



# COURT NEWS

Newsletter of the Alabama Judicial System

June, 1984

## LAW AND COURT-RELATED EDUCATION--IT WORKS

Ben Franklin's adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is perhaps more applicable to the court system than any other activity in our society. By its very nature, the court system is in the business of settling disputes. Unfortunately, the courts only get involved in disputes once a claim or charge has been brought by citizens or the state. In other words, the business of the courts is to referee disputes rather than prevent them from occurring.

Though programs have been developed to change the behavior of juveniles and adults who have committed crimes, the efforts of the courts and criminal justice system are often "too little too late."

As a result, many Alabama court officials have developed programs which stress the prevention of crime in their circuits and counties. Recognizing that our future is in the hands of Alabama youth, they have initiated programs which are designed to educate the youth about law and the courts. These programs vary in their approach, but they all have the same basic idea--youth who understand and respect the law are less likely to commit crimes.

The following paragraphs are illustrative of some of the programs which are currently being conducted by circuit and district judges in Alabama.

### 15th Circuit--Montgomery County

Montgomery County has the most extensive law and court-related education program in the state. The program began seven years ago in an effort to stem the rising tide of juvenile crime and to explain to the youth the serious consequences of committing a crime.

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### HOW TO GET STARTED IN LRE

by

Allen L. Tapley

Administrative Director of Courts

The need for law and court-related education for our young people is obvious to all of us. Several months ago, we reprinted a national survey in Court News which indicated that many adults had little understanding about courts. If we are to educate the public about the court system, what better place to start than with the youth of Alabama! The activities described in the cover article will go a long way to help solve this problem. I also believe that anything that builds respect for the law and for the courts has got to have a positive impact on reducing crime.

It may seem odd to be discussing law and court-related activities for students so soon after the bell has rung for the summer break. But the common thread in the Montgomery, DeKalb, Cherokee, and Wilcox counties' programs is that concerned circuit and district judges met with school superintendents, principals, and teachers to devise programs which were suitable to their communities.

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... STATE EMPLOYEE PAY RAISE AND NEW JUDGESHIPS--SEE PAGE 7 ...

## **How to Get Started in LRE**

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The summer months are the best time to contact your school officials about law and court-related activities for the upcoming school year. Prior to the beginning of school, each superintendent will have meetings with principals and teachers in the system. These meetings afford excellent opportunities for the courts to offer their services to the schools and to make available time for visits by students to the courthouse. In this way, principals can talk to their teachers and make plans for these law and court-related activities during the school year. Once the teachers have planned their school year, however, it is generally too late to make any changes in those plans.

As part of our public education effort, there is a wealth of material which is available for you to offer the school systems.

1. **Law the Language of Liberty**--These supplemental teacher resource materials are available for grades K-12. They were distributed three years ago to every school system in the state. In some instances, however, they have not gotten into the hands of the individual social studies teachers. A complete set of these materials can be made available to you and to any teacher who desires a particular volume. The materials were developed by social studies teachers, local and state school officials, and the Administrative Office of Courts. The materials have received a great deal of praise from teachers who have used them. Also, numerous states have used our materials as the basis for their own law and court-related education programs.

2. **Guide to Alabama Court Procedures**--This guide is also for instructional use by teachers. It provides a detailed description of appellate, civil, and criminal procedures.

3. **Alabama Courts Come to Order**--This booklet provides a brief history and overview of all Alabama courts. It contains information regarding the qualification, election, and discipline of judges, judicial education, and judicial administration. It is available

for use in the schools and also for distribution to civic groups.

4. **Juror Handbook**--This handbook contains a detailed explanation of our jury system. Along with the typical questions that jurors ask, trial participants and the sequence of trial events are explained. This brochure is available for school distribution and for civic groups.

5. **Guide for Developing a Successful Law Program**--This booklet was written by the students of Houston Hill Jr. High School of Montgomery. It describes the steps to go through to establish a law awareness program and a variety of activities in which students might participate.

6. **Alabama's Juvenile Courts**--This brochure is in draft form but will be printed this summer. It is written from the point of view of a juvenile asking questions about the juvenile court.

Aside from these written materials, the juror slide shows, which many circuits have, provide an excellent program for students. Also available is a juvenile slide show which depicts a truancy, child abuse, break-in, and shoplifting incidents involving youth.

A model speech has been prepared for use by judges in the classroom. Bill Campbell and Peggy Walker in the Research and Planning Division are available to assist you in developing and tailoring talks and visual materials which you might need. All we ask is that you provide us with enough lead time to respond to your requests.

