

Mississippi Courts

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Electronic filing pilot project goes online

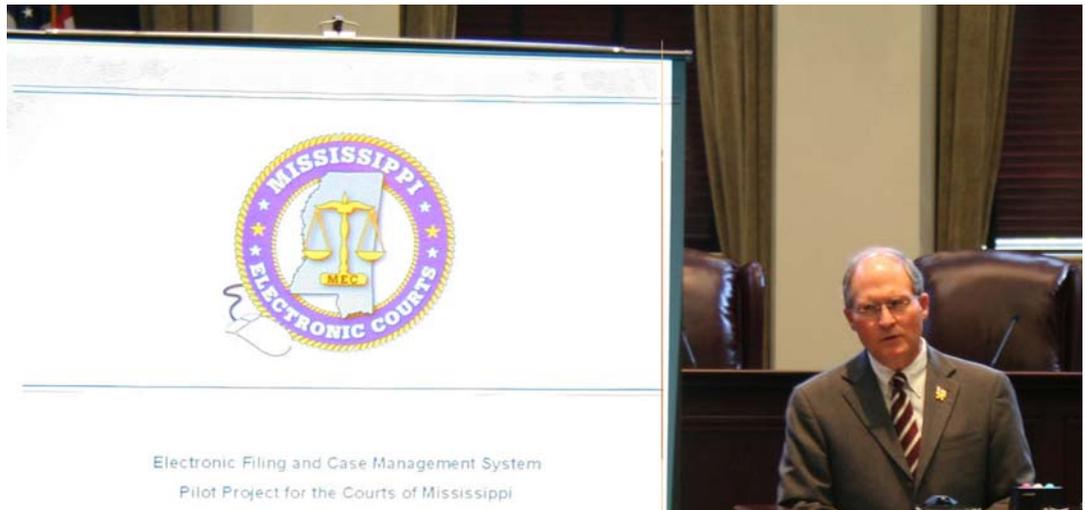
Court documents began being filed electronically in Madison County Chancery Court on July 22. The Mississippi Electronic Courts (MEC) system pilot project will soon expand to Scott and Warren County Chancery Courts.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the MEC program was held Aug. 27 at the Gartin Justice Building in Jackson. The public access system was activated that day.

The Mississippi Electronic Courts pilot project seeks to develop an electronic filing and case management system modeled on that used by federal courts. The system allows attorneys to file pleadings and retrieve documents via the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and makes court records more accessible to the public. It is hoped that the system can be offered to all the chancery, circuit and county courts in the state. Participation would be voluntary for state trial courts.

Work is expected to begin in September to adapt the e-filing system for use in the Madison County Circuit Court, said MEC Project Manager Calvin Ransfer. The circuit court application will include civil and criminal case filings.

Work is expected to begin in Scott County Chancery Court in late September, and



Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. introduces the Mississippi Electronic Courts pilot project.

in Warren County Chancery Court later this year.

Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr., who has led project development since its inception in 2004, said improved public access will improve public confidence in the judiciary. "When the public can see what we are doing in our courts, there is greater confidence in the judiciary."

The e-filing system will improve efficiency. "We are optimistic that this system will allow seamless access by attorneys and the public across the different jurisdictions of our state," Chief Justice Waller said.

Documents are immediately available electronically through user accounts. The system will provide quicker and cheaper delivery of documents and allow for easier

tracking of case activity. Less space will be needed for records storage by court clerks and attorneys.

Madison County Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston and his staff have worked with MEC staff to adapt, test and revise the system.

Johnston said, "From my perspective as clerk of the court, the biggest benefit will be improved efficiency. MEC will allow our judges much greater access to, and control over, their dockets. It gives them the ability to rule and enter judgments more quickly – and ultimately dispose of cases more timely."

Johnston said the system can allow judges to display open cases, motions pending and deadlines. Trial and hearing dates will be automatically posted to their calen-

dars.

"The most important benefit, though, may very well be for litigants and the general public," Johnston said. "MEC brings vastly improved access to case materials, so much so that a trip to the courthouse to receive court documents, in most cases, will become unnecessary once the system is in full use."

The MEC system will reduce the amount of docketing, data entry and copying done by deputy clerks, Johnston said. Statistical data will automatically be sent to the Administrative Office of Courts. An entire appeal record can be assembled in a few seconds. Lawyers will docket their own pleadings.

"It is a self-service system. Our role becomes one of quality assurance. Routine

E-filing more efficient, Madison clerk says



Madison County Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston talks about electronic filing. In the background at left are Chancery Judges Cynthia Brewer and H. David Clark II.

and time-consuming tasks now become automated. That also reduces work load and improves efficiency," Johnston said.

When a pleading is filed electronically, attorneys who are registered with MEC will receive service by e-mail with a hyperlink to the

document, said Clint Pentecost, counsel for the MEC project.

The initiation of lawsuits will continue to be done via traditional paper filings, Pentecost said. The paperwork will be scanned into an electronic document in the office of the clerk. Subse-

quent documents will be filed electronically.

Electronic filing became voluntary for attorneys in the Madison County Chancery Court July 22. Mandatory electronic filing goes into effect in Madison County Chancery Court on Sept. 15 for all new cases and for pleadings filed in cases commenced on or after May 15, 2008, according to an order entered by Chancery Judges Janace Harvey-Goree and Cynthia Brewer. The chancellors may direct that e-filing be used in other, older active cases.

As of Aug. 27, a total of 215 attorneys had registered to use the MEC system, Ransfer said.

Attorneys who wish to utilize e-filing must register and set up an account. Online registration is available at the MEC web site, <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/mec/mec.html>. One-time registration will cover any Mississippi trial court

which utilizes e-filing.

Public access to documents is similar to that in the federal PACER system. Anyone who wishes to view a court document via the Internet will be required to set up a user account in the Public Access Mississippi Electronic Case Management system, PAMEC.

No fees will be charged to view documents during the pilot. A page viewing charge



**Judge Janace Harvey-Goree
Madison Chancery Court**

Justice Graves receives Maxwell Public Administration Alumni Award



Justice James E. Graves Jr.

Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice James E. Graves Jr. has been honored by his alma mater, Syracuse University, for 28 years of public service.

Justice Graves, of Jackson, received the 2009 Maxwell Public Administration Alumni Award, presented annually to a graduate of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. The award was presented June 26 during the Syracuse Uni-

versity Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs Public Administration Department convocation.

