

Message From the Presiding Judge



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge

During these tough economic times and in order to save jobs, Superior Court is eliminating some non-mandated court programs.

The latest program cuts are Night and Saturday Court at the Northeast and Juvenile Durango court locations and a few Self-Service Center locations across the Valley.

The extended hour courts began in January 2007, and have offered valuable services such as decree on demand, child support enforcement, parenting time enforcement, Title 14 guardianships, adoptions and extension hearings. Judges, commissioners and staff supporting these programs have assisted more than 22,000 litigants and attorneys and handled more than 13,000 hearings.

The extended hours at Northeast will finish in June; while, the expanded schedule at Juvenile Durango is expected to end in May.

Also in May, the Self-Service Center at the Downtown Justice Center and San Tan Regional Court Facility will cease operations.

Although we are closing some locations, Superior Court remains committed to the Self-Service Center. Our Self-Service Centers at Downtown Superior Court, Northwest Regional Court, Southeast Court and Northeast Regional Court will remain open. Also, Self-Service-Center forms will continue to be available online through eCourt (<http://ecourt.maricopa.gov/index.asp>) and at the Self-Service Center website:

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/SelfServiceCenter/Index.asp>).

The cutbacks will help save jobs and are necessary to balance the budget. It's unfortunate that these valuable and effective community programs will be eliminated. I know litigants in our County appreciated the flexibility of attending hearings after work or school and the convenience of having a Self-Service Center close to their home.

I'm very proud of the Self-Service Center. And you may remember, it was our Court that was the first in the nation to offer such a service for self-represented litigants, and, to this day, the Self-Service Center is still a model for other courts to follow.

I want to thank our judicial officers and staff who contributed their time and hard work to make these innovative programs successful. These programs, for the moment, may be gone but your efforts will always be appreciated.

Newsmakers

Arizona Supreme Court Elects New Chief Justice

Vice Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch has been elected to serve a five-year term as Chief Justice and Justice Andrew Hurwitz was elected to serve as Vice Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. Both positions become effective on July 1, 2009 following the retirement of current Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor.

Chief Justice McGregor remarked that, "I am pleased to be leaving the leadership of the Arizona Judicial Branch in the capable hands of Justices Berch and Hurwitz. I know that they, and the rest of the Court, will continue to move the court system forward."

Vice Chief Justice Berch stated that, "I am honored to have been asked to serve as Chief Justice. Although our court system faces challenges in these difficult times, we also have significant opportunities to review all aspects of the court system to ensure that we continue to provide access to justice to all. I look forward to this new role and appreciate my colleagues' support as our transition takes place."

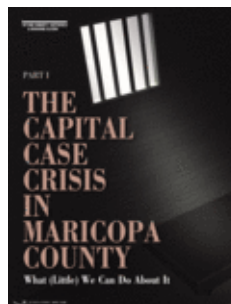
Justice Berch noted, "Justice Hurwitz will make an outstanding Vice Chief Justice. With his broad experience in government and his exceptional analytical mind, the court system will rely heavily on him in this new role."

Capital Case Crisis

Retired Judge Robert Gottsfeld recently published an article called "The Capital Case Crisis in Maricopa County." Part one of the article is featured in this month's edition of the *Arizona Attorney Magazine*.

To read the entire article on the State Bar's website, go to:

<http://www.myazbar.org/Content/AZAttorney/index.cfm?issue=103>



Judicial Rotations

During the Judicial Conference, Judge Janet Barton and Judge Rosa Mroz will swap criminal calendars.

Judge Barton will assume Judge Mroz' criminal special assignment calendar and Judge Mroz will have a regular criminal calendar. Both judges will remain in their current courtrooms.

Monica Garfinkel, from the Office of the Legal Defender, has been hired to fill the vacancy created by Commissioner Colosi's retirement.

Garfinkel will be assigned to Initial Appearance Court and assume Commissioner Christine Mulleneaux's calendar. Commissioner Mulleneaux will go to probation revocation and take Commissioner Sheila Madden's calendar; Commissioner Madden will take Commissioner Colosi's family court calendar.

Commissioner Colosi Retires

After 20 years of serving on the Superior Court bench, Commissioner Robert Colosi is retiring.

He began his career with Superior in 1989, working a criminal court calendar. During his judicial career, Commissioner Colosi has also presided over family, probate/mental health, civil and juvenile court calendars.

Commissioner Colosi has also volunteered with St. Mary's Food Bank and Valley of the Sun Big Brother and Big Sisters.

He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo and his bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts.

CCB Basement Remodel



CENTRAL COURTS BASEMENT UPDATE

March 2009

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Drywall hanging is 98% complete
- Masonry walls have been completed
- Permanent lighting is being installed
- Construction of the holding cells is complete
- Finish paint is 50% complete

MARCH FACT

Using Maxwall metal panels in the detention area instead of typically-used masonry wall saved enough floor space to fit 46 additional inmates.

SCHEDULE



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Employee Service Awards

Maricopa County Recognizes Employees for Dedicated Service

On April 13, Maricopa County presented service awards to a group of employees with more than 30 years of service. Among the group were six employees from Superior Court, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation.

Not Pictured:
Robert Bradbury
30 years
Juvenile Probation

30 Years of Service



James Keppel
Superior Court Judge

35 Years of Service



Judith Lopez
Adult Probation



Gloria Washington
Adult Probation



John McGuire
Juvenile Probation



Arlene Lamp
Judicial Assistant to Judge Edward Burke

Employee Recognition

All Rise and Applaud our Judges' Senior Bailiffs

In recent years, bailiffs throughout the Superior Court system have achieved a much higher status and a more integral role as part of the Judges' judicial team.

