



# arkansasinc.

Spring 2015

## Director's Message Kevin Niehaus, BCS Director

Successful Arkansas businessman Sam Walton said, "The goal as a company is to have customer service that is not just the best but legendary." As director of the Business and Commercial Services Division (BCS), I believe Sam Walton's philosophy should also be the goal of government operations.

Looking back at 2014, BCS set many lofty goals focused on achieving higher levels of customer service for our constituents, such as: a user friendly interface for entrepreneurs wishing to start an Arkansas business with the Dream It Do It portal, and increasing communication and transparency with the quarterly publication of Arkansas Inc., to name just a few.

Looking ahead to 2015 and beyond, it is my mission to ensure we not only continue to build on our previously set goals, but to exceed them, and more importantly, exceed your expectations with a philosophy of constituent-centric service.

During this legislative session, we are proposing a number of items focused on making Arkansas a more business friendly environment. These proposed changes are a result of input from you, our constituents. Whether you are the business leader, the consumer, the prospective entrepreneur, or a public official, we are here to work on your behalf.

I realize that visiting the Secretary of State's Office in Little Rock in person is not always conducive to your busy schedule and this is why we are constantly working to increase the amount of services we offer online 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Our leadership team shares the vision for high levels of customer service, and we want to hear your feedback concerning your experiences with our office. Please feel free to contact us any time at [BCSCustomerService@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:BCSCustomerService@sos.arkansas.gov).

As referenced in earlier editions of Arkansas Inc., while we are proud of the national recognition we've received for our services, our ultimate goal is to win the goodwill and trust of the people we serve.

## The Secretary's Minute New term – new year, lets talk about Modern Government

*Mark Martin*

ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

Now that the winter weather is behind us, we can begin to enjoy the Capitol in the Spring. Only three months into the year and my office has been working around the clock implementing taxpayer saving innovations in our services and facilities, traveling across the state on business and elections work, and exploring new ways we can improve the services we offer to all Arkansans.

Now, in my second term as Arkansas's Secretary of State, I want to highlight my vision that builds on the foundations of what we started in my first term. **My philosophy for the Office of Secretary of State has been clear since the beginning – How can we improve services, lower costs, and modernize government in a way that reflects a growing and diverse economy?** Looking at this issue of Arkansas Inc., it's easy to see how we are delivering on that promise.

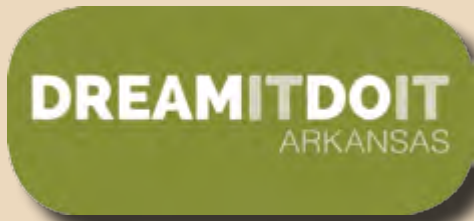
Let's start with our new eNotary service, which we are able to implement without additional tax dollars. This service will not only reflect an improvement in business operations across Arkansas, but also demonstrates how government can create a better and friendlier environment for businesses. eNotary will save taxpayers money and streamline government services; we are already hearing from businesses across The Natural State that this will lower their costs, which is a real win for consumers and taxpayers.

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We are also happy to share our website, [www.dreamitdoitarkansas.com](http://www.dreamitdoitarkansas.com), which is an online portal for those looking to start a business but may have trouble navigating state government. With a few minutes of their time, we can simplify the process of starting a business in Arkansas. As we continue to improve that service, it will become a bigger asset to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Speaking of entrepreneurs in Arkansas. I'm excited to share with you a little bit about Anna Taylor, the founder of Judith & James. She's a serious fashion designer with a big heart – and a mission to do more than make clothes. Check out the feature on Judith & James, our Arkansas Business to Watch.



Dream It Do It Arkansas is a service of the Arkansas Secretary of State to help guide aspiring entrepreneurs through the steps of forming a business. By answering five simple questions, the contacts and resources specific to your area are provided as a tool to streamline interactions between the entrepreneur and various government agencies involved in setting up a business. Visit the Dream It Do It Arkansas website at [www.dreamitdoitarkansas.com](http://www.dreamitdoitarkansas.com) to find the resources you need to make your dream business come to life!

1

#### STARTING YOUR BUSINESS

- Business Plan
- Financing
- State Obligations
- County Obligations

2

#### OPENING YOUR BUSINESS

- LLC
- Corporations
- Non Profit Corporations
- Partnerships

3

#### OPERATING YOUR BUSINESS

- Municipal Code
- Local Permits
- State Permits

4

#### OBTAINING INSURANCE

- Business Insurance
- Worker's Compensation

5

#### FILING YOUR BUSINESS TAXES

- Arkansas Dept. of Finance and Administration
- Federal Employer ID Number

6

#### EMPLOYEES

- Employee Verification
- Department of Finance and Administration
- United States Internal Revenue Service

## BCS Reaching Out

The Secretary of State's Division of Business and Commercial Services (BCS) continues to increase its availability to our constituents. While we have developed plans to enhance our connections with you through our website and social media, we desire to increase our person-to-person contact as well.