I urge all court officials to become involved in law and court-related education in local school systems. You do not have to be an elected or appointed statutory official to participate in such a program. In several instances, legal secretaries associations have become involved in these projects. I would also add there is no one "best" law and court-related program. The projects in Montgomery, DeKalb, Cherokee, Wilcox Counties have been successful, but there are other equally excellent ways of developing such projects. These projects

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**Law and Court-Related Education--It Works**  
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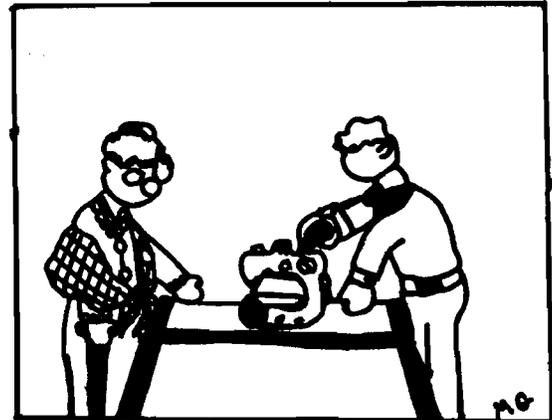
"Young people simply didn't know that they could get from one to ten years in prison for stealing something of more than \$25 value," said Montgomery Circuit Judge Joe Phelps.

The drive to develop a program to educate Montgomery County youth about law and the courts began with informal discussions involving Circuit Judges Randy Thomas and Joe Phelps, local law enforcement officials, concerned citizens, and county school officials. From these discussions, a law awareness program was developed which emphasized an in-school participation program for all grades and a court visitation program for all 8th graders.

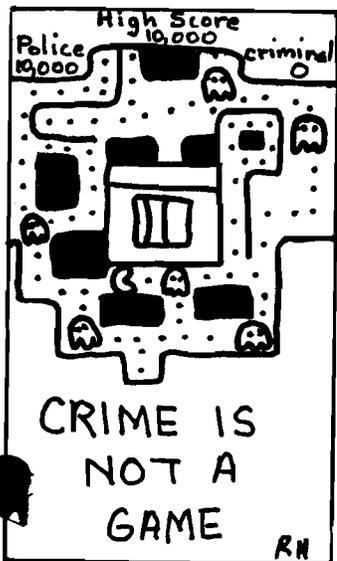
In each school, the program centers around a law awareness club. Each club has a sponsor, but the decision about what activities and projects the club is going to undertake each year is primarily the responsibility of the club membership. The clubs are founded on the belief that students will learn more about law and the courts from participation in law-related activities involving other students than from formal classes. These activities, therefore, are designed to involve as much of the student body as possible. School activities have included law awareness theme door competition, essay contests,

law displays for PTA meetings and school libraries, mock trials, school parking lot patrol, advertising on billboards, radio and television, and speech contests.

Beyond the school, the community as a whole gets involved with the law awareness clubs. Outside speakers such as judges and law enforcement officials come to the schools; businesses provide materials for use by the clubs; radio and TV stations provide assistance in making public service announcements; outdoor advertising companies make free billboard space available. Attorneys and judges are used to judge essay and speech contests. Law awareness clubs have also been involved in engraving valuables for the elderly and building a law awareness float for a Christmas Parade. Such student involvement in the community serves to notify the community that Montgomery's youth are deeply concerned about the law.



Students engrave valuables for senior citizens. (Illustrations on this page are from A Guide for Developing A Successful Law Program.)

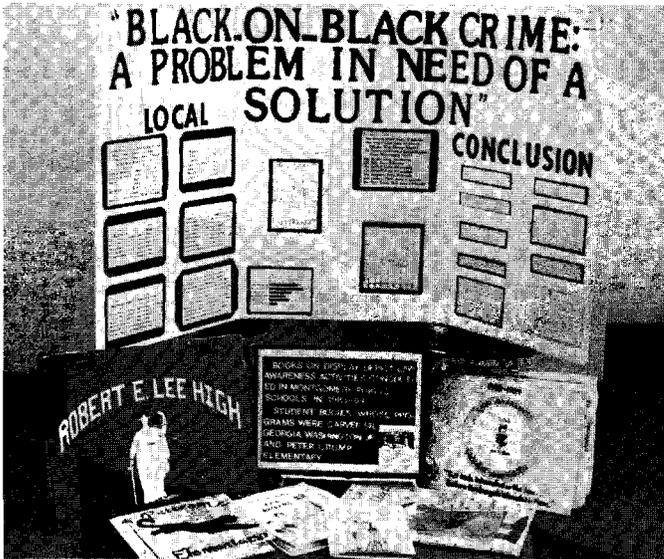


Jr. High Law Awareness Theme Door Competition

The activities of the law awareness club are documented by photographs, newspaper articles, and letters in a large scrapbook. At the end of the year, the scrapbooks are judged on the basis of student participation, quality of activities, outreach of activities in the community, and presentation. Winners are selected from high school, junior high, and elementary divisions. Each winning school is given a \$500 cash prize. The money is donated by individuals in the community and is used to improve the educational program in the school in some tangible  
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## Law and Court-Related Education--It Works (Continued from Page 3)

way. The program generates a high degree of competitiveness among the schools, and winning the law book award is a source of great pride for the school.