Justice Graves said, "It's very humbling. To be recognized by the Maxwell School for being a good public servant is something of which I'm very proud."

Justice Graves led graduates in reciting the Athenian Oath. Civic responsibility "is part of the mission of the Maxwell School. They pre-

pare people to serve in government all over the world," he said. "My hope is that every public servant adheres to the principles of the Athenian Oath and endeavors to leave every entity better than when they found it."

Justice Graves earned a law degree from Syracuse University College of Law and a Master of Public Administration degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

New filings online for attorneys and public

is expected to be adopted at a later date. The amount of fees has not yet been set.

Quitman County Chancery Clerk Butch Scipper, vice-president of the Mississippi Chancery Clerks Association, said he is enthusiastic about someday getting the MEC system. Small counties have limited resources. "Most of the time we are 10 or 15 years behind on technology. With this, we will be on the cutting edge," Scipper said.

Mississippi College School of Law Dean Jim Rosenblatt said, "The true value of this is a unified, standard system."

Other states have expressed interest in the MEC system. Mississippi is the only state authorized to use the system.

The Supreme Court in May 2007 entered an agreement with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to study feasibility of adapting the federal trial court electronic filing system for use in state courts.

The Madison County Chancery Clerk's Office and the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) worked together, with assistance from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Chancery Court was chosen for testing, since chancery documents are different from anything which would be filed in a federal court.

More information may be found at the MEC web site, <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/mec/mec.html>.



Left to right, MEC Project Counsel Clint Pentecost and MEC Project Manager Calvin Ransfer talk with Chancery Judge H. David Clark II, whose district includes Scott County.



Left to right, Mississippi College School of Law Dean Jim Rosenblatt, Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. and Quitman County Chancery Clerk Butch Scipper talk at the ribbon-cutting.

Justice Dickinson honored for work as adjunct professor of law



Justice Jess H. Dickinson

Supreme Court Justice Jess H. Dickinson was honored by the Mississippi College School of Law student body as Adjunct Professor of the Year.

Justice Dickinson, of

Gulfport, was recognized in an awards ceremony April 17 at the Jackson Convention Center. He shared the award with attorney Ken Harmon of the firm of Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes. Award recipients are selected annually by the law school student body.

Justice Dickinson has served as an adjunct professor for the past five years.

MCSOL Dean Jim Rosenblatt said, "Justice Dickinson cares for his students and is willing to give them the full measure of his time and energy. He takes the time to answer questions and to bring an understanding of the material to his students. He is truly a mentor to them.

We appreciate his teaching and are pleased he was recognized by our students.

"Our adjunct professors complement our full-time faculty, particularly in the skills training courses such as trial practice in which they share their practice experience. Our students appreciate the perspectives he offers in the classroom and his commitment to learning," Dean Rosenblatt said.

Justice Dickinson said, "I am humbled and honored. As a member of the judiciary, I feel a strong obligation to interact with law students and provide them insight into the judicial system."

Justice Dickinson said, "When the law school asked

me to teach, I agreed because it is so important for students in law school to learn early the importance of their ethical obligation to follow the spirit, as well as the letter, of the law. I also welcomed the opportunity to discourage the students from becoming completely aligned with a particular philosophy.

"Lawyers should use their skills, training, and education to help people in need of legal services, regardless of whether they are plaintiffs or defendants. I welcomed the opportunity to encourage law students to fulfill their duty to provide pro bono legal services to our citizens who live in poverty," said Justice Dickinson, who is a member of the Access to Justice Commission and serves as the Court's liaison to organizations providing legal services to the poor.

Justice Dickinson said teaching two evenings a week "is incredibly educational for me. They ask questions I never would have thought about. To hear the students' questions and concerns helps me stay current on issues that I haven't studied for a long time.

"The best part of it for me is that law students don't take anything for granted. When you tell them 'The rule is such and such,' they ask why.... I've gotten many good ideas from law students concerning the rules of practice, civil procedure, rules of evidence and ethical rules. They have wonderful ideas."

Gillis appointed Supreme Court Clerk

Kathy Gillis of Jackson was appointed Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, effective June 1.

Gillis replaced Betty Sephton of Brandon, who retired May 31 after 29 years of public service. Sephton worked for the court for 19 years, including eight and one-half years as Clerk of the Courts.

Gillis has worked for the office of the Supreme Court Clerk for 28 years. She served as chief deputy clerk for nearly 17 years.

Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. said, "Kathy Gillis' vast experience and extensive knowledge of the office of the clerk will continue to be an asset to the courts."

Gillis said, "I am excited. We have a really good staff. The importance and strength of a good staff should never be underestimated." She supervises a staff of 13.

Gillis said she will continue to strive to give courteous and efficient service. "We want to continue to give good service to the courts and to the citizens. We want to help people and serve the public.... We work for the people of the state of Mississippi. We have an opportunity to serve and give information."

Gillis, 58, grew up in Jackson. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a minor in English from Mississippi Uni-



Kathy Gillis

versity for Women in 1972, and a Master of Arts in history from MUW in 1978. She taught ninth grade English in Columbus in 1974, then worked in the office of the registrar at MUW from 1976 to 1978.

Katrina recovery: Hancock Courthouse reopens

Chancery Court proceedings resumed in the renovated Hancock County Courthouse during the last week in July, and Circuit Court convened in the courthouse during the first week of August.

More than 500 people attended an Aug. 8 ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the reopening of the courthouse in downtown Bay St. Louis.

Aug. 29 was the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the courthouse.

Chancery Judge Jim Persons presided in the renovated courthouse during the final week of July.

"They have been through a lot over in Hancock County. This courthouse being open is a testament to their resilience, hanging on and prevailing," Judge Persons said.

Chancery Clerk Tim Kellar said he walked up the steps on a recent morning and thought, "It's good to be back home again."

It is like home to Kellar, who has served as Chancery Clerk for 14 years. His father was a county supervisor for 28 years.

After the storm, as he and his staff recovered rain-soaked files in a building where windows and walls were blown in, Kellar doubted that the building could be restored.

The Hancock County Courthouse, built in 1911, is on the National Register of Historic Places. It had undergone a renovation in



Photo by Judge Jim Persons

Restoration sought to return the second floor courtroom to its original 1911 appearance.

