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**Arkansas Recognized for Leadership in Court Technology**

LITTLE ROCK, AR (December 17, 2024) – In the Per Curiam opinion of December 12, 2024, *In Re Retirement of Chief Justice John Dan Kemp*, the Arkansas Supreme Court recognized Chief Justice Kemp’s leadership role in Arkansas court technology, noting that “[h]e championed the judiciary’s embrace of technology by establishing e-filing in each of the 75 counties in Arkansas, moving computer-information systems to cloud-based computing, and leading the initiative to build a new, more effective case-management system.” The support of the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court has resulted in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) playing a leading role nationally and internationally in court technology.

“Innovative court technology is key to maintaining transparency, increasing accountability, and improving accessibility to our courts. This helps build public trust and confidence in our judiciary,” said Marty Sullivan, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Last week Court Information Systems Division staff helped lead the annual meeting for the Court Information Technology Officers Consortium, a national association of court technology leaders, and presented strategies to preserve legacy court information to attendees of the National Center for State Courts’ eCourts 2024 conference. District Court Judge Butch Hale of Sherwood, and Circuit Judges Shannon Blatt and Leigh Zuerker from Fort Smith were also in attendance.

In Chief Justice Kemp’s final year as Chief Justice, in addition to working toward the goals he set upon taking office, the Administrative Office of the Courts recently hosted the second Code for Justice Summit where twenty states sent nearly one hundred participants to share lessons about the software development work of courts all over the country. Earlier this year AOC staff consulted with the National Judicial College in support of technology assistance and training webinars for the Ukraine Judiciary, spoke to the Brazilian National Council of Justice on the development work being performed in Arkansas, and worked with the National Center for State Courts to create and train a cybersecurity curriculum being shared with courts nationwide. AOC staff helped develop, and on multiple occasions execute, the Project Management for Courts curriculum for the Institute for Court Management.

This year also witnessed the AOC become a second time recipient of the AWS State and Local Government Champions Award for its innovative efforts in court technology modernization. The first release of the system this year was a new public interface to Search ARCourts



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(<https://caseinfo.arcourts.gov>), a replacement for CourtConnect. The next release will be focused on district court management of traffic and criminal cases.

In October, the Administrative Office of the Courts received a two-year, \$4,000,000 grant from the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), and a \$2,600,000 grant from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to continue building and expanding the AOC’s new court management system. “Court technology is not just about efficient management of court cases, it is also about sharing timely, accurate, and complete information with partner justice agencies to improve public safety,” said Tim Holthoff, the AOC’s Court Information Systems Division Director. Using modern agile software development techniques and cloud-based technologies while partnering with Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS) and software development vendors Slalom, TEKsystems, and local vendor Mainstream Technologies, the AOC is dedicated to building a state-of-the-art court management solution in realization of Chief Justice Kemp’s technology vision for the future of Arkansas’s courts.

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#### **About the National Center for State Courts**

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Virginia, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice through leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971, NCSC provides research, education, technology, and consulting services to courts across the United States and around the world.

#### **About the Arkansas Judiciary**

The Arkansas Judiciary is committed to ensuring access to justice, protecting rights, and maintaining public trust. Through innovative practices and dedicated service, the courts of Arkansas strive to deliver fair, efficient, and transparent justice to all residents of the state.