Award-winning law and court-related project.

### 9th Circuit--DeKalb and Cherokee Counties

As a result of organizational meetings by Presiding Circuit Judge Randall L. Cole with school officials from the three school systems in DeKalb and Cherokee counties in 1980, an extensive court awareness program for high school seniors in the circuit was established.

The format of the program has evolved over the four years in which it has been presented. In the first program, local court and law enforcement officials explained their duties and responsibilities in a criminal case from investigation to trial. Administrative Director of Courts Allen Tapley assisted with the presentation in Cherokee County that year.

The program for the next two years consisted of a mock trial, presided over by Judge Cole, and an interview with a state prisoner convicted of a serious felony offense, conducted by Judge Rains. "Though

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During the 1983-84 school year, approximately 2700 8th graders visited the Montgomery County Courthouse. The students tour the jail and get to see an actual trial in progress. Following their courtroom experience, one of the circuit judges will spend an hour with the students explaining the courtroom procedures and answering questions. "After the students have seen the jail and watched a trial in progress, we talk to them very sternly about crime and the consequences of crime," said Judge Randy Thomas. "We do not want them leaving the courthouse thinking there is anything glamorous about crime," concluded Thomas.

In many of the schools, principals credit the good citizenship and the reduction of vandalism in the schools and surrounding community to an effective law awareness program.

### Wilcox County

Unlike the Montgomery, DeKalb and Cherokee counties' programs, District Judge Farrell McKelvey has a more informal approach to spreading the word about law and the courts to Wilcox County students.

Soon after assuming the bench, Judge McKelvey met with school officials and offered to speak to the students in their classrooms and a standing invitation to visit her courtroom. Her willingness to help and her open invitation have been well received. Each year, she receives requests to speak and for the classes to visit her courtroom.

At the courthouse, the students get to see an actual case being tried. "During the trial, I always try to recess court so that the students can ask questions of the district attorney, sheriff, and me," said Judge McKelvey. "By their watching

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## State Social Studies Fair JUSTICE FAULKNER HONORS STUDENTS

As part of the court system's statewide educational program, the Alabama Judicial College Faculty Association, Gay Lake, Chairman, provided cash awards for the third consecutive year for the annual State Social Studies Fair held in Montgomery on May 5.

Supreme Court Justice James H. Faulkner judged the law and court-related projects and presented cash awards and certificates of merit to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Justice Faulkner said he was pleased with the understanding of the law and the courts which the students exhibited in their projects. "The projects reflected a great amount of thought and creativity by the students. I feel that their participation shows all citizens that young people are interested in the law and the courts. Such participation and interest will ultimately result in the youth of today becoming our law-abiding citizens of the future."

The 1st place award of \$75 went to Mary Ferguson, Mobile County High School. Second place, \$50, was presented to Allegra Jordan, Westside Junior High School, Selma; and Dustin Ray Nolan of Alba Junior High School, Bayou La Batre, won the 3rd place award of \$25.

The State Social Studies Fair, sponsored by the Alabama Council for the Social Studies, is the culmination of competition held for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students at the local school level and the district level.

## 9th Circuit--DeKalb and Cherokee Counties (Continued from Page 4)

students can be taught about law and the courts, it really doesn't hit home until they see the consequences of committing a crime," said Judge Cole.

Approximately 700 high school seniors from 14 high schools in Cherokee and DeKalb counties participate in the court visitation program each year over a three-day period. To manage this large number of students, Judge Cole and Judge Rains present the two-hour program in simultaneous segments, utilizing two courtrooms.

"Because of the difficulty in scheduling all of the court officials, the mock trial was omitted from the program this year," said Judge Cole. "In its place, I discussed one of our completed criminal cases which had received some notoriety. We reviewed much of the testimony, displayed exhibits, and talked about the jury's verdict. By tying court procedure to a real life case, the students seem to get a lot more out of it," concluded Cole. Judge Rains again conducted the prisoner interview, supplemented with a film presentation about prison life.

"We have had outstanding support from school officials in both counties, and the comments from the seniors and teachers indicate that our program is having a positive effect," said Judge Cole.