2003. Katrina left it in tatters, but the building was structurally sound.

The post-Katrina restoration put the structure back to its original look, with high ceilings and heart pine floors in the courtroom.

Jim Brumfield, project manager for Compton Engineering, gave a tour of the renovations in a videotaped interview with the *Sun-Herald*. Walking through the large second-floor courtroom, Brumfield said, "One of the things we were very happy to bring back was to expose the original dome. This was a feature that was used with a cupola added on top to cool the courtroom in its original construction."

Renovations included an audio-visual system for the courtroom and modernized lighting, heating and air con-

ditioning, Brumfield said. A 9,500 square foot addition was also built.

"The primary task we were asked to fill by the county board was they wanted a functional building that was historically accurate, but it was built with common sense," Brumfield said. "The taxpayers' dollars were guarded very closely to make sure the expenditure was something that everybody would take pride in. But it was prudent expenditure of governmental funds."

The renovation cost more than \$7 million. Funding came from a Community Development Block Grant, a Downtown Revitalization Grant, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and insurance coverage, Kellar

said.

Chancery, Circuit and Youth Courts, Chancery and Circuit clerks, the district attorney and an office of the Department of Corrections moved back to the courthouse. Chancery land records remain at an office in the local government trailer complex on Longfellow Drive.

Retired Circuit Judge Jerry Terry said he had some anxious moments regarding security while holding court in the crowded double-wide trailers. "We were able to maintain order."

A county government annex is being built on U.S. Highway 90 in Bay St. Louis. Other county offices will continue to operate in the trailer complex until the new county building opens.

Judge Maxwell investiture in Lafayette County Courthouse

Judges and former colleagues of Court of Appeals Judge Jimmy Maxwell described him as a hard working, innovative student of the law and a man of integrity.

Public officials, friends and family packed the newly renovated Lafayette County Courthouse in Oxford on May 15 as the Mississippi Court of Appeals convened for the investiture of its newest member. Gov. Haley Barbour appointed Judge Maxwell on March 1 to fill a vacancy on the court.

Court of Appeals Chief Judge Leslie D. King of Greenville, who administered the oath, said, "The investiture ceremony also serves as a very sober reminder that the entrustment of judicial authority to us as judges also carries with it great responsibility."

Judge Maxwell, who lives in Oxford, said, "It's hard for me to find the words to express how humbled I am by this opportunity to serve you and the other citizens of our great state on the Mississippi Court of Appeals. This really is an honor and a privilege."

Judge Maxwell said that in his time on the court, "I have become keenly aware of the tremendous responsibilities and duties that accompany those who wear this robe. We know as judges that every day we make tough decisions and that every decision that we make affects real people. It affects their property inter-

ests, at times the custody of their children, and sometimes their very freedom, and as judges we are duty bound to put our emotions aside and to seek through this maze of the law and the facts to find one thing, and that's justice....While justice is not always easy to find and while these decision I have to make sometimes are going to be unpopular...I am confident that I'm up to this challenge."

Circuit Judge Henry Lackey of Calhoun City welcomed guests to the historic courthouse. Many in attendance began their practice of law in that building, "where we promised God and our fellow man to uphold justice and honor our creed as lawyers," Judge Lackey said. "I believe it fitting for us to meet on this small portion of our globe where many literary icons have walked and much judicial wisdom has been displayed, and hopefully justice completely done. It is fitting, I believe, that we meet here today to show our respect for and our support for a young man who is willing to forego the prospect of a very bright and prosperous future in the private practice of law to serve you and I in government service."

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran said, "Gov. Haley Barbour made a wise decision in appointing Jimmy Maxwell to this court. He is very well qualified for the job. His experience as an assistant United States attorney has



Court of Appeals Chief Judge Leslie D. King, left, administers the oath to Judge Jimmy Maxwell at an investiture May 15 in Oxford. Judge Maxwell's wife Mindy Maxwell holds the Bible.

been exemplary....Jimmy Maxwell's record of service in bringing to justice dangerous criminals has made our state a safer place to live and a much better environment for our children and grandchildren."

Former First Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas W. Dawson, one of Maxwell's mentors when they prosecuted cases together, described Maxwell as a hard working man of integrity. He is a student of the law who is innovative and brimming with enthusiasm.

"Once I told him, 'I think you'd prosecute Santa Claus if you had the evidence.' He didn't deny it." But, Dawson said, the emphasis was "if he had the evidence. Jimmy is committed to doing the right thing for the right reason. That's called integrity, and he's got a lot of it."

Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. Mills told Maxwell and the audience that judges need patience, wisdom and courage. "I think for an appellate court judge, a certain amount of courage is important. It's not a popularity contest, even though you are elected. To be a good judge, I believe you have to always realize that it's not the rights of the majority you are protecting as a judge. It's the minority. It's the folks who we don't necessarily agree with... but our Constitution protects us as individuals. That's what makes us different in America. Judges have to have the courage to enforce individual rights even though the majority might go in a different direction."

Judge Mills said, "As a judge you have to simply be incorruptible. You never

Judge Gargiulo joins 2nd Circuit Court

Former prosecutor John C. Gargiulo of Gulfport was sworn in July 14 as a Circuit Judge of the Second Circuit District.

Gov. Haley Barbour appointed Gargiulo to the vacancy created by the retirement of Circuit Judge Jerry O. Terry. Gargiulo's term ends in January 2011.

Gov. Barbour said, "Mr. Gargiulo's experience as a prosecutor and in private civil practice gives him an outstanding perspective for presiding over the Second Circuit Court District. He served his country proudly in the military and will be a valuable asset to the Mississippi judicial system."

Judge Gargiulo, 42, said,

"I'm very excited. It's something I've wanted to do since I became an attorney.

"My goal is to hit the ground running," Judge Gargiulo said. "The docket has become rather congested, so my initial goals are to work to clear up a congested docket, and then of course to run an efficient court for all the attorneys and the parties."

For the past nine years, he served as an assistant district attorney for the Second Judicial District. He prosecuted all felonies, with emphasis on high-profile sexual and violent crimes. He served as the District Attorney's liaison to all law enforcement and child advocacy agencies

regarding crimes against children.

