



WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY CLERK OF COURT

NEWSLETTER

Message from Honorable Sharon W. Stagers, Clerk of Court

I am honored to present our 1st annual Clerk of Court newsletter. As Clerk of Court, I wanted to keep the citizens abreast of the changes that have taken place within the Clerk's Office. Since my term started on January 2, 2013, my staff and I have been working diligently together to make many necessary improvements within the office. It is my goal to serve the citizens in the most professional, efficient and effective manner possible. We are making strides through the use of improved/new technology.

The courthouse reopened on May 20, 2013 after extensive renovations. A dedication ceremony was held to commemorate the past and the present courthouse. The new renovations have allowed the Clerk's office to operate more efficiently. New staff members have been hired.

The Clerk's office is looking forward to implementing scanning in the Family Court Division. Also, opening a new satellite office in Hemingway, SC. All to offer the most efficient services to our citizens.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Clerk of Court.

Serving you with excellence

Sincerely,

Sharon



In This Issue

- ◇ New Employees
- ◇ Division Updates
- ◇ New Office Locations
- ◇ Courthouse Tours
- ◇ FYI

REGISTER OF DEEDS DIVISION

The Clerk reproduced some of the old torn books in-house over the summer. The reproduction of the books drastically reduced the size, making it easier for the customers to handle and view.

The books could not be reproduced by a company due to budgetary constraints. The summer interns were utilized for this project.

The renovations have allowed for better access of our records.



Mrs. Patsy Williamson,
Williamson Research Services



New employee to the Register of Deeds Division is: Ava P. Rogers. Mrs. Rogers was previously employed for thirteen (13) years with law offices for attorneys, Wells Dickson and LeGrand Carraway.

She was responsible for personal injury cases, family court matters, foreclosures, civil litigation, assisting clients, and the scheduling of appointments, hearings, etc. for each attorney which related to their practice.

GENERAL SESSIONS DIVISION



General Session's initial appearance dates have changed to the Fridays prior to the week of court. This change has made for a smoother transition on the first morning of court.

The Honorable W. Jeffrey Young will be the Chief Administrative Judge for General Sessions beginning January 2014.



COMMON PLEAS DIVISION

Scanning is an integral part of the common pleas division. It allows our customers to receive emailed copies of case files in a very timely fashion.

E-File, an electronic submission of court documents, could be in the near future.

FAMILY COURT DIVISION

Family Court has relocated to the second floor of the Alex Chatman Complex Building. The larger space has allowed for better access to our records.

Family Court will be implementing scanning of its documents in order to provide more services electronically.

Sign up for Direct Deposit! Custodial parents we encourage you to have your child support or alimony payments deposited directly into your bank accounts. It's as simple as filling out the direct deposit form, submitting a photo I.D. and a voided check. Help cut down on lost or stolen checks.

You can make Child Support Enforcement a party to your case. If you currently have a private child support case, you can fill out a one page form, attach a copy of your order and mail to child support enforcement. Making child support enforcement a party to your case helps to enforce your case.

The Honorable George M. McFadden, Jr. will be the Chief Administrative Judge for Family Court beginning January 2014.

New employee to the Family Court Division is: Cherelle Wilson. Ms. Wilson is a 2008 honor graduate of Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC. She earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting.



COURTHOUSE SECURITY



Security has been improved through new surveillance and x-ray equipment.

New uniforms have been purchased for the security staff.

New Bailiff: Richard Zarella

Clerk Stagers and the Security Committee are working to create an Emergency, Response, Evacuation and Security Plan for the Courthouse and surrounding governmental buildings.

Congratulations to Curtis Chandler for successful completion of the academy.

IN THE KNOW



Jurors

The Clerk requested a pay change for the jurors on July, 15, 2013 from \$12 per day and \$0.10 per mile to \$15.00 per day. The pay rate for jurors has been the same for the past thirty-seven years.

New location

In January 2014, the Clerk's office is due to open a satellite office in Hemingway, SC. The office will be located at Chavis One Stop. The office will be an asset to those citizens from the Hemingway and Nesmith areas who travel to Kingstree to conduct business.



Summer Interns

Special thanks to Jasmine Blackmon, Ta'Reish Cyrus and Nyqwesha Henry. These ladies worked diligently over the summer in various divisions of the clerk's office.

State Child Support Conversion

The conversion of the State Child Support Enforcement System (CSES) is still underway. CSES is a shared database, designed to meet federal certification requirements for a statewide automated child support enforcement system as well as to meet the business needs of the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Clerks of Court (COC). All payments will be handled by a centralized agency for all counties in the State of South Carolina.

TOURS OF THE COURTHOUSE

On July 23, 2013, Plantersville Daycare and Learning Plus Childcare (Kingstree, SC) got a tour of the newly renovated courthouse. Loretta Hart and Camp "Son" Shine (Charleston, SC), a group of at least 60 children and adults, toured the courthouse on July 25, 2013.

During each of these tours, facilitated by the Clerk, the groups were lead through a guided tour of both the courthouse, Alex Chatman Complex and the Public Service Administration Buildings.

At the end of each tour the groups were brought back to the courtroom and given an opportunity to ask questions. All children were also provided with bags of school supplies or Clerk of Court Coloring Books and crayons. Note: Not at tax payers' expense.