## Wilcox County

(Continued from Page 4)

the trial and then being able to ask questions, their courtroom learning experience is reinforced," commented McKelvey.

"At the schools, I always give an off-the-cuff speech which begins with an explanation of the difference between appellate and original jurisdiction and the difference between criminal and civil cases," said McKelvey. "I also explain the different types of courts and discuss the procedures utilized in trying civil, criminal, and juvenile cases," commented McKelvey.

"From my experience with students, I have found that they are eager to learn about law and the courts. Teachers are also eager for our assistance because the courtroom visitation and our discussions with students have a great deal more impact than studying textbooks," concluded McKelvey.

### CIRCUIT JUDGE INGE JOHNSON CHAIRS NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Colbert County Circuit Judge Inge Johnson has been appointed to chair the conference committee on Crisis in American Jails and Prisons for the National Conference of State Trial Judges. Judge Johnson was appointed to this post by Judge Robert C. Broomfield, Presiding Circuit Judge, Phenix, Arizona, who is chairman of the executive committee of the National Conference. Judge Johnson also serves on the executive committee and represents general jurisdiction judges from Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

Judge Johnson's committee on the State Judge's Role in Creating, Alleviating, and Solving the Crisis in America's Jails and Prisons, is currently responsible for planning the program at the American Bar Association Convention in Chicago, August 3, 1984. The program is co-sponsored by the National Conference of Special Court Judges and the American Bar Association's Section of Criminal Justice.

"Our keynote speaker for the program will be Senator Arlen Specter, State of Pennsylvania," said Judge Johnson. "A panel composed of national media representatives, correction experts, state legislators, judges, and prosecutors will provide short presentations about the judge's role in our jail and prison problems. Following this presentation, a panel of judges, including Circuit Judge Leslie G. Johnson, Lauderdale County, will provide their reactions," stated Johnson.

"We're also working on a national conference on the "Crisis in America's Jails and Prisons" to be held some time in late November, 1984. We are anticipating inviting two judges and one state legislator from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico," said Johnson.

"The work of the conference committee on Crisis in American Jails and Prisons is highly important because I believe we can focus national attention on the problem and develop and share ideas and alternatives with judges and legislators throughout the U.S.," concluded Johnson.

### Legal Holidays for 1985 Announced

Listed below for your information are the dates of legal holidays for 1985:

New Year's Day	January 1
Robert E. Lee's Birthday	* January 21
George Washington's Birthday	* February 18
Mardi Gras Day	February 19
Confederate Memorial Day	* April 22
Jefferson Davis' Birthday	* June 3
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 2
Columbus Day	* October 14
Veterans' Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 28
Christmas Day	December 25

\*Monday holidays--Act No. 1103, 1969

**Note:** Thomas Jefferson's Birthday is not listed since it falls on Saturday.

**STATE EMPLOYEES PAY RAISE PASSES IN SPECIAL SESSION**

The first special session of 1984 ended with passage of a 10 percent cost-of-living increase for state employees. This cost-of-living raise will apply to all judicial employees and judicial officials in the state except circuit clerks and registers who were excluded from the bill at the last minute. Clerks and registers, however, will receive a salary increase under the provisions of Senate Bill 7, which also passed in the special session. The raise will be reflected in the first paycheck in October.

**TEN NEW JUDGESHIPS CREATED ON FINAL DAY OF REGULAR SESSION**

H. 668, which creates nine new circuit judgeships and one new district judgeship, was the last bill to pass the Senate on May 21 before the upper chamber abruptly adjourned sine die. The bill creates one new circuit judgeship each for the 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, and 28th circuits, four new circuit judgeships for the Birmingham Division of the 10th Circuit, and one new district judgeship for Russell County.

The judgeships are permanently created, fully funded for the 1984-85 fiscal year from the point of appointment, and appointments to the positions may be made by the Governor

beginning on October 1, 1984.

Among those due the credit for the passage of this bill are: the Governor and his staff; Lieutenant Governor Baxley; Senate President Pro Tem John Teague; Senator Bobby Denton, who skillfully handled the bill in committee and on the floor; Senator Charles Bishop, Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee; House Speaker Tom Drake; Rep. Jim Campbell, the bill's sponsor; Rep. Jimmy Clark, Chairman of the House Rules Committee; Attorneys Lanny Vines and Alva Caine of the Birmingham Bar, and the judges of the affected circuits.

