



**James E. Crouch**

Jim Crouch has devoted much of his time volunteering in pro bono cases over almost the past three decades. In addition to having a high success rate with the cases referred to him by the Washington County Bar Association's Equal Access to Justice Panel, Jim works with the Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly. He works with nursing home residents and is willing to represent them, even when

their cases may be a challenge. He helps the infirm, the elderly and the terminally ill as well as his usual pro bono work.

"In addition to his many volunteer activities, Jim is also a heck of a nice guy who never toots his own horn and who is very deserving of recognition by this organization," said his nominator.

Jim also volunteers a great deal in his community. He is chairman of the Board of the Springdale Public Facilities Board and serves on the Board of Directors of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Arkoma. He has served as President of the Arts Center of the Ozarks, the Springdale Chamber of Commerce and the Springdale Rotary Club. Jim also served as Chairman of the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County and he has been on the Boards of Directors of the Springdale Memorial Hospital and the United Way of Springdale.

Jim is a partner in the law firm started by his father, which is now known as Cypert, Crouch, Clark and Harwell, PLLC. He has served on the Arkansas Bar Association House of Delegates, on the Board of the Arkansas Bar Foundation, and as Co-Chairperson of the Arkansas Bar Commission on Diversity. He has served on various bar sections and committees, including chairing the Business Law Section. He has served for years on the Third District Trial Practice Seminar Committee.

He is a member of the American Bar Association and a graduate of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. He holds membership in the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel. Jim has been married to Cathy (formerly Monroe) for 38 years, and they have raised four children, Matthew, Elizabeth, John and Mary Catherine. Jim is active in the St. Raphael Catholic Church, serving as past chair of the Parish Council and past chair of the Stewardship Committee and he has taught religious education classes and worked with the youth.

Jim graduated from Springdale High School in 1970 and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business and Economics from Hendrix College in 1974. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law Fayetteville in 1977 and served as Associate Editor of the Arkansas Law Review.



**Ruthanne Murphy**

Ruthanne Murphy, a lawyer and registered nurse, spends a great deal of her time and energy helping feed and house the homeless.

"The amazing thing about Ruthanne is her ability to round up volunteers who will happily give of their money, their time, their talents, their sweat, their clothes, their food, and pretty much anything else that Ruthanne asks of them," said her nominator. "She does not look

for accolades—she simply has a spirit of giving and of helping, and expects the same of her friends."

Ruthanne fell in love with being a caretaker at the age of 14 when she became a volunteer at the small hospital in her hometown of Greensburg, Kansas. She is a graduate of Wesley School of Nursing, College of St. Francis, and the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law. Ruthanne has always had a strong love of the mission work done by her church family, St. James United Methodist Church.

On May 4, 2007, the small town of Greensburg was wiped off the face of the Kansas prairie by an EF 5 tornado. Ruthanne and husband Jim have made countless trips to this little town to help clean up and rebuild. Watching the entire country pour love and money into this little community was overwhelming. Jim and Ruthanne felt it was imperative that they do something to give back to their community in Little Rock.

Twice a month, Ruthanne and Jim lead a group of volunteers from their church to feed close to 100 hungry people under the Broadway Bridge. Soon they decided it wasn't enough, and began working with a charity called "A Family Called Us." Ruthanne is on their Board of Directors. Most recently through the warming shelter this last winter, a group of friends joined together to form "Rock of Hope" which is a group buying up run down houses and rehabilitating them. Four homeless people are placed in these houses, helped to find employment and may stay there for up to 18 months to help them put their lives back on track. They are taught interviewing skills, money management, and supported on their individual road to strength and recovery by their "Champion." Ruthanne also sits on the Board of Rock of Hope, the Boards of Trustees and Missions for her church, and the Board of Governors for the Arkansas Trial Lawyers.

Ruthanne practices law with Darryl Baker and Gerry Schulze. Husband Jim Garrett retired and now has a full time job overseeing the revision of the "Rock of Hope" houses. Ruthanne's daughters Sarah and Rachel Murphy are active members of these mission works along with their mother. The Murphy-Garretts also have a son in Houston and a daughter in Topeka, Kansas, as well as three beautiful grandchildren.

Awards are presented bi-annually by the Association to attorneys and judges who have performed volunteer public services out of a sense of duty, professionalism, and a genuine desire to give back to the community. Recipients are selected by the Public Information/Findalawyer Committee after considering the nominations received by the deadline. Any person may nominate a lawyer or judge by completing the Nomination Form and turning the Form into the Arkansas Bar Association office on or before the nomination deadline. Nomination deadlines are January 31st and July 31st of each year. Nomination forms and guidelines for the award are available at [www.arkbar.com](http://www.arkbar.com) or by contacting the Association.