Alabama Court System was restructured, I ran for one of the district judge positions and won. Before I took office as presiding circuit judge, I was appointed to the position of judge of the juvenile court. After taking the bench, I learned that I was the first woman to be elected to an Alabama municipal court. Why did I become a lawyer and later a judge?

After considerable thought, I still do not know. Only God knows and He has not told me.

Phyllis S. Nesbit retired district judge of Baldwin County. Life on the Outside is an ongoing column by retired judges clerks and employees.



Court Briefs Court Briefs Court Briefs Court Briefs Court Briefs Court Briefs

Alabama Judicial Building Featured in Architectural Lighting Magazine

The Alabama Judicial Building on Dexter Avenue in Montgomery was featured in the October/November 1996 issue of Architectural Lighting. A picture of the rotunda appears on the cover. In the article, Christina Trauthwein, executive editor, explains the value of quality lighting, landscape lighting techniques and specifying indirect lighting in respect to the Judicial Building. Architectur-

al Lighting is a Miller Freeman publication and can be located at the following Internet address <http://www.archlighting.com>

Additional Tax Savings for Deferred Compensation Plans

Effective Jan. 1, 1997, the payroll deductions from salary for Deferred Compensation Plans (RSA-1 and PEBSCO) shall receive the same tax deferred treatment for State of Alabama income tax that the plans

receive for Federal income tax. Any deferred salary amounts will not be taxed for Federal or State of Alabama income tax until you receive a distribution.

Amounts contributed to these plans prior to Jan. 1, 1997, will not be subject to State of Alabama Income Tax upon distribution. The maximum annual deferral amount may not exceed the lesser

see "..." (next page)

The Contract Counsel Option for Indigent Defense Services

A Special Report for Judges

Alabama law requires indigent defendants who have the possibility of being incarcerated to be provided with legal counsel and requires presiding circuit judges to appoint an indigent defense commission for their circuit, which may then contract with attorneys for the provision of indigent defense services.

The presiding circuit judge, with approval of the local commission, contacts local attorneys to discuss the standard contract terms, including monetary compensation, which is based on revenue collected in the county for the Fair Trial Tax Fund and recoupment of attorney fees. All contracts must be approved by the presiding circuit judge and the state comptroller and reviewed by the administrative director of courts. Contracts extend to all stages of the trial process, including subsequent appeal proceedings unless the court releases counsel sooner. However, contract services do not include legal representation in capital cases.

The contract for indigent defense services is executed by sending a written request to the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) (Attention: Ms. Louise Nelson) with the full names of the attorneys, along with a breakdown of the monetary compensation (these forms are provided by the AOC). The contract

is then forwarded to the presiding circuit judge, who coordinates with the indigent defense commission and the attorneys for their signatures. The contract is returned to the AOC, which then forwards it to the state comptroller. A copy of the signed contract is provided to the presiding judge.

Note that the Committee on Indigent Defense Guidelines and Recoupment has offered the following general guidelines for circuit and district court judges in determining indigency:

A defendant is presumed indigent or partially indigent if he or she receives food stamps, SSI benefits, Medicaid or other forms of state or federal public assistance. Should a defendant request court-appointed counsel but not be presumptively indigent, the court must thoroughly examine the following financial resources which the defendant reports on UJS Form C-10, "Affidavit of Substantial Hardship and Order:" Gross Monthly Income, defined as the defendant's total monthly income before taxes; Liquid Assets, defined as all assets which could be convertible into cash within a reasonable period of time without causing substantial hardship or otherwise jeopardizing the defendant's capacity to maintain his or her home and employment; and Total Monthly Expenses, which encompass all living expenses, including business expenses, fixed debts, mortgages, rents, federal, state and local taxes, and other obligations.

("Briefs" continued)
of \$7,500 or 25% of the employee's salary.

Flexible Employees' Benefit Programs

IRS regulations enable State employees to pay dependent health

insurance premiums, dependent and child care expenses and other types of accident, cancer and hospital indemnity policy premiums with pre-tax dollars.

You can pay dependent health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars by enrolling in the Dependent

Montgomery Juvenile Project Provides for Foster Children During the Holiday Season



The Montgomery Juvenile Court has worked for many years to help children in the Montgomery area who are dependent and living in foster homes where little or no money is available for toys, clothes or holiday foods. This tremendous undertaking has grown each year and set the goal of reaching 600 children in 1996.