**Two Earn Fellowships from Institute for Court Management**

Ruth Henry, Court Administrator for the 37th Judicial Circuit, and Nancy Morochnick, an Administrative Assistant in the Administrative Office of Courts, were admitted as Fellows of the Institute for Court Management in ceremonies in Washington, D.C., on June 1. The ceremonies, conducted at the U.S. Supreme Court, marked the completion of the Court Executive Development Program by the Institute's 16th class. Hon. Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the United States, awarded certificates to the class of 27 people. He was assisted by Harvey E. Solomon, Executive Director of the Institute. The featured speaker was Edward B. McConnell, Executive Director of the National Center for State Courts. Early in 1984, the Institute became a unit of the National Center for State Courts as a result of a merger agreement approved by the governing boards of both organizations.

The Court Executive Development Program is a multi-year program which requires successful completion of five ICM workshop seminar's dealing with the operational aspects of court management; a four-week residential seminar examining the application of modern management and organizational theory to the administration of the courts; completion of an intensive court-study project and report; and participation in a one-week final seminar.

Ms. Henry and Ms. Morochnick join 405 others who have completed this ICM program since 1970.

### SEMINAR PLANNED FOR DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATES AND WARRANT CLERKS

Issuing arrest warrants and traffic case processing are the items to be discussed at a special seminar for district court magistrates and warrant clerks, June 26-27, at the Best Western Birmingham Inn. This seminar was developed by the Administrative Office of Courts partially in response to a need for additional education and training discussed during the Clerks and Registers Spring Specialty Session in April.

The Seminar will be divided into two general sessions. Session one, on the afternoon of June 26, will be devoted to Warrant Issuance and will include such presenters as Judge Sam Taylor, Court of Criminal Appeals; Devon Kiker, Clerk, Russell County Circuit Court; Mary Drew, Magistrate, Jefferson County Circuit Court; Hampton Brown, Director, Legal Aid Society, Birmingham; and Lynda Flynt, staff attorney, Administrative Office of Courts.

Session two, on the morning of June 27, will be devoted to traffic case processing and will include such speakers as Mike Carroll, Coordinator, Case and Jury Management, Administrative Office of Courts; a representative of the Drivers License Division of the Department of Public Safety; and Angelo Trimble, Director of Municipal Court Operations, Administrative Office of Courts.

Magistrates and warrant clerks should direct requests and inquiries regarding the seminar to the Municipal Court Operations at 817 South Court Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-0101. **Note:** For those making reservations for the seminar, the rate for a double room is \$28.00 per night, not \$26.00 as shown in our memorandum of June 1, 1984.

### **NOTIFICATION OF TEST DATES**

Tests for all six court Clerk classes will be given again in July. **Note:** Applicants whose names already appear on the register for a particular class **should not reapply** for the same class.

The following is a list of the ten cities in which the written tests will be given, as well as the scheduled test date and the application deadline. Applications **must be received** at the AOC by the deadline in order to be scheduled for the written examination at the most convenient test location.

<u>Test Site</u>	<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
Alexander City	July 28, 1984	July 18, 1984
Birmingham	July 14, 1984	July 3, 1984
Dothan	July 21, 1984	July 11, 1984
Florence	July 14, 1984	July 3, 1984
Gadsden	July 21, 1984	July 11, 1984
Huntsville	July 28, 1984	July 18, 1984
Mobile	July 28, 1984	July 18, 1984
Montgomery	July 14, 1984	July 3, 1984
Selma	July 28, 1984	July 18, 1984
Tuscaloosa	July 28, 1984	July 18, 1984

Should the application fail to reach the AOC by the deadline or if the July test session is filled, the applicant will automatically be scheduled to take the test in October.

As soon as the October test dates have been scheduled, you will receive notification of the dates and application deadline.

## CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT JUDGES MEET JULY 11-12 Kathy Lang, Media Consultant, Featured Speaker

### ... LANG

"Surviving the Media"--a keynote program for this summer's circuit judges and district judges conference offers to be a timely and provocative session. Kathy Lang, Marketing Director for Arthur Anderson and Company, the guest speaker for this session, brings with her a wealth of knowledge acquired through wide experience as both a journalist and as an assistant director of the Cincinnati Bar Association.

Ms. Lang is strongly committed to improved communications between the bench/bar and the media. "Many of the problems between the bench/bar and the media stem from a lack of communication and a lack of appreciation and understanding of each other's profession. As a result, there is a critical need for the courts to be more accessible and open to the media and to educate them about the law and the workings of the court. Likewise, the media has the obligation to report court proceedings fully and accurately. Judges, therefore, need the media to inform the public about the law and courts, and the media needs the courts' assistance so that they can fairly report court news. The bench/bar and the media need each other; the problem is how to get the two sides to be mutually supportive of each other," said Ms. Lang.