Judicial Trivia

1. How many levels of the court system are there?

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 10



2. What is the highest court system?

- District court
- Court of appeals
- The Court of the land
- Supreme Court

3. How many members of the Supreme Court are there?

- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

4. What is one of the famous Supreme Court cases?

- Cat v. Dog
- Brown v. Board of Education
- Katharine v. Ariel
- Dad v. Mom

5. What does the Judicial Branch do?

- Interpret the law
- Make the laws
- Sign the laws
- Rule the world

6. True or False? The Congress is in the Judicial Branch.

- False
- True

7. In what year did the Supreme Court first meet?

- 1789
- 1798
- 1889
- 1909

8. Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

- Katharine
- Backstreet boys
- John Paul Toph
- William H. Rehnquist

9. How many Justices were in the first Supreme Court?

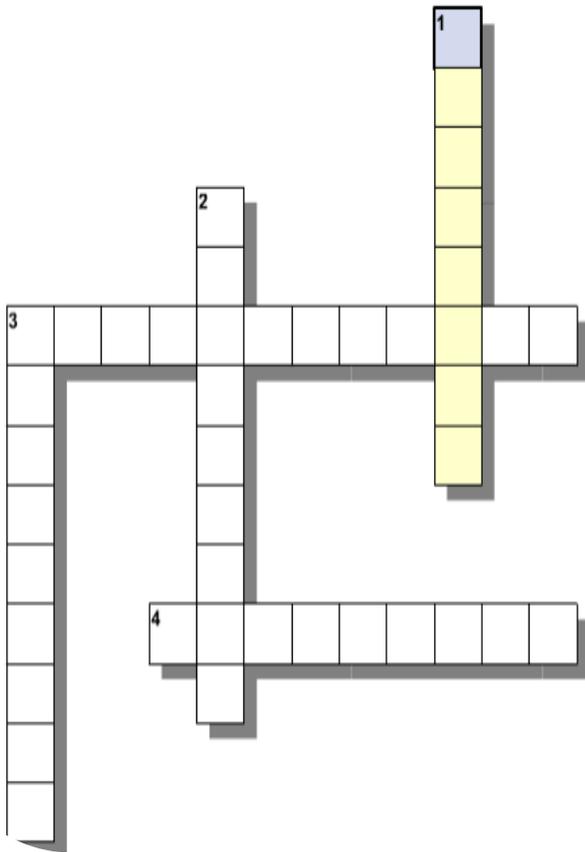
- 9
- 8
- 6
- 5

10. Which case is not real?

- Gideon v. Wainwright
- Miranda v. Arizona
- Conodoguinet v. Taylor

Answer Key on back...

JUDICIAL CROSSWORD



ACROSS

3.) law based Supreme Court decisions and what else

4.) an earlier court decision that guides judges' decisions in later cases

DOWN

1.) administrative laws made by government

2.) a trial jury of between 6 and 12 persons

3.) customary law that develops from judges' decisions and is followed in situations not covered by statutory law



The Judicial Branch crossword puzzle game Description

Vocabulary for the judicial branch

The Judicial Branch crossword puzzle game Hints

1. laws passed by lawmaking bodies
2. an earlier court decision that guides judges' decisions in later cases
3. customary law that develops from judges' decisions and is followed in situations not covered by statutory law
4. administrative laws made by government _____
5. law based Supreme Court decisions and what else
6. a trial jury of between 6 and 12 persons



Plantersville Daycare and Clerk Staggers



Learning Plus Childcare and Judge Matthews



Learning Plus Childcare and Clerk Staggers



Learning Plus Childcare and Treasurer Cooper



Learning Plus Childcare and Mrs. Kinder
(Tax Assessors)



Loretta Hart and Camp "Son" Shine, Charleston, SC



Loretta Hart and Camp "Son" Shine, Charleston, SC

TOURS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

The Clerk spare-headed the 1st Annual Williamsburg County Government Back-to-School Supply Giveaway on August 15, 2013. Donations were received from county council, department heads, employees, attorneys, judges and local business' to make this a success. We were able to serve over 300 students. Thanks again to all who supported this cause.



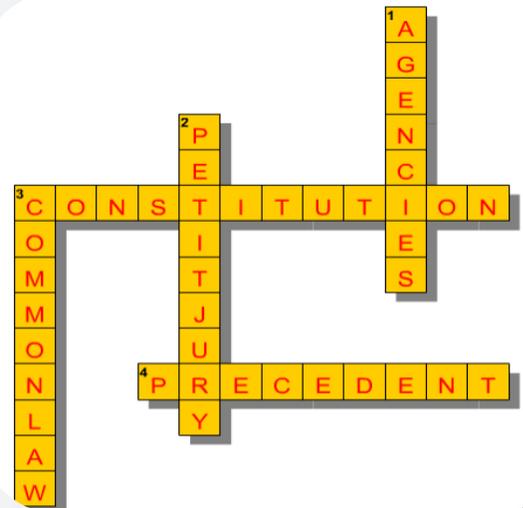
IN MEMORY OF.....

Evelyn Vereen Wilson, a dedicated clerk who passed away on February 9, 2013.



Answer Key

- 1) 3
- 2) Supreme Court
- 3) 9
- 4) Brown v. Board of Education
- 5) Interpret the law
- 6) FALSE
- 7) 1789
- 8) William H. Rehnquist
- 9) 6
- 10) Conodoguinet v. Taylor



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CLERK OF COURT
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NOT PRODUCED AT TAX PAYER'S EXPENSE