During law school, he worked for the firm of Owen and Galloway in Gulfport. After graduating from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1998, he worked for two years for the Gulfport firm of Bryant Clark Dukes Blakeslee, which has since merged with the firm of Copeland Cook Taylor and Bush. His work included defense of personal injury, medical malpractice, insurance and municipal liability claims.

Circuit Judge Roger T. Clark, a former member of the Bryant Clark Dukes Blakeslee firm, administered the oath of office.

Judge Gargiulo said, "I had the opportunity to work with him at his firm when I practiced civil defense work, so it meant a lot to me to have him administer the oath."

Judge Clark said, "He will be a great addition to the judicial district."

Judge Terry said, "I think he is an outstanding appointee."

Gargiulo has 14 years of military experience. He served on active duty in the U.S. Army 1989-1994. He was an intelligence officer during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, concluding his active duty as Battalion Operations Officer. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve 2000-2001, and joined the Mississippi Army National Guard in December 2001. He serves



Judge John C. Gargiulo
Second Circuit

as Administrative Services Chief of the 1108th AVCRAD in Gulfport. He holds the rank of major, and was recently selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Gargiulo and his four brothers served as military officers, following in the footsteps of their father. Thomas Gargiulo, who immigrated from Naples, Italy, served in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam. He retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel, and lives in Gulfport.

"He is my inspiration," Judge Gargiulo said.

Gargiulo was born in South Dakota. His father's military assignments took them from North Africa to the Gulf Coast. The family moved to south Mississippi when he was six.

He and his wife Lisa have twin 17-year-old sons and a 14-year-old daughter. They are members of St. James Catholic Church.

Judge Maxwell investiture, *continued*

look over your shoulder. You make the decisions you think are right and you follow the law as you interpret it to be....Don't worry. You write it like you think it ought to be."

Judge Maxwell thanked friends, colleagues and mentors. He thanked his wife Mindy for her support, and his parents for their influence in his life.

Although he didn't grow up dreaming that he would someday be a judge, he said he learned at the feet of his father, Jim Maxwell, an assistant district attorney whom he described as "a true courtroom lawyer."

"Dad, I know there's no-

body here more proud than you are, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for introducing me to this wonderful profession and teaching me those wonderful things you don't learn at law school."

His mother, Bebe Maxwell, grew up in Derma in Calhoun County. The family Bible on which he took his oath is filled with her handwritten notes. "Where my dad taught me to love the law, my mom taught me a love of the Lord," he said. "She has said a lot of prayers for me over the years, and Lord knows I've needed them. I want to say thank you, Mom."

Judge Jerry Terry retires after 22 years of service

Retired Circuit Judge Jerry O. Terry of Biloxi said he is still getting used to not going to work. He retired June 30 after 22 years of service as circuit judge in the Second Circuit District of Harrison, Hancock and Stone counties.

"If you can imagine waking up in a new world every day," he said of making the adjustment. "It's a new life for me."

He turned 75 in April. "I just decided it was that time for me to step down and let somebody else take the load and do a little traveling with my wife," he said. "I don't guess we've had a week-long vacation since we married years ago."

Judge Terry was in private law practice on the Gulf

Coast for 25 years before his appointment to the bench. His civil practice was primarily defense work for the insurance industry.

As a judge, the majority of his trial docket was criminal cases, he said.

He said that the greatest advancements during his time on the bench were the creation of a office allowances that let trial judges hire law clerks, and the creation of the Court of Appeals.

"When I started out 22 years ago, you were out there flying by the seat of your pants, having to do your own orders, having to do your own research," he said. "It was a great burden off us" to have the assistance of law clerks.

He recalled holding court

in a crowded double-wide trailer for more than two years after Hurricane Katrina heavily damaged the Hancock County Courthouse in Bay St. Louis. Defendants, lawyers, jurors and spectators were in close quarters.

In the months after the storm, court officials worried about being able to empanel enough jurors because people were busy rebuilding their homes and businesses. But when residents were summoned for jury duty in January 2006, they reported.

"The challenge over there was not getting people interested. People wanted to have a break from that everyday chore of trying to clean up things," Judge Terry said. After the first grand jury did

its work, "I thanked the people for their willingness to come out and serve on jury duty and sacrifice their time. Several of them said, 'We are just glad to be here, just glad to be out of the house.'"

He will miss trying cases. "I loved to see the action of the lawyers in the courtroom. The greatest challenge to me is to sit up there and keep your mouth shut and let the lawyers try the case."

He looks forward to playing golf. He enjoys woodworking, including building furniture for his seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

He doesn't have specific plans. "I'm just sitting back now wondering what am I going to do tomorrow other than mow the yard."

Circuit Judge Frank Vollar returns to private law practice

Circuit Judge Frank Vollar of Vicksburg retired May 31 after 20 years of service to the Ninth Circuit Court.

Judge Vollar, 60, whose term would have ended in December 2010, said he stepped down for economic reasons.

"I have children to put through college. I must retire and go back into the practice of law so that I can fulfill my obligations to my family," he said.

Four of his five children have graduated from college. He said the student

loan debt is more than his house mortgage.

His youngest daughter is a college freshman this fall.

"The scholarships are not enough to pay for her college education. I feel compelled to provide her with the college education that she deserves, so I'm going to go back into the practice of law," he said.

He joined a firm with his nephew, Austin Vollar, and opened a law office in Vicksburg. Austin Vollar practices law in Starkville.

Judge Vollar served as circuit judge for 20 years in

the Ninth Circuit District. He was county prosecutor in Warren County for five and a half years before he took the bench.

Judge Vollar, a native of Vicksburg, said, "I loved the job. It's been an honor to have served the Ninth Judicial District and the people of Warren County. The people have been good to me. I thank them."

His father and grandfather were attorneys who practiced in Warren County.

"I'm looking forward to getting back into the practice of law," he said.



Frank Vollar
Retired Circuit Judge

He will also serve as a senior status judge.

Judge James Chaney appointed to 9th Circuit Court

Circuit Judge M. James Chaney was appointed June 1 to the Ninth Circuit Court.

Gov. Haley Barbour appointed him to the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Frank Vollar. The term will end Jan. 3, 2011.

The Governor in announcing the appointment said, "Jim's solid and diverse experiences in the legal field give him a unique perspective to serve on the bench, and I appreciate his commitment to public service in this new role."