Ms. Lang is no newcomer to journalism. While still in high school, she started her own weekly column for a Cincinnati morning newspaper. At 19, she had her first page-one story. Following her experience at news reporting and public relations, she joined the Cincinnati Bar Association as a public relations director and later assumed the position of assistant director for the association. Her duties with the Cincinnati Bar Association included coordination of CLE and Young Lawyer activities.

As a communication and publication consultant to the American Bar Association, Ms. Lang assisted the Alabama State Bar's Alabama Lawyer Survey Committee, chaired by Mark White of Birmingham, in restructuring the Alabama Lawyer. Many of her recommendations concerning the redesign of the Alabama Lawyer were later put into effect by the State Bar.

### ... JUDGES

Circuit and District Judges will meet in Mobile for their Annual Conference on July 11-12, 1984. The conference will open with a General Assembly with Circuit Judge Robert Hodnette, President, Alabama Association of Circuit Judges, and District Judge Dominick Matranga, President, Alabama Association of District Judges, presiding. Chief Justice C. C. Torbert, Jr., will address the group. He will be followed by Kathy Lang.

The remainder of the conference will be devoted to varied educational seminars. An extensive discussion of voir dire examinations in both civil and criminal cases will be conducted by a panel of circuit judges, moderated by Judge Inge Johnson, Tusculumbia. To initiate this session, Circuit Judge George H. Wright, Jr., Opelika, will present an update on the latest cases affecting this procedure. In another session, Circuit Judge Sam Monk, Anniston, will present an update on state criminal cases, and Circuit Judge Henry Blizzard, Athens, will do likewise for federal cases. "Post-Judgment Remedies in Civil Cases" will be presented by Irving Silver and William S. Shulman, two Mobile attorneys. "Default Judgments" will be discussed by a panel of Montgomery attorneys: Howard F. Bryan, III, Patricia Ivie, Edwin K. Livingston, Charles P. Miller, and Charles N. Parnell, III.

Several seminars are designed to assist judges in conducting court and better understanding the people with whom they deal. These sessions include "Managing Stress," conducted by Dr. Jerry Lovett of the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center; "Mental

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## COURT REPORTERS TO MEET IN EUFAULA

Official, freelance, and student court reporters will gather in Eufaula for an education conference on July 13-14, 1984. Ron Embry, President, Alabama Shorthand Reporters Association, will open the General Assembly, which will be followed by two concurrent sessions--"Word Processors" and "Computer Aided Transcription."

Shirley Houston of the Houston Reporting Service, Houston, Texas, will explain word processors, after which Ron Embry will moderate a panel discussion. Panel members will be John G. Whitfield and Erwin Scott, Whitfield Court Reporting, Dothan; and Bobbie Nichols, an official reporter in Andalusia.

David Engle of Gadsden State Junior College will present an explanation of "Computer Aided Transcription," followed by a panel discussion with Jenny Dunn, Dunn, King, Kilpatrick & Livingston, Montgomery, serving as moderator. Others on the panel will be Sherry Barlow, Barlow and Jones, Mobile; Kathy Haynes and Dale Tyler, Tyler, Tribble, Eaton & Morgan, Birmingham; Richard Wilson, Wilson and Associates, Montgomery; and Patricia White, an official reporter from Montgomery.

The latter part of the afternoon will offer three options from which participants may select two: "Overall Scientific Crime Investigation," presented by Charles Brooks, Department of Forensic Science, Enterprise Crime Laboratory; "Medical Testimony," explained by Dr. Kenneth Yohn of Eufaula; and "New Horizons for Court Reporters," Tom F. Runfola, Runfola and Associates, Columbus, Ohio.

Skill Building and Student Workshops will be held on Saturday. For machine writers, Tom Runfola will conduct the workshops, while Rosalyn Kocher of Winamac, Indiana, will do the same for pen writers. Following these workshops, Shirley Houston will discuss "Video Depositions." The Student Seminar will run concurrently with these sessions.

The conference concludes with a banquet on Saturday night. District Attorney Tom Sorrells will be the featured speaker and new officers will be installed.

## SECRETARIES PLAN

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Under the auspices of the Alabama Judicial College, judicial secretaries from the district, circuit, and appellate courts will gather in Birmingham on July 19-20 for their annual Education Conference. The course offerings will be many and varied--all designed to improve the secretaries on-the-job effectiveness.

After opening the meeting with business sessions for each of the groups, the first general session will be devoted to "Communication Skills," conducted by Dr. Michael O'Bannon of Bleke & Boyd, a management psychology consulting firm in Atlanta.

