



Oct. 1, 2007

CLERK'S CLIPS



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Dear Friends,
Circuit Clerk Lee Westbrook and I are pleased that Madison County has been asked by Chief Justice James

Smith and Presiding Justice Bill Waller, Jr. to serve as a pilot county to evaluate the Case Management and Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) system presently in use in our federal courts. The Mississippi Supreme Court has received permission from the federal government to use and modify the system to fit state court practice. We are the first state — and the first county in the first state — to be allowed to do so. We have undergone two rounds of training at the federal AOC office in San Antonio, Texas and have established a test environment here in Canton at the WIN Job Center. We will be working on system modification through the remainder of this calendar year and conclude our evaluation during the first quarter of 2008. This is welcome news for attorneys familiar with the federal system. Please bear with us as we devote staff time — and a lot of energy — to this project.

Best Regards,



FEATURE STORY:

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The addition to the current Chancery and Administrative Building is nearing completion. Although an actual date of occupancy is uncertain, we do anticipate moving sometime well before year end. Our entire court records department (with the exception of older file storage) will be relocated to the north end of the second floor facing the Circuit Court building. Once we occupy the new facility, we are going to ask all county employees, attorneys, and litigants to park in the north parking lots (new Chancery, current Circuit & Fast-Pak lots) in order to make parking available on the Courthouse Square. Our Canton merchants have been patient for years now, and we finally will have convenient parking off the Square to impose this requirement. Our land records will remain where they are, although our scanning and indexing clerks will occupy what is now the Clerk's inner office. We will gain a modest amount of floor space for additional land record counters against the east wall. Although we anticipate little or no disruption in services, please be patient between now and then as we engage in the difficult process of moving court records.



WELCOME

Kamesha Brown Mumford has joined our staff as a Deputy Chancery Clerk. She is a graduate of the Mississippi College School of Law. Congratulations are in order for Kamesha for recently finding out the good news of her passing the Mississippi Bar Exam. She is presently assigned to our court records department. She has worked for us part time in the past and we are happy to have her on board. Come by and say hello to her.



Court Corner:

As Chancery Court prepares to move to our new facility upstairs, we are asking attorneys to please return all court files that have been checked out. Please check your files for any Madison County cases that you may have. Also, Judge Goree and Judge Brewer have signed a memorandum concerning "Assignment of Related Cases". This includes Chancellors being assigned to the following matters:

- (1) Guardianships and Minor Settlements
- (2) Reciprocal Causes of Action
- (3) Dismissed Causes of Action

This policy is available on our web page and the court's webpage.

ARTHUR JOHNSTON

MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

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