Judge Chaney has practiced law for more than 32 years, with 31 years spent at the Vicksburg law firm of Teller, Chaney, Hassell & Hopson LLP. He had a general civil law practice, representing plaintiffs and defendants, and representing local school boards. He served for 31 years as attorney for Warren County schools. He later became board attorney

for the South Delta School District of Sharkey and Issaquena counties and for Yazoo City Schools. At the time of his appointment, he was president of the Mississippi Council of School Board Attorneys.

Judge Chaney said he doesn't have plans for any dramatic changes.

"We are going to maintain the dignity and respect of the court," he said. "We've been very fortunate in Warren County to have good, honest, capable judges and I think the public perception is that also. That's not true everywhere. The first goal is to maintain that respect and trust in our judiciary. It's important to our entire society...and I want to continue that."

Judge Vollar's court administrator, Lee Ann Stuart, and court reporters Lucretia Smith and LaLisa Lindeman became Judge Chaney's

staff. "They've been helpful and that's been a big benefit, and Judge Isadore Patrick and his staff have been very helpful," Judge Chaney said.

Judge Chaney expects to attend a drug court training conference as well as the National Judicial College's general jurisdiction training in October. He began observing Warren County's Drug Court before Judge Vollar left the bench, and has participated in staff discussions of the progress of the drug court participants since he took office. Judge Patrick presides over Drug Court. Judge Chaney said that he will fill in for Judge Patrick if needed, and that he looks forward to presiding over Drug Court in the future.

Judge Chaney said, "Drug Court is really where the Circuit Court judges have a chance to save some lives and turn people around. Its such an intense supervision program. It's amazing what that can do.

"People who have graduated still come back to support those who are struggling to go through the different phases of the program. There is so much excitement when people get a certificate for 60 days of being drug free, or completing another phase," he said.

Judge Chaney, 57, is the son of former state Representative and Warren County Chancery Clerk Mark J. Chaney. His mother, Kathryn Chaney, retired from the Mississippi River Commission. Judge Chaney



**Judge M. James Chaney Jr.
Ninth Circuit**

was born in Durant and grew up in Bovina. He graduated from Warren Central High School.

He earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi, majoring in history and political science with a minor in biology. He had considered the medical field, but chose law.

During his last year at the University of Mississippi School of Law, he worked as an intern in the office of the Attorney General A.F. Summer, then he served for a year as a special assistant attorney general.

He is former president of the Warren County Bar Association and is a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation. He is a member of the Vicksburg Kiwanis Club, Vicksburg Warren Chamber of Commerce and Warren County Habitat for Humanity. He serves as an elder and Sunday School teacher at First Presbyterian Church of Vicksburg.

Chancery, Circuit Conferences elect officers

Chancery and Circuit Court judges elected officers during the April Trial and Appellate Judges Conference in Robinsonville.

Chancery Judge Edward E. Patten Jr. of Hazlehurst is chairman of the Conference of Chancery Judges. Chancery Judge Jaye A. Bradley of Lucedale is vice-chair, and Chancery Judge J. Max Kilpatrick of Philadelphia is secretary.

Circuit Judge David H. Strong of McComb is chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges. Circuit Judge Andrew K. Howorth of Oxford is vice-chair. Circuit Judge James T. Kitchens Jr. of Columbus is secretary-treasurer. Circuit Judge Michael M. Taylor of Brookhaven was elected to the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Judicial College.

Leake, Walthall counties create youth referee drug courts

Youth Courts in Leake and Walthall counties have started drug court programs to provide community-based substance abuse treatment and counseling to delinquent juveniles.

They are the first jurisdictions in the state to implement drug court programs at the chancery court level under the supervision of part-time youth court referees.

Expanding juvenile drug courts into chancery court jurisdictions will help bring treatment and supervision programs to more people in rural areas of the state, said State Drug Court Coordinator Joey Craft.

Craft said, "With the chancery court having jurisdiction over youth court matters where no county court exists, this will allow some of our more rural counties to create drug court programs that reach out and help youth and their families deal with substance abuse problems. Addressing substance abuse issues in teens before they reach addiction levels is critical. If treatment is successful, it is hoped that these kids won't wind up in the adult criminal justice system."

Judges say they see an acute need to address juvenile drug abuse.

An Adolescent Offender Program began drug testing juveniles in Walthall County Youth Court more than two years ago. The results were startling, said Youth Court Referee Conrad Mord. Be-

tween 85 and 90 percent of juveniles tested positive for marijuana or stronger drugs.

Mord in 13 years as Walthall County Youth Court Referee and 18 years as Youth Court prosecutor has watched drug abuse progress through generations of families.

The effect of drug abuse "goes from generation to generation to generation. I'm dealing with the children of, in some instances, the grandparents I prosecuted in Youth Court. We have the same kids over and over and over. I am looking for something to break the cycle," Mord said.

Juveniles 12 to 17 referred to the Walthall County Youth Court for non-violent offenses will be under supervision of the Youth Drug Court for about a year. Parents must agree to their children's participation, and the parents also must participate.

"If we treat the child, and mama and daddy have the problem, we are just spinning our wheels. We have to treat the whole family," Mord said. "If they don't want help, there is nothing I can do to fix a problem."

Juveniles are drug-tested and have a curfew. Parenting classes will be provided. In-patient treatment can be ordered if there is a severe need, but Mord would prefer to rely on community-based counseling. Drug Court staff will gather information from the schools on participants'

grades, attendance, and any discipline problems. Juveniles will report to Mord about twice a month and will meet with counselor Phillip Wells three times a week. Sylvia Sessions, a licensed clinical social worker, also will work with them.

The Walthall County Youth Drug Court has a \$117,000 budget provided by the State Drug Court Fund. Wells is the only full-time employee. Sessions and Drug Court Coordinator Kristy Laird work part-time. The Walthall County office of the Department of Human Services provides office space in Tylertown.

Chancery Judge Debra Halford and the Walthall County Board of Supervisors have been supportive. Drug testing is provided by the Fourteenth Circuit Drug Court.

Eleventh District Chancery Judge Cynthia Brewer said that creating a youth drug court is necessary to address the problem of juvenile crime related to alcohol and drug abuse. She said that of 37 juvenile delinquency cases which were addressed in Leake County during a recent 11-month period, eight involved a controlled substance violation, and nine juveniles tested positive for drugs.