In the afternoon the secretaries will have the following options: "District Civil Cases," presented by District Judge Wayne Thorn, Birmingham; "Circuit Civil Cases," presented by Circuit Judge Josh Mullins, Birmingham; or "Polygraphs," discussed by Sgt. Jimmy Flanagan of the Gadsden Police Department. The second group of options consists of "District Criminal Cases," presented by District Judge Farrell McKelvey, Camden; "Circuit Criminal Cases," explained by Circuit Judge Julius Swann, Gadsden; and "HLA Blood Testing," presented by Dr. Bruce Barger of the UAB Health Services Foundation in Birmingham.

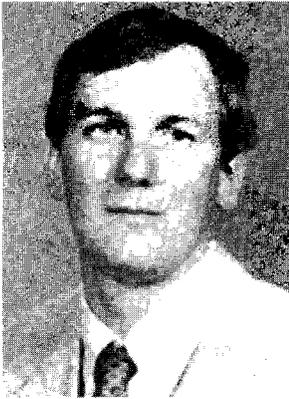
The first day will be concluded by a "Judges Panel" where panel members explain their expectations of secretaries on the job and discuss how secretaries can most effectively assist judges. Panel members will be District Judge Ted Bozeman, Hayneville; District Judge Sandra Ross, Birmingham; Circuit Judge Jack Carl, Birmingham; Circuit Judge Joe Colquitt, Tuscaloosa; Supreme Court Justice Janie Shores, Birmingham; and Thelma Braswell, Tuscaloosa, serving as moderator.

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### CHANGES IN THE JUDICIARY

Presiding Circuit Judge Walter G. Bridges of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Bessemer Division, retired his position effective May 2, 1984. Judge Bridges had served on the circuit bench since 1975. Prior to that he served 14 years as judge of limited jurisdiction courts and 3-1/2 years as assistant deputy circuit solicitor.

Circuit Judge Dan Reynolds assumed the post of presiding judge following judge Bridge's retirement.



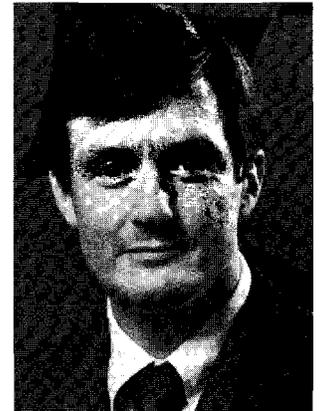
**Ralph E. Coleman, Jr.**, has been appointed to fill a vacant Bessemer District Judgeship by Governor George C. Wallace.

Coleman's appointment came after Bessemer District Judge Roger D. Halcomb was appointed by Governor Wallace to fill the unexpired term of Circuit Judge Walter Bridges. Both Coleman and Halcomb took their oaths of office on May 9, 1984.

Coleman received his undergraduate degree from Samford University and graduated, cum laude, from the Cumberland School of Law in 1982. He has since been engaged in the private practice of law in Birmingham.

A Mobile attorney, **Douglas Inge Johnstone**, has been appointed by Governor George C. Wallace to fill a vacancy in the Mobile County District Court. Johnstone, who was one of three Mobile attorneys recommended to Governor Wallace by the Mobile County Judicial Commission, was sworn in on June 1, 1984.

A native of Mobile and a former state representative, Johnstone received his undergraduate degree in 1963 from Rice University and graduated from Tulane University School of Law in 1966.



### Harbin Presented Liberty Bell Award

Billy D. Harbin, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Madison County, was recently presented the Liberty Bell Award by the Madison County and North Alabama Federal Bar Association for his contributions to the strength and effectiveness of the legal system through community service.

Mr. Harbin's contributions include: (1) the promotion of a better understanding of our form of government and its freedoms;

(2) the encouragement of greater respect for law and our nation; (3) the stimulation of a deeper sense of the responsibility which accompanies the rights served by our freedom; (4) contributions to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and (5) the promotion of a better understanding and appreciation of our legal system.

Court News congratulates Billy Harbin.

### SUPERNUMERARY PAY EXEMPT FROM ALABAMA INCOME TAXES

The Administrative Office of Courts has been informed by the State Department of Revenue that a ruling has been made as to whether supernumerary pay is subject to state income taxes. The ruling states in part as follows: "the State Income Tax Division recognizes that the supernumerary pay is exempt from Alabama income tax pursuant to Section 40-18-19, Code of Alabama 1975, in accordance with Attorney General Opinion dated February 27, 1981."

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you should consult with your personal accountant or your local state income tax office.

### Agencies to Receive Traffic Ticket Order and Inventory Forms

All law enforcement agencies will receive the UTC Inventory and Order form (UTC-12) from the Administrative Office of Courts during the month of June. The order card has been revised to include an inventory of unused UTC books on hand. Agencies should indicate the total number of books in each series as itemized on the form.

