



Budget Update

By Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Court Administrator

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The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations and Community Outreach Department. The newsletter is also available on the Court's Intranet site at:
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If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to:
karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

"Committed to the Timely, Fair and Impartial Administration of Justice."



In accordance with the directive from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, we have provided the County Office of Management & Budget with 5, 10 and 15 percent budget reduction scenarios. Our scenarios were developed with input from judges, commissioners and staff. The scenarios are targeted to minimize any disruption in the ability of Court personnel to fulfill our mandated judicial branch functions.



Part of our budget strategy included an evaluation of court generated revenues and the fees currently charged to litigants. We are proposing increased or new user fees for self service center forms, post dissolution family court services and a probation services surcharge (for adult and juvenile probation).

Another element of our budget strategy is to identify vacant positions and to "intelligently" freeze some of these posts. We are seeking exemptions from the freeze for critical positions.

If the court is ultimately subject to deep budget cuts, it will become increasingly difficult to exclude actions such as a "reduction in force" or mandatory days off without pay, e.g., unpaid furlough days. These general "what if" scenarios are included in our county budget submission, with the understanding that Presiding Judge Mundell retains the discretion to prioritize and determine the final budget plan when the County has a firm grasp of the actual budget reduction level. Reductions in force are a last resort measure. We will only implement any staffing reduction after the Court has exhausted all other options, and with significant advance notice to court staff.

Our thanks to all of the judicial officers and staff who have offered suggestions regarding the fiscal crisis. Your ideas and comments are much appreciated.

Message From the Presiding Judge



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge

Superior Court is seeking to reinstitute the way it summons jurors for trial service that will be efficient - but also convenient - for Maricopa County residents who qualify to serve. Our main focus is to deliver fair justice to all, and jurors are a critical component to achieve that goal.

In addition, we anticipate the jury summons change can accomplish Goal 4 in the "Good to Great" Strategic Plan for the Arizona Judicial Department. This goal notes that "courts must continue to improve jury management systems and selection procedures." As we accomplish this, we hope to go a step further by providing a more convenient experience for many of our jurors.

The "proximity weighted summoning" (PWS), is our preferred method of calling jurors to service. This method allows courts to use a juror's ZIP code as a way of helping to increase the chance the juror may serve at the court facility closest to his or her residence. While most jurors will be summoned using their ZIP code as a tool to have them report close to home, some jurors will also be called from throughout the county to assure juries fairly represent a cross-section of the community.

This is the method that was implemented in 2004, when additional, regional court facilities were built around Maricopa County for residents' convenience. The decentralization of courts without adjusting for jurors who live in the outlying areas can cause difficulty in traveling to the courthouses furthest from their residence.

In fact, Maricopa County now has four Superior Court regional locations. The court serves a population that outnumbers several states. The county covers 9,226 square miles, stretching 132 miles east to west and 103 miles north to south. That's larger than seven states. And it means that jurors could be traveling long distances to serve the court.

The tremendous distance from outlying areas often burdens citizens called for jury duty, increases costs for juror mileage reimbursement and adds to air pollution and waste of fuel.

The Court has sought and continues to seek the assistance of national experts to ensure that we comply with the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions, statutes and case law, guaranteeing a fair trial and equal justice for everyone.

During its 2007 session, the state legislature amended provisions in the statute that establishes jury selection processes to allow superior courts to use the proximity weighted summoning system of calling residents for jury service.

Superior Court is prepared to re-implement the method of summoning jurors that prioritizes citizen convenience. Public input has been solicited from a variety of stakeholders, including bar association executives, lawyers, national associations and others. Comments were accepted through Feb. 18, as required by Arizona Supreme Court procedures, before submitting the proposal to the Chief Justice for approval.

It is anticipated that the proximity weighted summoning of juries can be re-implemented seamlessly, returning to a method that Superior Court officials support because of its benefits to the community, beyond convenience to the public.

We're also insuring that every potential juror has the opportunity to serve as a juror. And we're demonstrating and promoting mutual respect between the court and members of the community, as well as being accountable by seeking ways to improve all aspects of the judicial system.

Research Tip of the Month

Finding an Attorney

When dealing with self-represented litigants, court staff often need to refer those litigants to an attorney for legal advice. But, for the litigant, directing them to seek legal advice begs the question as to how they can find an attorney. Here are some useful referral resources that the Law Library uses in those instances.

If the litigant is able to afford an attorney, there are many options available to them. The State Bar of Arizona offers a lawyer directory online (www.azbar.org). A helpful function of this resource is that the directory allows users to limit their search to attorneys in certain areas of specialty. Another resource for locating attorneys by area of practice within Arizona is the website www.martindale.com.

Most likely, the litigant will need a low-cost option though. Two excellent low cost referral resources are the Maricopa County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service or the Self-Service Center's Attorney Roster. The MCBA Lawyer Referral Service offers a half hour consultation for a \$35 fee. To learn more about this service, see www.maricopabar.org. The Self-Service Center Attorney Roster is a listing of Phoenix area attorneys who have agreed to unbundle their services and offer limited scope representation for an hourly fee, which varies from attorney to attorney. The Attorney Roster is available online at the Self-Service Center website.

If free legal assistance is the litigant's only option, one possible resource is Community Legal Services at 602-258-3434. If the litigant has questions about a Family Court matter, another resource is the Family Lawyers Assistance Project ("FLAP"). For more information on FLAP, contact their office at 602-506-7948. FLAP flyers can be provided to your department upon request.

If the litigant needs additional attorney referral resources, the Law Library has extensive listings of other legal aid services throughout Arizona and may be able to direct him or her to a service that can help. Litigants can access the library in the East Court Building, by telephone at 602-506-3461, or by email at: services@scil.maricopa.gov

Submitted by Jennifer Murray
Law Library

Adult Probation Winter Training



(Left to Right) Chief Barbara Broderick is shown with CNMI Chief Probation Officer Ursula Lifoifoi Aldan, and Presentence Director Simram Simram during their tour of Maricopa County Adult Probation's Administrative Office.

Probation Chief Ursula Lifoifoi Aldan and Presentence Director Simram Simram literally boarded a flight thousands of miles away and crossed the International Dateline to attend the 2008 American Probation and Parole Association Winter Training, February 10-13, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona.

This year's APPA Training/Convention attracted participants from as far away as the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

After the APPA training sessions, both Aldan and Simram met with members of Maricopa County Adult Probation Department's Executive Team to learn more about Adult Probation Enterprise Tracking System, Evidence Based Practices, and Managing For Results, which they hope to incorporate in their Probation Department back in Saipan, CNMI.

Grand Openings

CCB Second Floor Remodel is Finished

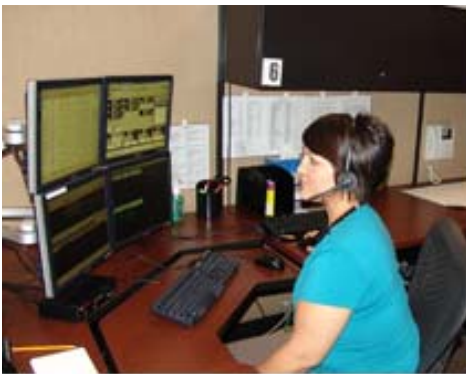
Criminal Court Administration and Court Security Department Administration have moved into the recently-remodeled second floor of Central Court Building (CCB).

Both departments were previously located in the basement of the CCB.

Demolition and construction of the new Regional Court Center courtrooms and associated functions in the basement of CCB is underway. This project is expected to be completed at the beginning of next year.



Adult Probation Opens Communication Center



Recently, the Adult Probation Department hosted an open house to showcase the improvements made to its Communication Center located at the Juvenile Probation Building, 3125 W. Durango.

The functionality of the APD Communication Center has greatly improved and is ever evolving to accommodate the continuing needs of the department. The center expanded its operation from six to 11 workstations and upgraded its computer software. Through technological advancements, the Communication Center has greatly improved its ability to assist and serve the safety needs of dedicated probation officers.



New Judge Q and A: Hugh Hegyi

Judges who have joined the bench over the past several months are being featured in a question-and-answer feature that runs regularly in the Judicial Branch News. Judge Hugh Hegyi, assigned to Family Court downtown, was a Superior Court Commissioner for four years immediately prior to becoming a judge.



Hugh Hegyi

Q. You served as a court commissioner for four years before you were appointed to be a judge. What are you experiencing as a judge that you didn't experience while serving as a commissioner? Were there many surprises? Please explain.

I was a Family Court commissioner most of my four years, and I'm now a Family Court judge, so the biggest difference is that I get to see much more of the picture for each of our families. As a Family Court commissioner you get to be really good at handling a number of different things, including child support and domestic violence. But you can only help litigants through some of their problems. It's nice to be able to bring all issues in a dispute to a final conclusion – at least until the next petition is filed.

Were there many surprises? No. As with most jobs I've had, most difficult situations you face as a judge pretty quickly sort themselves into a recurring series of patterns.

Q. In addition to your appointment, three other Superior Court Commissioners have been appointed to judgeships. Each of you succeeded in your quest to become judges, but the appointments followed numerous applications. What was that experience like? What motivated you to continue to reapply without giving up?

It's no secret that the process is grueling. But it was also rewarding. It forces you to look at yourself and think about what you've done with your life, and to figure out what you want to do with the rest of your career. It requires you to think about cases and projects you haven't thought of in years. And it makes you get back in touch with old friends you haven't talked with in decades. It forces you to reach out to new friends and acquaintances.

