

**Arkansas District Judges Council
Board Meeting – Peabody Hotel, Little Rock
Thursday, April 24, 2008**

Present for the meeting of the Board of the Arkansas District Judges Council (ADJC) were: John Finley of Ashdown, President; Mike Robinson of Benton, Vice President; Mike Irwin of Heber Springs, Secretary-Treasurer; Milas "Butch" Hale of Sherwood, District Representative; Dan Stidham of Paragould, District Representative; Jesse "Rusty" Porter of Helena, immediate past president; and Kay Palmer, Executive Director. Keith Caviness of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) also was present.

Judge Finley called the meeting to order. On a motion by Judge Hale, seconded by Judge Bridgforth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes. On a separate motion by Judge Robinson, seconded by Judge Stidham, the Board voted unanimously to accept the treasurer's report

Judge Finley announced that the Judicial Council liaisons to the ADJC were Judge John Dan Kemp of Mountain View and Judge Kirk Johnson of Texarkana. Judge Finley also explained to the Board that the Arkansas Bar Association had informally agreed to begin a liaison relationship with the ADJC. Details of that relationship will be confirmed within the next few months.

On a motion by Judge Hale, seconded by Judge Bridgforth, the Board voted to begin the four year terms for the district representatives with 2008.

The Board discussed a formal response on the changes to the *Code of Judicial Conduct*. The decision was to wait until the Council's membership had the opportunity to hear a presentation on the changes and then ask the membership to vote to support or not to support the changes. The presentation was scheduled for Friday, April 25.

On a motion by Judge Irwin, seconded by Judge Hale, the Board voted unanimously to ask the AOC to translate the forms in the *Judge's Deskbook* into Spanish.

The Board agreed to renew the dishonesty bond.

The ADJC will work with the cities who are not paying expenses of pilot judges and attempt to remedy that misunderstanding.

On a motion by Judge Bridgforth, seconded by Judge Hale, the Board voted to split with the Clerks' Association the costs of gifts given to AOC staff members.

A letter should be filed in August regarding the nonprofit status of the ADJC.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Kay S. Palmer
Executive Director

Mike Irwin
Secretary-Treasurer
Arkansas District Judges Council

Date: _____