



July 1, 2007

# CLERK'S CLIPS



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Dear Friends,

We have a lot happening in the office these days! We're in the middle of Judge Goree's Docket Call, preparing to move our Court Records Department to our new building, kicking off a much-needed book repair

project, concluding our two year long backscanning project, and developing a plan for a new county archives department. All the while our regular duties go on... searching tax titles, maintaining our one-day turn-around on filings, preparing Board minutes, and administering more than 30 fiduciary matters, just to name a few. As you know, we do much more than just file papers.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter from me about the new filing fees which take effect this month. Basically, the marginal notation fee has increased from fifty cents to \$1.00 per notation. In addition, assignments, modifications, partial releases and all other instruments instructing us to make a marginal notation are to be treated just like cancellations as to the calculation of the filing fee. The key is to file separate instruments for each Book and Page to be marginally notated. That helps our office keep better track of notations, cuts down on errors, and increases staff productivity. If you have questions about fee calculations, please give us a call. We will be happy to help — and we are going to work with you (and not reject filings) as we work through the transition period.

I am always available to speak to groups about several topics relating to the office. So, give me a call at 601-855-5526 if you'd like me to be your next guest speaker. Best Regards,



## FEATURE STORY

**BACKSCANNING:** Progress is in the works. We are happy to announce that Phase 5 of our digital backscanning project is complete. Records including deeds, deeds of trusts, oil and gas documents, lis pendens, construction liens and all other related documents have been scanned from the hard copy (paper) form and digitally linked to indexing data through June 1, 1988.

Phase 6 is now underway which involves the scanning of deeds, deeds of trusts and other related documents from June 1, 1988, back to December 31, 1975. These instruments are also being digitally linked to indexing data. Our final phase for this project, Phase 7, will involve the scanning and digital linking of all miscellaneous records, such as lis pendens, construction liens, etc. from June 1, 1988 back to December 31, 1975.

Much time and hard work has been put into this project. Our staff has been working diligently on this in addition to their daily tasks. Our goal is to provide the public and attorneys with accurate data using our computer system from the records dating back to 12/31/1975. Once fully completed, one will be able to substantially perform a 32 year title search using our computer system. We look forward to seeing this project complete by the end of this year.



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As everyone is aware by now, the new addition to the Chancery Administrative Building is in full force. Once the addition is complete, our chancery court records will be moving to the 2nd floor in the new building, allowing for more space and storage for our court department. The projected completion date for this new addition is August 15, 2007. At this time, administration will have two weeks to move into their new offices and then renovation will begin on the existing chancery building, which is expected to be complete within 90 days after beginning. However, overall completion for the new Chancery Administrative Buildings is expected by the end of this year.



## Court Corner:

Attorneys, please help us prevent lost court files. If you must check out a file, please do so by informing one of our deputies and signing the file out at the Lextreiver. Thanks for your cooperation, as this will benefit our office as well as yours.

# ARTHUR JOHNSTON

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All county offices will be closed July 4, 2007, in observance of Independence Day!