Why not give up? It required reading a lot of tea leaves, but from very early in the process I thought I was getting positive signals, both from the Governor's Office and the Nominating Commission members. Absent that, I'd have to say, I'd have stopped applying. There were, and still are, a lot of things I wanted to accomplish before I retire, and you just don't have time for them when you're in the process.

Q. What's the best suggestion you have for anyone else seeking a judicial appointment?

Use the law to do something important for our community, whatever you think that is. It's a great privilege to be a lawyer. You can do things most other members of our community can't. So do something worthwhile with that capability. If that gives you the background and support you need to apply to become a judge, so much the better. If not, you'll have done the right thing.

Q. What is the best job you ever had? Why?

Being a judge is pretty close to the best. I've had a lot of jobs I liked a lot. As a kid growing up in Germany I was actually paid to perform in a couple of professional plays, and the summer before college I taught water skiing at a summer camp in upstate New York and built houses outside Americus, Georgia for the organization that later became Habitat for Humanity.

But my favorite job was probably working as a U.S. Senate staffer between college and law school. Being at the center of the nation's political life, playing a (very) small role in that process, and seeing the political giants of the day wandering unaccompanied through the hallways was pretty heady stuff for a 22 year old.

CTS: New Developments

In Custody Daily Calendar Feeds

By Ken Troxel, CTS Applications Director

A new data exchange went into production in February, 2008. The data exchange relieves labor intensive process that the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and the Superior Court currently endure to assure the accurate identification of in custody defendants for Superior Court hearings.

Prior to this exchange, substantial resources were committed to the development of the master movement list for the transportation of inmates to Superior Court hearings. On a daily basis, four full time MCSO staff completed a process of comparing all of the court calendars (hard copy) with the master movement log for transport of inmates to scheduled hearings for the following day.

Some benefits of the new exchange are:

- Significantly reduced current staff resources dedicated by MCSO for the Daily Calendar process
- Reduced the numbers of court hearings continued due to the inmate not being available, and provided resource savings for all criminal justice and judicial staff required to staff the hearings
- Increased officer safety by reducing unnecessary transport of individuals
- The exchange improves the overall identifiers, which increases the accuracy of information passed among law enforcement agencies
- Elimination of redundant data entry
- Elimination of emailing daily judicial calendars
- Increased officer safety with reduction of unnecessary transports
- Increased tracking and reporting for in custody and case processing

Q and A - continued from page 5

Q. What's your favorite quote? (This can be something poignant, or something you tell your friends that makes them roll their eyes, or just a great quote seared into your memory).

It changes frequently, but, right now it's, "Let today's troubles be sufficient for today." It seems to put a lot of things in the proper perspective in Family Court. A million awful things might happen someday to the families we see, and we're all going to hope and pray they don't. But right now we need to take care of what we can take care of today.

Q. If you had a day to spend doing only what you want to do - how would you spend it?

Get my friends and family together in Flagstaff for the day to hike, play music, read, and just be together.

Q. What goal haven't you yet reached?

Lots of little ones. I think we change the world for the better one project at a time, one person at a time, one case at a time. I'd like to be more patient, more understanding, a better listener, more helpful to my litigants, more articulate, more insightful, and a better husband, father, son, brother, and friend. I'd like to learn Spanish, learn to play the hammered dulcimer and the cello, read lots of books, take lots of hikes, travel more of the world, and someday I'd like to run a half marathon at an 8 minute mile pace. But I don't think that's likely – the eight minute mile pace, I mean.

Mental Health Court Highlights from 2007

Mission Statement

Judicial officers, criminal justice officials and mental health professionals developed a new mission statement for the Comprehensive Mental Health Court (CMHC).

“Integrating community resources to meet the unique needs of persons with mental illness in the court system, thereby enhancing community safety.”

CMHC Training

The Judicial Branch Training Department in cooperation with Triple R Behavioral Health, presented the first on-site training for judicial officers and staff called “Hearing Voices That Are Disturbing.” The program simulates auditory hallucinations for program participants. Using a portable listening device with headphones, the participants engaged in several routine activities to experience similar symptoms of the seriously mentally ill.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) sponsored a training entitled “Legal Competency and Restoration for Mental Health Experts.” This program was designed for Arizona physicians and psychologists with forensic experience who seek to become court-approved evaluators in criminal and juvenile cases.

Superior Court Commissioner Michael Hintze and the Maricopa County Correctional Health Services (CHS) presented Enhancing Patient Advocacy, Clinical Care & Court Interventions – A Correctional Health Liaison Program at the National Conference on Correctional Health Care in Tennessee. The Court emphasized that the medical and mental health of in-custody defendants can significantly affect the court’s abilities to process cases.

Commissioners Michael Hintze and Barbara Spencer and the CMHC Court Coordinator, Christine Lopez presented training on “Dealing with Difficult People” at the Judicial Staff Conference in Flagstaff and locally for AOC.

Outreach

CMHC participated in AOC’s “Guilty Except Insane” Training Summit to provide an overview of Arizona’s statutes and case law.

Judge Yoshinori Niwa from Japan and Madame Justice Bonnie L. Rawlins from the Court of Queen’s Bench of Calgary Alberta, Canada were visiting Maricopa County Superior Court and observed CMHC daily calendars.

Twenty-three clinical directors from Magellan Health Services were invited to attend court and learn about the role of the CMHC within the Superior Court of Maricopa County.



***Probate/Mental Health
Presiding Judge Karen
O'Connor.***

Superior Court Commissioners

Court Celebrates New Commissioners



Top Row (Left) - Commissioner Jeffrey Rueter robed by his children. (Right) - Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell delivers the oath of office to Richard Albrecht. **Middle Row** - (Left) Commissioner Patricia Arnold sworn-in. (Right) Commissioner Jerry Bernstein robed by his family. **Bottom Row** - Jacki Ireland shares a moment with her family following her robing. (Right) Keelan Bodow being sworn-in.

Superior Court Commissioners, who have joined the court during the past few months, were honored during an investiture ceremony in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium on March 20.

Presiding Superior Court Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell appointed the six commissioners and administered their oaths of office during the ceremony. The new commissioners are Richard Albrecht, Patricia Arnold, Jerry Bernstein, Keelan S. Bodow, Jacki L. Ireland and Jeffrey Rueter. Commissioners Albrecht, Arnold, Bernstein and Ireland are assigned to Initial Appearance Court, while Commissioner Bodow is assigned to Family Court and Commissioner Rueter is assigned to a Juvenile Court calendar.

New Commissioner Appointed



Christine Mulleneaux
Commissioner

Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell appointed Christine Mulleneaux as the newest commissioner to sit on the Superior Court bench.

Mulleneaux, a private attorney whose work primarily centers around juvenile law, begins her work with the court on March 26. She also served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Fraud Division, and as a Deputy County Attorney in Pinal and La Paz Counties.

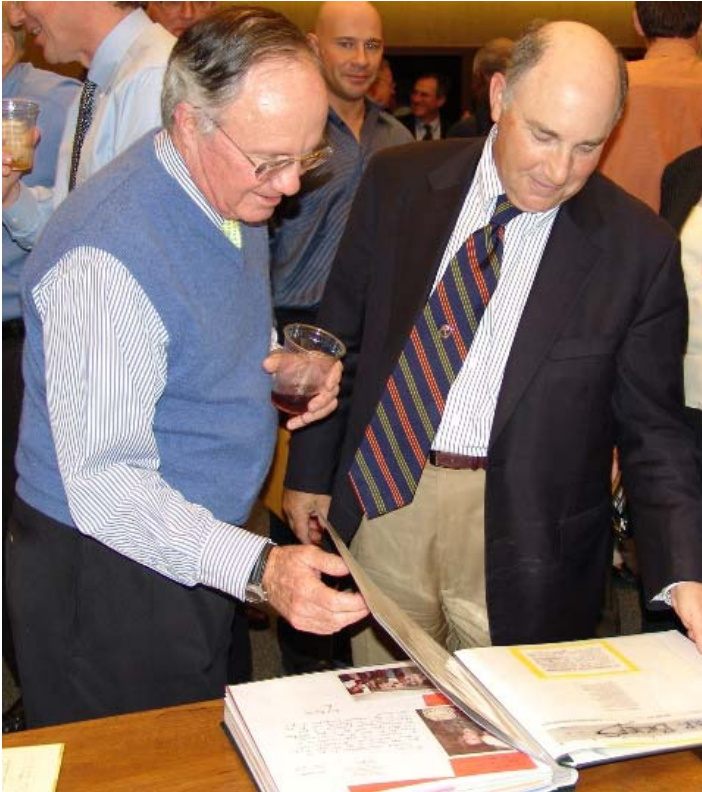
She will assume Judge Edward Bassett's Early Disposition Court calendar downtown.

Mulleneaux is a graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University.

She is a native of Brighton, Michigan and moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1996.

Courtside

Photo Highlights



Top - Judge Thomas O'Toole (left) and Retired Judge Barry Schneider read Judge O'Toole's press clippings during his retirement party. Judge O'Toole's retirement is effective March 28.

Bottom left - General Jurisdiction Courts Administrator Phil Knox awards Judith Bushong a plaque at her retirement party. Bushong retired with 30 years of court service.

Bottom right - Presiding Family Court Judge Colleen McNally hands out beads during the 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast. The event was hosted by Superior Court Judges Edward Burke, Karen O'Connor, Timothy Ryan and Christopher Whitten and Deputy Court Administrator Hugh Gallagher.