The UTC-12 has been pre-stamped and addressed for your convenience. The form

should be completed and returned to the UTC Control Unit of the Administrative Office of Courts immediately upon receipt. Failure to return the card will delay shipment of traffic tickets scheduled for January, 1985.

Agencies having questions regarding the inventory and order of the traffic tickets may call Liz Ward on the toll free number, 1-800-392-8077, ext. 240.

### How to Get Started in LRE

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do prove, however, that large and small counties can participate in these activities. All that is lacking is the desire and the concern to get involved.

#### **... Judges**

*(Continued from Page 9)*

Health & Nutrition," to be followed by "Body Language," conducted by Dr. Dale Gunn, also of the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center in Jasper.

The second day of the conference will include "Discovery: Expert Witnesses," presented by Tuscaloosa attorney Robert B. Harwood, Jr., and "Guilty Pleas," presented by Circuit Judges James S. Garrett, Birmingham. Circuit judges will have "Bring Your Own Problems" discussion groups divided by the number of judges in the circuit. Concurrently, the district judges will have a panel discussion, moderat-

ed by Judge Larry Lapkovitch, of "Judicial Administration in District Court."

### **Secretaries Plan Giant Conclave**

*(Continued from Page 10)*

Pat Kirkland, Scottsboro, and Cheryl Hawkins, Birmingham, will preside at the banquet on July 19. New officers will be installed.

On the last day of the conference, participants will have the option of two of three seminars. The offerings are "Grammar and Word Usage," presented by Dr. Alan Perlis, Professor of English at UAB; "Legal Research," explained by Lee Lovoy, a Birmingham attorney; and "Public Relations for Schools and the Public," conducted by Peg Walker of the Administrative Office of Courts in Montgomery.

The final session will be "Human Behavior: Stress," presented by Dr. Jack L. Bentley, a Licensed Professional Counselor from Gadsden.

ALABAMA JUDICIAL COLLEGE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS									
GROUP MONTH	CIRCUIT JUDGES	DISTRICT COURT JUDGES	JUVENILE COURT JUDGES	MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES	CLERKS AND REGISTERS	CLERK/REGISTER EMPLOYEES	COURT REPORTERS	JUDICIAL SECRETARIES	OTHER GROUPS
1984 OCTOBER	FALL JUDICIAL COURSES OCT 9-11 TUSCALOOSA								
NOVEMBER					FALL SPECIALTY COURSES NOV 8-9 MONTGOMERY				
DECEMBER									
1985 JANUARY	PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGES CONF JAN 23 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE JAN 24-25 MONTGOMERY								JUD STUDY COUNCIL JAN 10-11 TUSCALOOSA
FEBRUARY	NEW JUDGES ORIENTATION FEB 11-15 TUSCALOOSA			ORIENTATION FEB 2-3 TUSCALOOSA	MID-WINTER CONF FEB 20-21 MONTGOMERY				
MARCH									MUNI COURT CLERKS & MAGISTRATES SIG MAR 28-29, HUNTSVILLE
APRIL	SPRING JUDICIAL COURSES APR 23-25 TUSCALOOSA				SPRING SPECIALTY COURSES APR 4-5 BIRMINGHAM				APR 11-12, MONTGOMERY APR 18-19, BIRMINGHAM
MAY				LEAGUE CONFERENCE MAY 18 MONTGOMERY					MAY 9-10, MONTGOMERY
JUNE					ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUN 13-14 GUNTERSVILLE				DHL INSUR CENT JUN 24-27 TUSCALOOSA
JULY	ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUL 17-18 HUNTSVILLE		NOJFCJ CONFERENCE JUL 14-18 POINT CLEAR				ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUL 19-20	ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUL 11-12 MONTGOMERY	
AUGUST									JUD RESERVE UNIT AUG 8-9
SEPTEMBER									APPELLATE JUDGES

**"Health Plan Open Enrollment"**

The 1984 Annual Open Enrollment Period for adding family coverage to the State Employees' Health Plan is the months of September (for coverage beginning October 1) and October (for coverage beginning November 1).

Enrollment forms are available from the AOC Personnel Division and should be returned by September 15 (for October coverage) or by October 15 (for November coverage).

Premiums are normally prepaid by payroll deduction; direct payment must be made if the enrollment form is received too late for the monthly deduction. Currently, the dependent coverage rate is \$77.00 per month.

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**NOTICE:** Minor adjustments will be made to the Court News mailing procedure in an effort to conform to the postal requirements for bulk mail. Individuals previously receiving two or four copies of Court News will now receive three copies.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by this adjustment. We do hope you will circulate your copies of Court News to your staff.



# COURT NEWS

Newsletter of the Alabama Judicial System

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