The Alabama Judicial Building has been aware of this effort for some time, and many officials and staff have made individual contributions annually. This year, however, the Judicial Building decided to make an organized effort to assist. And, as a result, over \$900 was collected. Along with the monetary donation, judicial building employees also contributed toys, clothes and non-perishable food, which were presented to the Family Court Judges in Montgomery County on Dec. 13, 1996.

Thanks to each individual who helped coordinate a successful drive and to all the officials and employees who contributed. This holiday tradition should continue and expand to include more children in the following years.

Premium Plan (DPP) at the time you elect dependent coverage. If you choose to pay the dependent premiums through the DPP, the state will transfer \$164 from your pay to cover the cost of your dependent medical insurance and you will not pay State

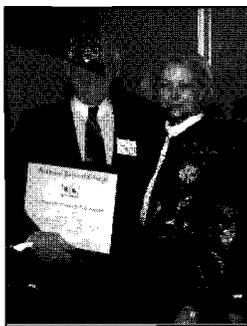
(Briefs continued page 10)

FY 1996 Annual Report Preview

<p><i>FY 1996 Circuit Court Statistics and Trends</i></p>	<p>all time highs for filings and dispositions were reported by the circuit courts for FY 1996.</p>	<p>181,059 circuit court filings, up 2% from FY 1995. 174,539 circuit court dispositions, up 4% from FY 1995.</p>	<p>All time highs were reported for circuit criminal filings and dispositions.</p>
<p>Circuit civil filings dropped slightly in FY 1996 but dispositions increased -- for a throughput of 101%.</p>	<p>Domestic relations filings and dispositions declined slightly in FY 1996.</p>	<p>Circuit Courts reported a throughput of 96% for FY 1996</p>	<p>37th Circuit Court led the state with the most current dockets (case currency of 38%).</p>
<p><i>FY 1996 District Court Statistics and Trends</i></p>	<p>Filings and dispositions were down in the district courts in FY 1996.</p>	<p>598,721 district court filings -- down 1.2% from last year.. 598,309 district court dispositions -- down 0.7% from last year.</p>	<p>District criminal filings (55,000) increased.</p>
<p>District civil filings (39,925) increased 9% and dispositions (37,779) increased by 10%. The most significant increase in civil filings was in Birmingham -- up 1,051 cases.</p>	<p>Statewide, the district courts met the goals for throughput (100%) and case currency (25%)</p>	<p>Randolph County led the state with the most current dockets (9%).</p>	<p>36 courts had throughputs of 100% or more. Winston-Salem led the state with the highest throughput (115%), followed by Washington (106%), Escambia (104%) and Pike (108%).</p>

Last Register Retires

Chief Justice Perry O. Hooper Sr., left, honored Joyce Martin, register, Winston County, during the Circuit Clerks and Register Mid-Winter Conference.



Service Honored

The Administrative Office of Courts honored employees with at least 20 years of service. Those honored from left are Mike Carroll, director, Interagency Liaison for Technology; Alicia Holt, purchasing agent, Finance Division; Helen Gray, executive secretary, Legal Division; Jean Payne, administrative assistant, Legal Division; and David Melton, court printer, Finance Division.



Court Personnel Oct. 2, 1996-Jan. 22, 1997

ELECTIONS --Nov. 5, 1996/ Assumed Office Jan. 21, 1997

Judge Pamela W. Baschab was elected to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Debra W. (Jean) Brown was elected to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Mary E. (Maura) Culberson was elected Elmore County district judge.

Albert L. Johnson was elected a circuit judge in the 26th Judicial Circuit.

John C. Kelsey was elected Cherokee County district judge.

Tammy J. Montgomery was elected Sumter County district judge.

Harold F. See Jr. was elected an associate justice to the Alabama Supreme Court.

Terri W. Thomas was elected a Cullman County district judge.

William C. Thompson was elected to the Court of Civil Appeals.

APPOINTMENTS

Robert L. Bowden was appointed Barbour County district judge Jan. 15, 1997.

Thomas B. Estes was appointed Russell County district judge Jan. 21, 1997.

Judge William T. Gaither was appointed as circuit judge, 3rd Judicial Circuit, on Nov. 14, 1996.

Carla L. Hemby was appointed court reporter Nov. 1, 1996, for Presiding Judge Denny Holloway, 20th Judicial Circuit.

