

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
WESTERN DIVISION

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT, PLAINTIFF

4:82-CV-00866-WRW/JTR
PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 1, et al., DEFENDANTS

MRS. LORENE JOSHUA, et al. INTERVENORS

KATHERINE KNIGHT, et al. INTERVENORS
RECUSAL ORDER

The United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit earlier today affirmed the Order of February 23, 2007, in which I declared the Little Rock School District unitary.

United States Magistrate Judge Joe Thomas Ray¹ and I have worked on this case for over seven years.² That is very close to the length of time my two predecessors each worked on this case before they recused. We have previously advised Chief Judge J. Leon Holmes that we would take this step, once the Eighth Circuit ruled, regardless of the outcome.

Judge Ray and I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Judge Andree Roaf who came out of retirement to become the Director of the Office of Desegregation Monitoring -- a difficult job, but an extremely important one. Judge Roaf was an outstanding jurist on the Arkansas Court of Appeals and Arkansas Supreme Court, and she has brought her many talents and strong work ethic to this position.

¹I once again commend Judge Ray for his prodigious efforts in this case, both in terms of hard, detailed work, and cerebration.

²Together, we were assigned this case on January 3, 2002. Doc. No. 3570.

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As we recuse, Judge Ray and I extend our best wishes to the lawyers and parties, and especially to the children of the three school districts.
IT IS SO ORDERED this 2nd day of April, 2009.

/s/ Wm. R. Wilson, Jr. _____
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE