



Volume 34

Issue 4 *The Ben J. Altheimer Symposium:
eConflicts Resolved: Evaluations of Legal Solutions to
Information-Age Conflicts*

Article 1

2012

A Foreword – The 2012 Ben J. Altheimer Symposium

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Recommended Citation

Caleb J. Norris, *A Foreword – The 2012 Ben J. Altheimer Symposium*, 34 U. ARK. LITTLE ROCK L. REV. (2012).
Available at: <http://lawrepository.ualr.edu/lawreview/vol34/iss4/1>

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A FOREWORD—THE 2012 BEN J. ALTHEIMER SYMPOSIUM

The Ben J. Alzheimer Symposium¹ is the law school's signature scholarly conference to promote discussion of, and scholarship on, a chosen topic. This year, in order to address two timely, yet different legal issues, the *University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law Review* hosted both an oral symposium and a paper symposium. The oral symposium—*Exploring Evidence: Lessons from the “West Memphis Three” Trials*—took place at the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law on April 18, 2012. The paper symposium—*eConflicts Resolved: Evaluations of Legal Solutions to Information-Age Conflicts*—is published in this issue of the UALR Law Review (Volume 34.4).

Nearly 350 attorneys, judges, academics, and students attended the *Exploring Evidence* oral symposium, which explored various evidentiary issues through the narrative of the West Memphis Three trials. In the first session of the day, Bowen's own **Associate Dean A. Felicia Epps** moderated a panel titled, “An Introduction to the Evidentiary Issues in the ‘West Memphis Three’ trials.” The panelists included **Patrick J. Benca** of the law firm Benca & Benca; **Scott Ellington**, Prosecuting Attorney for the Second Judicial District in Arkansas; **J. Blake Hendrix** of the Law Office of J. Blake Hendrix; **Mara Leveritt**, journalist and author; and the **Honorable Dan Stidham**, Green County District Court Judge. The second session of the day spotlighted **Professor Michael Johnson** of UALR Law. He presented on the “Laws and Procedures Governing the Use of Expert Testimony and Scientific Evidence.”

In the afternoon, **Dr. James Michael Lampinen**, Director of the University of Arkansas's Law and Psychology Lab, presented “The Science of False Confessions.” Next, **Professor J. Thomas Sullivan** of UALR Law spoke on “The Duty to Disclose Scientific Evidence and Expert Opinion.” Finally, **David J. Sachar**, Deputy Executive Director of Arkansas's Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission, concluded the symposium with his presentation titled “Judicial Ethics: Canons, Complaints, and Consequences.”

It was an amazing honor to host such an impactful, practical symposium at Bowen. It is my goal, and our intention, that the information imparted

1. The Ben J. Alzheimer Foundation initially endowed the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law in 1978 to fund the Ben J. Alzheimer Symposium, an annual forum hosted by the UALR Law Review for prominent speakers and timely, relevant legal issues. For more information about the Symposium Series see <http://ualr.edu/lawreview/home/symposium-series/>.

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and the knowledge gained from the Symposium will be useful to protect truth and ensure justice by prosecutors and defense attorneys alike. The UALR Law Review Editorial Board would like to thank all of the speakers, attendees, Bowen staff, and Law Review members who helped make the oral symposium memorable. Additionally, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers for the *eConflicts* paper symposium.

Caleb J. Norris²
Symposium Editor 2011-12

2. J.D., Conferred May 2012. He would like to thank the 2011-12 UALR Law Review Editorial Board and Professor Sullivan for their tremendous support with the symposium.