

## Pro Tem Judges

Pro Tem Judges are retired judges and qualified attorneys who have temporary authority to serve as Superior Court judges and preside over proceedings that may include jury trials. Pro Tem Judges often assist the court in handling court calendars of judges who are unable to be in court because of illness, emergencies, conferences or vacation.

## Jury Service

A critical piece of the justice system is the people who are willing to serve on juries. Our nation's promise of equal justice for all is embedded in a system of trial by jury. Superior Court sends more than 500,000 jury summonses to residents in Maricopa County. As caseloads continue to grow, so does the need for residents willing to serve their civic duty as a juror. The court, judges, lawyers and litigants are indebted to members of the community who unselfishly serve on jury duty to guarantee justice is served.



## Court Locations

### Central Court Building

201 W. Jefferson  
Phoenix AZ 85003  
602.506.3204

### East Court Building

101 W. Jefferson  
Phoenix AZ 85003  
602.506.3204

### West Court Building

111 S. Third Ave.  
Phoenix AZ 85003  
602.506.3204

### Old Courthouse

125 W. Washington  
Phoenix AZ 85003  
602.506.3204

### Northeast Regional Center

18380 N. 40th Street  
Phoenix AZ 85032  
602.372.7601

### Northwest Regional Center

14264 W. Tierra Buena Lane  
Surprise AZ 85374  
602.372.9400

### Southeast Court

222 E. Javelina Ave.  
Mesa AZ 85210  
602.506.2020

### Juvenile Court Centers

Durango Facility  
3131 W. Durango  
Phoenix AZ 85009  
602.506.4533

### Southeast Facility

1810 S. Lewis  
Mesa AZ 85210  
602.506.2544



# Your Superior Court



**Superior Court  
of Arizona  
Maricopa County**

## Court Services

### ▪ Case Dispute Resolution Services

Assistance for litigants to settle their disputes without a trial

### ▪ Court-Community Forums

Judges and court officials meet with the public in community gatherings to discuss court issues

### ▪ Court Interpretation and Translation Services

Professionals use native languages to help non-English speakers understand court proceedings

### ▪ Protective Order Centers

Assist individuals with obtaining orders of protection and finding resources

### ▪ Law Library

Free access to legal resources

### ▪ Self Service Center

Assistance for litigants representing themselves in non-criminal cases

### ▪ Online Public Access

[www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov)

# Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County

Courts don't belong to judges. They belong to all members of the community.

Superior Court in Maricopa County is the fifth largest trial court in the U.S., serving a population of 3.7 million residents. The Court is nationally recognized for its innovative programs created to better serve the public. Annually, approximately 163,000 cases are filed in Superior Court in Maricopa County.

Superior Court is a statewide "general jurisdiction" court with authority over:

- **Criminal** felony cases, including murder, child molestation, aggravated and sexual assault, kidnapping, armed robbery, fraud, drunk driving and drug offenses. The court enforces victims' rights, including the right to be present during proceedings, make sentencing recommendations and receive restitution.
- **Civil** disputes over property, contracts, professional malpractice and physical and financial injury of more than \$10,000 in damages.
- **Family** law including divorce, paternity, custody, child support and parenting time.
- **Juvenile** cases involving minors who break the law between the ages of 8 and 18 and children who are abused, neglected or abandoned.
- **Probate cases** matters that include appointment of guardians or conservators to handle the affairs of individuals unable to care for themselves and settling estates of deceased individuals.
- **Mental health** cases involving evaluations and court-ordered treatment of individuals

with chronic mental health issues. Civil commitment and criminal mental health hearings also are handled within this department.

- **Tax** appeals by property owners statewide who are disputing their tax bills.
- **Lower court appeals** of legal decisions made in limited jurisdiction courts including justice of the peace and municipal courts.

## Judicial Officers In the Courtroom

Superior Court cases are heard by judges and court commissioners.

Currently, there are 95 judges on the bench of Superior Court in Maricopa County. They are appointed by the governor through a merit selection process. Highly qualified attorneys apply for appointment when vacancies occur. Following public hearings, the governor appoints each new judge from a list of at least three candidates provided by a judicial nominating commission. Judges are on the ballot for retention in general elections every four years. The election schedule is staggered with about half the judges standing for retention in general elections.

Commissioners are lawyers appointed by the court's presiding judge and serve at the pleasure of the presiding judge. A selection committee reviews applications and creates a list of candidates. Commissioners handle specifically assigned cases and uncontested matters. Presently, there are approximately 60 commissioners in Superior Court.