To that end, the Secretary's outreach team will make themselves available to more Arkansans by increasing participation in various local and regional business events across the state. The outreach team is a fixture at many functions such as business expos, annual award banquets, networking lunches, and local area chamber events.

The outreach team will support Secretary Martin's economic growth initiatives by exhibiting and providing helpful information about BCS services at Chamber of

Commerce events, the Arkansas Governor's Conference on Parks and Tourism, the Arkansas Hospitality Association's Convention and Tradeshow, the Arkansas Municipal League Annual Convention, and the Arkansas Rural Development Conference. As an exhibitor at these community events, our team can provide face-to-face answers to many of your common questions concerning doing business in Arkansas.

If you are unable to visit with an outreach representative in person at a public event, or if it is inconvenient for you to make a trip to our Little Rock offices, our publications and informational materials are available at many of the local chambers of commerce and county seats of government.

We look forward to meeting with you!



# Arkansas Business To Watch: *Judith & James*

If you haven't heard of Little Rock based clothing and jewelry company Judith & James – YOU WILL! Judith & James is Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin's featured Arkansas Business to Watch.

Meet Little Rock native Anna Taylor. This locally grown entrepreneur is the CEO of Judith & James, at the age of 23, she's already becoming a household name in the international fashion community. Anna is among the elite fashion designers showcased on runways in New York, Los Angeles, Dubai, and London. This March, her designer jewelry and handbags will make their debut in Dillard's Department Stores throughout the United States. Currently, you can find her clothing collection in boutiques across the South.

The story behind Judith and James is part of an emerging movement in the business world known as 'double bottom line', where the definition of success includes a focus on making the world a better place while still generating a profit. That's what makes Judith & James our Arkansas Business to Watch.

The assistance Judith & James gets from private sector collaboration with female executives and business leaders across Arkansas highlights the passion and cooperation that truly defines who we are as Arkansans.

These volunteers have joined to empower Anna to make a positive difference in the world.

"Anna Taylor has a remarkably bright future. She has built her business around the alleviation of poverty and the empowerment of women globally. Not only is she building a stellar reputation in fashion, she is showing the true spirit of Arkansas and American entrepreneurship – one of helping others and growing a business," stated Secretary of State Mark Martin.

## Story behind Judith & James

Anna's Judith & James slogan says it all: "Led by love. Pursued by Joy. Inspired by Hope."



Judith & James was founded in 2012, based around James 1:27, a Bible verse compelling us to care for widows and orphans. Anna experienced the disparity of widows and orphans first hand when she was just 16 years old, after her family moved to Nairobi, Kenya to enter the mission field.

Today, the Judith & James clothing line is produced by graduates of her non-profit James 127 Foundation. The Foundation focuses on empowering women from war-torn and poverty stricken Kenya: arming them with a sewing machine, skills, and the confidence to use them. Her plan is to help educate impoverished women and train them to become professional tailors at no cost, and then hire them to produce her designs marketing them to generate an annual income for each seamstress. She works side by side with her seamstresses, pouring training and love into each stitch.

We are excited for the future of Judith & James and look forward to what's to come from this young Arkansas entrepreneur. You can find out more about this up & coming fashion designer from a PBS documentary slated to air in 2015.

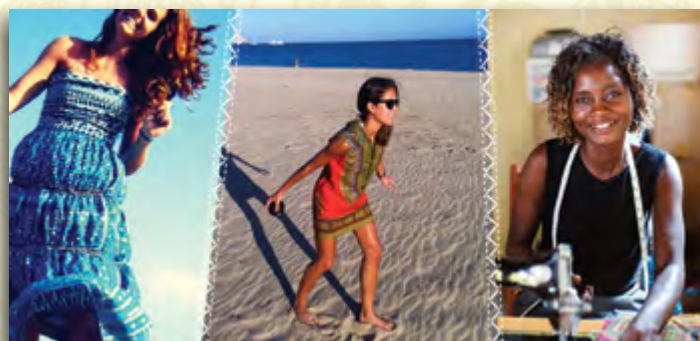
Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin hopes to encourage business owners by sharing stories like Judith & James, motivating them to work together to achieve success.



Judith (left) and Anna Taylor. Judith was the first seamstress trained by the James 127 Foundation and employed by Judith and James.



JUDITH + JAMES



**Note:** This article is part of an ongoing series featuring up and coming Arkansas businesses and business leaders.





SECRETARY OF STATE  
**MARK MARTIN**

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Use a mobile QR app to scan  
this code and order certificates  
of good standing or search  
entities *on the go!*

## 2015 Annual Franchise Tax *File Electronically Today*

### *Deadline: May 1, 2015*

Prepare and update your 2015 franchise tax report online at

**[www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS)**

**NOTE:** Revoked entities continue to accrue franchise taxes annually until the business is formally dissolved/withdrawn. Nonprofit corporations are not subject to state franchise tax.

**Arkansas Secretary of State  
Business and Commercial Services Division  
Phone: 501.682.3409 • Toll Free: 888.233.0325  
Web: [www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/BCS)**

\*Contact Business and Commercial Services Division  
for forms to file by mail.

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**Mark Martin**  
Secretary of State