Leake County Youth Court Referee Dexter Nettles said a majority of juveniles referred to the Youth Court have involvement with alcohol or drugs.

Nettles said, "I think there is a great need for a program of this type on the local level." The program will provide an option other than commitment to residential treatment programs located outside the community, or to training school.

Judge Brewer said exposure to alcohol and drug abuse sometimes starts within the family. Having a drug court operate under the auspices of the chancery court is an opportunity to address substance abuse problems within families, and offer parents counseling.

Judge Brewer said, "Our goal is to not only work on the substance abuse and delinquency, but also to rebuild family relationships, and try to get them back into school and improve school performance."

Juveniles 13 to 17 are expected to remain under supervision of the Leake County Juvenile Drug Court for nine to 15 months. Drug Court Coordinator Tiffany Parker McLain supervises and provides individual and group counseling. Participants appear before Nettles twice monthly. They are subjected to drug testing and are randomly screened for alcohol use.

The Leake County Youth Drug Court has a \$125,000 budget provided by the State Drug Court Fund. The program is housed in Walnut Grove, sharing drug testing equipment with the Eighth Circuit Drug Court.

Lauderdale has new felony adult Drug Court

Lauderdale County is the most recent to create a felony adult drug court. The Tenth Judicial District Drug Court celebrated its opening Aug. 19 in Meridian.

Lauderdale County Court Judge Veldore Young will preside over the Drug Court. Senior Circuit Judge Robert Bailey assigned her to sit as a special circuit judge to handle all cases referred to the Drug Court.

There are now 32 drug courts across the state.

Judge Young said she saw drug and alcohol abuse as an underlying cause of a majority of criminal charges she handled in three years as a public defender and nearly 10 years as a prosecutor. Drug Court will address the addiction that drives people

to commit crimes.

Judge Young said, "I want to make them active, productive citizens in this community, and I also want to make them better people for their families....We need to make them whole again."

Judge Bailey said, "We are looking forward to getting started. Hopefully it will be productive for everyone. We are all encouraged by what is happening in other drug courts and think it will be a win-win situation for us."

The first participant entered the program on Aug. 4. The program is expected to accommodate 75 people.

The Drug Court team includes Assistant District Attorneys Lisa Howell and Lean Follett, Public De-



Judge Veldore Young
Lauderdale County Court

fender Frances Stephenson, Capt. Angela Brown of the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office, Drug Court Coordinator Doncella Milton, and Case Manager Alicia Walimaa. Drug treatment providers are Alliance Health Cen-

ter and Weems Mental Health Center.

The State Drug Court Fund will provide \$127,500 for the first year of operation, said State Drug Court Coordinator Joey Craft. A \$50 monthly fee to be paid by each participant will also help fund the program. The Drug Court may generate revenue by providing drug testing to area employers and schools.

Office space was donated for a year. The late Rep. Charles L. Young Sr., a Meridian businessman and Judge Young's father, provided an office at 406 25th Avenue.

Judge Young plans to offer employment and life-skills assistance. Participants will learn how to complete a job application, create a resume and conduct themselves in a job interview. Participants can be referred to GED classes, parenting skills and anger management classes.

Judge Young is looking for donations of clothing, toys, books and other goods to assist needy participants. "We are trying to help them get a fresh start," she said.

She hopes to expose participants to cultural events. "We want to expose them to as many different things as we can in order to show them that they don't have to live that lifestyle," she said. Local people have expressed interest in donating event tickets.

Judges study science and the humanities

Mississippi judges in recent months have attended seminars on topics ranging from computer forensics to neuroscience.

Fifteenth Circuit Judge Prentiss G. Harrell attended the Medina Seminar for State and Federal Judges on the Humanities and Science at Princeton University June 11-16. Topics included engineering, molecular biology, chemistry, physics, literature, history and international relations.

Supreme Court Justice David A. Chandler and Hinds County Circuit Court

Judge Tomie Green attended the Neuroscience for Judges seminar at Vanderbilt Law School June 18-19. Presentations included an introduction to legal perspectives in neuroscience; memory systems as they relate to behavior, anatomy, pharmacology and neurological disease; neuroscience research in decision making; the personality disorder psychopathy; neuroimaging and neuropsychology of drug addiction; and behavioral genetics and neuroscience evidence in criminal law.

Ninth Circuit Judge M.

James Chaney Jr. attended the National Computer Forensics Institute seminar in Hoover, Ala., Aug. 10-13. The seminar dealt with recovery, preservation and use of computer generated evidence from a criminal prosecution perspective. Presentations included digital evidence recovery of materials which users may have sought to erase from a computer, and tracing e-mail senders and recipients. Judges discussed search warrants and discovery rules as they apply to digital evidence.

Judge Broome looks at links between abuse and delinquency

Many of the Rankin County children who must be placed in foster care as a result of abuse or neglect return to Youth Court accused of delinquent acts, Judge Thomas Broome said.

"What I've found is that unfortunately, the children who were themselves victims are at much greater risk to become delinquents," said Judge Broome, who has served as a Rankin County Youth Court judge for seven years.

"What we see is a pipeline from dependency to delinquency to criminality," Judge Broome said. "They go from being abused children to delinquents to criminals."

Judge Broome is working to create a multi-agency action plan to identify children at risk of progressing to delinquency and crime and provide early intervention and prevention.

The program calls for screening and assessing children initially entering foster care as a result of abuse or neglect. The proposed approach is to bring together a multi-disciplinary team which would screen each abused or neglected child and evaluate that child's circumstances. The screening would identify risks and needs, as well as a child's strengths, and direct the child and family to community-based services for intervention and treatment.

Judge Broome calls the plan Project FABRIC, Fostering Achievement by Risk

Intervention Collaboration. FABRIC will focus on the strengths of the child in an effort to assist in skill development, as well as on the child and family's needs in an effort to direct them to community-based services.

Judge Broome said, "This is going to identify those children who are at risk to become future delinquents and provide preventive services to keep them from making the transition from dependent to delinquent."

Judge Broome, whose undergraduate training and work before law school was in mechanical engineering, said, "If we can get to the root cause of the problem, we don't have to deal with all the bad effects.