Jennifer A. Lambert was appointed official court reporter on Oct. 7, 1996, for Judge Teresa Petelos, 10th Judicial Circuit (Bessemer Division).

J. Langford Floyd was appointed district judge Jan. 22, 1997, in Baldwin County.

Mary F. Morgan was appointed as court reporter on Oct. 7, 1996, for Judge Robert Harwood, 6th Judicial Circuit.

Nancy T. Smith was appointed official court reporter Oct. 15, 1996, for Judge Robert Cothren, 10th Judicial Circuit (Bessemer Division).

Judge Jacquelyn L. Stuart was appointed circuit judge for the 28th Judicial Circuit on Jan. 21, 1997.

RETIREMENTS

Justice Kenneth F. Ingram, associate justice of the Supreme Court, retired Jan. 20, 1997. He served in the judicial system for 28 years.

Presiding Judge Paul J. Miller Jr., circuit judge, 26th Judicial Circuit, retired Jan. 20, 1997. He served in the judicial system for 21 years.

Judge John W. Patterson, Court of Criminal Appeals, retired Jan. 20, 1997. He served in the judicial system for 12 years.

Judge William H. Robertson, 3rd Judicial Circuit, retired Oct. 31, 1996. Judge Robertson served in the judicial system for 26 years.

Presiding Judge Sam W. Taylor, Court of Criminal Appeals, retired Jan. 20, 1997. He served in the judicial system for 21 years.

Judge John W. Davis III, circuit judge, 15th Judicial Circuit, retired Jan. 12, 1997. He served in the judicial system for 21 years.

IN MEMORIAM

Douglas Campbell, court attendant for Judge James T. Gullage, 37th Judicial Circuit, died Oct. 31, 1996. Known as the first and only official bailiff for Lee County, Mr. Campbell served in the Judicial System for 15 years. He is survived by his wife, Lelia Campbell, two daughters, two sons-in-law and five grandchildren. He was a native of Pike County.

**A Note
From the ADC**



Frank W. Gregory

The new year is off and running. As we begin 1997, there is a subject that I would like to share with you. You have heard Chief Justice Hooper and me emphasize the importance of regaining the public trust. I recognize that we need to work on the relationship between the community and the courts all the way from the administrative offices in Montgomery to each courthouse in the state. One method I feel can bridge the gap between community and courts is to encourage citizen involvement in the third branch of government.

The partnership I am referring to is a judicial volunteer program, where qualified citizens are given the responsibility to assist in matters relating to the community

where they live. Matters ranging from juvenile justice to care for the elderly are among the realities that affect almost everyone. Another reality is that these are the areas where we have a chance to make a difference in the system and ultimately in the lives of those affected.

The purpose is two-fold: there are many services and needs that we simply do not have the funds to accomplish. By allowing the public to be involved in these areas, we not only benefit from the addition of services, but we all benefit from the vast amount of experience which members of our community can provide.

The spirit of volunteerism provides citizens a way to give back to the community while making a difference in their place of work. Although we are in the preliminary stages of this vision, I ask for your support and commitment when these programs are up and running.

Frank W. Gregory

*Happy St. Patrick's Day--March 17
Happy Passover--April 22*

*Happy Easter--March 30
Daylight Savings Time--April 6*

Conferences Bring in Distinguished Speakers

During the midwinter conferences the judges and clerks were honored to hear from Gov. Fob James, Attorney General Bill Pryor, Rep. Bill Fuller and David Bronner, RSA.

Alabama Court News

Administrative Office of Courts
300 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3741

Alabama Court News is published tri-monthly by the Administrative Office of Courts' Public Information Office. It welcomes news about Alabama's courts and their programs, projects and personnel. To contribute news, please contact Sheila White at (800) 392-7700 or (352) 281-0000.

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Supreme Court of Alabama
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Administrative Director
of Courts
Frank W. Gregory
Managing Director
Sheila F. White

("Briefs" continued)

or Federal taxes on the premium. This will lower the amount of taxable income that is shown on your W-2 form.

You can also save dollars on other types of insurance premiums, as well as dependent and child care expenses, by enrolling in the Flexible Employees' Benefits program administered by Erisa Administrative Service, Inc. New employees may enroll for Flexible Benefits within 90 days of employment during the annual open enrollment period in November.