



Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission

PRESS RELEASE

POINT OF CONTACT: JDDC
PHONE: 501-682-1050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2020

The Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission takes this opportunity to honor the service of Rev. Maxine Allen who in 2019 completed 12 years of service with the JDDC. During her years of service Rev. Allen served as the first female and first African American Vice-Chair. Rev. Allen was also the first non-Judge or attorney member nominated to fill the position of Vice-Chair. The JDDC thanks Rev. Allen for her many years of faithful and dedicated service to the Commission.

Judge Tommy Fowler, who was reappointed to the Commission in July 2019, was elected the new Vice-Chair. Judge Fowler was first appointed to the Commission in 2017 and will continue to serve through 2025. Judge Fowler currently serves as a State District Court Judge in Craighead County. The positive changes Judge Fowler has implemented within the Courts have been honored by both the Arkansas Times and the Jonesboro Sun.

Additionally, the JDDC takes this opportunity to welcome 3 new members to the Commission, and 5 re-appointed members. Please see the accompanying memo for additional information.

The JDDC welcomes the following members to the Commission as newly appointed members: Attorney Amanda Hurst, Attorney Andrea Grimes Woods, public member Jim McGill.

Attorney Amanda Hurst is an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law. She also serves as Co-Director of Student Competitions and co-coaches the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition team. She has served as an Arkansas Supreme Court Special Justice and on the State Board of Election Commissioners. She has published on the interaction between section 1983 and federal-state cooperative spending programs in the *Tennessee Law Review*.

Attorney Andrea Grimes Woods serves as Executive Vice President and Corporate Counsel for Nabholz Construction in Conway, Arkansas and manages the Legal Department. Andrea is also on the Board of Directors for Nabholz Companies' parent group, The Nabholz Group, Inc. Andrea currently serves as Chair for the Conway Regional Health System Board of Directors and serves on the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Alliance for the 20th Judicial District. She is former Chair of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce and has served on the Arkansas Bar Association, House of Delegates, and Board of Governors. Woods is also an active member of the American Bar Association's Forum on Construction Law.

Public Member Jim McGill is the Vice President and Business Unit Manager of SFI. SFI fabricates steel components for global original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the construction, agricultural, transportation, material handling, and power generation industry segments. McGill maintains accountability for the success of operations, account management, customer service, business development, estimating, and engineering. Through his 25 years of experience in the steel industry, he has developed a unique mix of strategic and analytical expertise, consistently exceeding performance and financial goals by aligning the effort of strong teams with organizational objectives.

The JDDC is also happy to announce the re-appointment of Commission members: Judge Lee Harrod, Judge Tommy Fowler, Attorney Keith Pike, Public Member Sam Seamans, and Public Member John Paul Wells.

Judge Tommy Fowler (Vice-Chair) was elected as a State District Judge for Craighead County in March 2016 and took office January 1st, 2017. Prior to that, he was a Circuit Judge in the Second Judicial District after being appointed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson to fill out the remaining term left after the passing of Judge Lee Fergus. He was a 2017 Visionary Arkansan as selected by the Arkansas Times news magazine for his changes implemented by the Craighead County District Court. He was recently selected by the Jonesboro Sun as one of 12 Who Make It Happen. He currently serves on several state judicial committees including the Judicial Discipline and Disability Committee. Fowler was first appointed to the JDDC in 2012 where he served as an attorney member through 2015. In 2015, Fowler stepped down from his role as attorney member due to taking the bench. He was later re-appointed as a judge member. Additionally, he is a faculty member for the National Judicial College and through that, teaches and trains other judges across the country. Before becoming a Judge, he served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the 2nd Judicial District in Craighead County for 15 years.

Judge Lee Harrod is a Circuit Judge in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit encompassing Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, IZard and Stone counties. Judge Harrod was elected to the position in 2008 and re-elected in 2014. Harrod is unopposed in the 2020 election cycle and will start a new six year judicial term on 1/1/2021.

Attorney Keith Pike graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with an undergraduate degree in business and a Master of Business Administration. Keith also graduated with Honors from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctorate. Keith is licensed to practice law in Washington, D.C., Arkansas state courts, the United States District Court for the

Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. In addition to being licensed to practice law, Keith is also a Certified Mediator and also owns RE/MAX Elite in Little Rock, Conway, and Bryant, Arkansas and RE/MAX Infinity in Overland Park, Kansas.

Public Member Sam Seamans is a retired Police Officer of 30 years, and is also a Priest in the Orthodox Church. Originally from Louisiana, Sam earned his bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1990. While in college he worked for the USL University Police Department and attended Police Academy in 1986. After graduation he moved to Mountain Home where he continued his law enforcement career, retiring as a Lieutenant in 2016. While working in full-time law enforcement, Sam was active in ministry and was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas in 2001. During that formation period he earned a Master of Ministry degree from Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, IN. He also attended Cranmer Theological House and earned a Master of Theology. Since 2014, Sam has served as the Chief Deputy Coroner for Baxter County.

Public Member John Paul Wells is the owner of Wells Furniture which has served Paris, AR since 1946. Wells has served as owner of Wells Furniture since 1955. Wells served as an Arkansas State Representative for District 6 from 2004-2010. Wells previously served as a member of the Paris School Board and as an Alderman in the City of Paris.