"If we can address the children's needs and the family's needs and correct those problems early, then we won't have future juvenile delinquents or adult criminals, and we will have ultimately a stronger family," Judge Broome said. If intervention occurs earlier, "the child could remain with the family and they could have a better home environment to grow up in, which ultimately will make them a better citizen and a better parent themselves."

Clay County Youth Court Referee Thomas B. Storey, chairman of the Council of Youth Court Judges, said, "I really think Judge Broome's idea of this protocol is the most innovative." Judge Storey has seen a similar pattern in 30 years on the



Judge Thomas Broome, second from left, participates in juvenile justice program at Georgetown University.

bench. "The abused children of today are often the delinquents of tomorrow."

Judge Broome began putting his ideas into an action plan during an education and research program at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He was among about 30 people from across the nation selected to participate in a leadership program conducted June 12-18 by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute.

He submitted a draft of his FABRIC plan to the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform July 1. He hopes to have a working model in place in September.

The initial phase of the project will involve identification of the multi-disciplinary FABRIC team members. Included will be staff from the Division of Family and Children Services and Division of Youth Services of the Mississippi Department of Human Ser-

vices, Attorney General's office, Division of Medicaid, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Public Safety, Administrative Office of Courts, and the Department of Employment Security. Local team members will include Rankin County Youth Court personnel, prosecutors, public defenders, attorney guardians ad litem, selected foster care providers, Region 8 Mental Health Services and the Rankin County School District.

FABRIC will coordinate the efforts of all of those entities to better serve children and families.

Judge Broome said that he doesn't anticipate an increase in the cost of services already being provided. He is working to obtain foundation grant funding to assist with implementation of the plan. He believes the preventive approach could save money.

Judge Storey honored for Youth Court work

Clay County Youth Court Referee Thomas B. Storey has been honored for his lifetime work protecting the interests of children. He was presented the Lookin' to the Future Award on July 17 in Natchez.

The Lookin' to the Future Conference and the Mississippi Conference on Child Welfare was sponsored by Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth and the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Judge Storey said, "I feel very honored."

Special Assistant Attorney General Patti Marshall made the presentation. "It was an honor to present this award to Judge Storey for his many years of service and dedication to issues impacting the children and youth of Mississippi," she said.

Rankin County Court Judge Thomas Broome said in his nomination letter, "Judge Storey epitomizes the very essence of this

award, as he has devoted nearly all of his adult life to the improvement of the lives of children in the juvenile justice system of Mississippi."

Judge Storey was recognized for 30 years of service as a Youth Court referee. He previously served as Clay County prosecuting attorney 1972-1979.

Judge Storey served as a member of the original Mississippi Uniform Youth Court Commission from 1979-1982, helping draft Youth Court legislation. He helped implement a training program for Youth Court judges and referees. He has worked to gain legislative support for funding and programs for Youth Court

For the past eight years, he has served as chairman of Council of Youth Court Judges.

In 2007, he was appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court to the Task Force for Youth Court Rules of Procedure. As task force co-

chairman, Judge Storey helped oversee the formulation of extensive recommendations for a set of uniform rules to complement the statutes and guide judges, attorneys, social workers, law enforcement and others who deal with the interests of children. The Supreme Court adopted the Uniform Rules of Youth Court Practice effective Jan. 8, 2009.

In Clay County, he created a truancy reduction program. Operation Safe Kids is a collaborative community effort.

Judge Storey was appointed Clay County Youth Court referee in July 1979 when the Youth Court Act came into effect. Judge Lenore Prather made the appointment when she was Chancellor for the Fourteenth Chancery District.

Judge Storey estimates that he spends about 25 percent of his time on referee duties. He has a private civil law practice in West Point.

"I just feel a calling to do



Judge Thomas B. Storey
Youth Court Referee

it. Some of these cases are very difficult," Judge Storey said of his work in Youth Court. "I have been able to be objective about it without letting it overwhelm me. You can easily burn out when you see how terrible some people treat their own children....That's the most difficult part of being a Youth Court judge, dealing with abused children and their parents."

The reward is in helping a child, and helping a family. "When we release a child from the court and don't see them again and we realize things have been successful, you feel a great deal of satisfaction," he said. "When we can finally return a child to that parent, or to the custody of someone else who is going to love them like a parent, whether through adoption or foster care or grandparents, that makes you feel good. It feels especially good when you have parents that are rehabilitated."

New members named to Access to Justice Commission

The Mississippi Supreme Court has appointed eight new members to the Access to Justice Commission.

New members include Rust College President Dr. David L. Beckley of Holly Springs; Humphreys County Circuit Clerk Timaka Jones, Belzoni; Lela Keys, Delta Community Partners in Care, Clarksdale; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Chief Judge Hilda

Nickey, Philadelphia; Rep. Thomas U. Reynolds, Charleston; Sixth District Circuit Judge Lillie Blackmon Sanders, Natchez; *Clarion-Ledger* Publisher Larry Whitaker, Jackson; and Mississippi Bar Immediate Past President H. Rodger Wilder, Gulfport.

Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. welcomed new members to their first meeting Aug.

31 in Jackson. "I think you will find that this will be one of the most valuable and rewarding things you do."

Chief Justice Waller said the Supreme Court is eager to receive the commission's final report and recommendations. The commission held its fourth public hearing Aug. 27 in Meridian. Earlier hearings were held in Gulfport, Greenwood and Oxford.

Harry Allen of Gulfport receives Chief Justice Award

The Mississippi Supreme Court recognized attorney Harry R. Allen of Gulfport with its highest honor, the 2009 Chief Justice Award.

Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. selected Allen as the award recipient for his leadership efforts to assist members of the legal profession who struggle with substance abuse and mental health issues.

The award was presented July 18 at the conclusion of the Mississippi Bar Convention in Destin, Fla.

Allen served as chairman of the Supreme Court Commission to Address Concerns for Impaired Lawyers. The commission's extensive studies culminated in the presentation of 10 recommendations to the Supreme Court this past February. The recommendations are being reviewed by the Supreme Court Committee on the Legal Profession, chaired by Justice Jess H. Dickinson.

Chief Justice Waller said, "Harry Allen and members of the commission have devoted an extraordinary amount of time and care to their examination of the issues of substance abuse and mental health problems in the legal profession. The commission looked for ways to better reach out a helping hand to those who struggle, while protecting the best interests of the litigants and the public. Their work will assist the court, improve the legal profession and protect

the public."

Allen said, "I was very honored. I accept (the award) as a representative. We had a really hard working commission of judges and lawyers."

Under Allen's leadership, the commission spent hundreds of hours over the course of three years examining the problems presented by a range of impairments, and seeking solutions. He guided work to look at impairment and its effects at every stage of the careers of lawyers and judges. The commission looked at law students and conditional admission to the bar. They discussed problems of aging members of the bench and bar. They heard from people who struggled with impairments. They looked at intervention and treatment as well as prevention and education. They sought ways to remove obstacles which discourage or deter lawyers from reaching out for help.

Allen said, "There has always been such a reluctance, particularly by lawyers, to seek help for an emotional problem.... Lawyers are helping other people. They think, 'If I can't help myself, what am I doing representing others?'"

Allen said the April 2005 suicide of Billy Hood of Gulfport, a personal friend and member of his law firm, prompted the president of the Mississippi Bar the call for creation of the commission to address concerns for



Harry Allen

impaired lawyers. The commission report noted that during the past 13 years, 21 Mississippi lawyers have committed suicide.

Allen said he hopes that as a result of the study and open discussion about the problems of depression, "Billy's tragic fate will maybe save the life of some other lawyer."

Allen said, "One of the things we believe will result from this study is that there will be more awareness of the problem within the profession, and more attention to how to deal with it."

The Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program of the Mississippi Bar addresses approximately 250 cases a year, said program Director Betty Daugherty. They include anxiety, bipolar disorder, compulsive behavior, depression and other mental health issues, as well as alcohol and drug abuse. The confidential program provides peer intervention, assists attorneys in obtaining

professional help, and assists with rehabilitation. Allen has worked extensively with the program, participating in intervention and training.

The commission report noted the rate of impairment from substance abuse or dependency and mental or emotional disorders among lawyers is twice as high as for non-lawyers. More than 80 percent of disciplinary violations or liability claims are in some way related to an underlying impairment, the commission report said.

Many of the recommendations of the commission were directed at improving the ability of the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program to provide help.

Chief Justice Waller said, "They have come up with some innovative approaches that would foster a more receptive climate in the legal profession for people to voluntarily participate."

Allen has practiced law for 50 years. He served as Harrison County Commissioner for the Region XIII Commission on Mental Health and Mental Retardation for more than 20 years. He served on the Court Liaison and Judicial Administration Committee. He is past president of the Harrison County Bar Association and the American Inns of Court, Russell-Blass-Walker Chapter. He is a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation and is Past Chairman of the Lamar Order - University of Mississippi.

Judge Helfrich named to national drug court board

Circuit Judge Robert Helfrich of Hattiesburg has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP).

The two-year board appointment was announced at the NADCP's fifteenth annual training conference in June in Anaheim, Calif.

Judge Helfrich's appointment means two Mississippi judges now serve on the national policy making board. U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett has served on the NADCP board since June 2008.

Judge Starrett founded the state's first drug court in 1999 when he was a state trial judge in the Fourteenth Circuit District of Lincoln,

Pike and Walthall counties.

Judge Helfrich started a drug court in the Twelfth Circuit of Forrest and Perry counties in 2003.

Judge Helfrich said that he is excited about being able to work to expand drug courts around the nation. While drug courts exist in all 50 states, he estimated that drug courts nationwide are available to only about 10 percent of the people who need the help that the programs could provide.

"We want to expand...so that drug courts and problem solving courts are available to every American who needs them," Judge Helfrich said. "I'm really excited to be able to play a role in this movement."

Mississippi has 32 drug court programs. About 2,300 people are enrolled statewide. About 240 people are enrolled in the Twelfth Circuit Drug Court program.

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals, with headquarters in Alexandria, Va., seeks to reduce substance abuse, crime and recidivism by promoting and advocating for establishment and funding of drug courts and providing for collection and dissemination of information, technical assistance, and mutual support to association members.

NADCP represents more than 20,000 drug court professionals nationwide. Its members include judges, prosecutors, defense attor-



**Judge Robert Helfrich
12th Circuit**

neys, treatment providers, rehabilitation experts, researchers, educators, law enforcement representatives, correctional representatives, pre-trial officers and probation officers.

Watson appointed as State Law Librarian

The Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi Senate in a joint session May 6 appointed attorney Amanda Tyre Watson of Jackson as State Law Librarian. Watson was recommended by the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Sen. David Blount of Jackson nominated Watson. Sen. Blount said, "She is eminently qualified and comes highly recommended."

Watson replaced Charlie Pearce, who accepted a position as head of the library system of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Watson grew up in New

Albany. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi University for Women, a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law and a Master of Information Studies in library science from Florida State University.

Watson served as a law clerk for former Court of Appeals Chief Judge Roger McMillin 2001-2002. She taught legal research at Tougaloo College and at Florida State.

Watson worked in private law practice for the firm of James and Associates in Ridgeland 2002-2003. She



Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant shakes hand with State Law Librarian Amanda Watson after administering the oath.

served as manager of information services and law librarian for the law firm of

Phelps Dunbar, LLP from 2003 until she assumed the duties of state law librarian.

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Access to Justice Commission shares ideas

Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham visited the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission Aug. 31 in search of ideas of how to deal with unmet civil legal needs of poor people.

Justice Cunningham said the phrase “justice for all” is uttered all over the country every day at the end of the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission work to put the words into practice, he said.

Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr., in welcoming Justice Cunningham, noted that the former trial judge also formerly served as public defender for the Kentucky State Penitentiary. “You really have to have a heart for helping people to do that.”

Justice Cunningham visited at the invitation of Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Jess H. Dickinson,

a member of the Access to Justice Commission and the court’s liaison to the legal services community. Justice Dickinson will visit the Kentucky Supreme Court in September to talk about access to justice for the poor. He is also scheduled to speak to the Wyoming Bar Association in September regarding access to justice issues.

Sharing information is one of the ways to find solutions. “Poverty and legal needs do not end at a state line,” Justice Dickinson said.

Justice Dickinson has previously visited Supreme Courts, Access to Justice commissions and legal services organizations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Texas and Tennessee. He has spoken to state, regional and national gatherings addressing civil legal needs of poor people.



Presiding Justice James E. Graves Jr., at right, Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham, center, and Justice Jess H. Dickinson listen to an Access to Justice meeting discussion.