Several years ago, the judicial specialist position was adopted; all bailiffs after completing four continuous years as a bailiff and cross training as a judicial assistant were made judicial specialists.

Superior Court's bailiff workforce is diverse. Most bailiffs are either at the very beginning of their careers or nearing the end. Some go on to become judicial assistants or move into law school, law enforcement and beyond. Here at Superior Court, they are often the daily unsung heroes, and they all need to be commended.

Below is a small tribute to all the judicial bailiffs who work for judges who have been at Superior Court for at least nine years without a break in service.

LARRY FORTE - 20 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE THOMAS DUNEVANT III

JACK FORE - 17 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE ROBERT OBERBILLIG

CAMILLE SIMON - 14 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE CHRISTOPHER WHITTEN

HEATHER MARKING - 13 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE SAMUEL THUMMA

SUE IMPERIAL - 12 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE KENNETH MANGUM

CHERYL DYBAS - 12 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE ANDREW KLEIN

SIONE HOLA - 11 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE ROBERT MILES

LARRY MARTINEZ - 10 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE DOUGLAS RAYES

SHAWNE KEPNER - 9.5 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE WARREN GRANVILLE

IRIS PAIS - 9.0 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE RUTH HILLIARD

CHRIS LOPEZ - 9.0 YEARS SERVICE - JUDGE BRIAN HAUSER

**Submitted by Larry Martinez
Bailiff to Judge Douglas Rayes**

Court News and Notes

Adult Probation: Employees of the Year

On April 1, 2009, the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department celebrated its "Employee of the Year Awards" at the Black Canyon Building. Among family, friends, co-workers and administration, four deserving individuals received awards.

2008 Employee of the Year
Barbara Johnson

2008 Supervisor Of the Year
Karen Barnes

2008 Probation Officer Of the Year
Pete Jacarcuso

2008 Surveillance Officer Of the Year
Patricia Carey

Submitted by Jacquelyn Novak
Adult Probation

New Self-Service Center Form

The Self-Service Center is pleased to announce the release of a new Self-Service Center packet titled Discharge and/or Termination of Guardianship and/or Conservatorship of an Adult. While the SSC already had a packet to discharge the guardianship and/or conservatorship of a minor, we did not have a similar form for the discharge of the guardianship and/or conservatorship of an adult. This form may be used to obtain a court order to release a guardian or conservator from his or her duties and/or to close a guardianship and/or conservatorship case and release funds for an adult when no replacement guardian or conservator is needed.

This packet, and all other SSC packets, are available online or for purchase at any SSC. The SSC packets can be found online at the SSC website:

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/Self-ServiceCenter/index.asp>. The packets are also available for viewing or purchase at your nearest SSC location.

If you have any questions about this or other Self-Service Center packets, please email us at services@scll.maricopa.gov or contact the Self-Service Center Supervisor at your nearest court location.

Submitted by Jennifer Murray
Law Library

CASA Coordinator Featured in Publication

Later this spring, National CASA will feature Maricopa County CASA Coordinator Kristina Parks in their 2008 annual report publication that will be sent to CASAs and donors nationwide.

In her work as a CASA volunteer, Kristina Parks was part-time *Perry Mason*, part-time family counselor and full-time advocate for three children whose lives got off to a rocky start. When Parks met the children, their mother's whereabouts were unknown. She discovered that the mother was in prison, where she was serving a long sentence. Parks traveled to the prison to interview her and inquire about other relatives. In addition to attending hearings, recommending services and keeping track of the children's progress in school, she facilitated visits among the siblings before they were reunited in one foster home. She advocated for a bond assessment, which demonstrated to the judge that the children should not be separated.

In 2006, the children became available for adoption and had a loving family waiting for all of them: their foster parents. Parks helped the parents navigate an involved and overwhelming process to finally gain custody of the children in an open adoption in June of 2007. Today, the children are thriving. They are establishing a relationship with their mother as well as an aunt. Three children who could have ended up on different coasts in separate homes are now surrounded by their siblings and a host of adults who love them.

Submitted by Justine Grabowsky
CASA

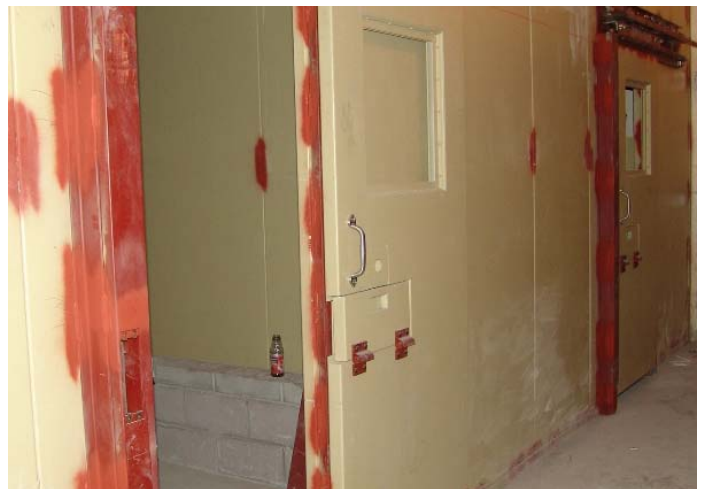
Courtside

Photo Highlights

Top Right - Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor swears in Judge David Gass during his investiture at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix. Judge Gass is presiding over a family court calendar in Mesa.



Middle Right - Superior Court builds new holding cells in the basement of the Central Court Building.



Bottom Right - (Left to right) Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer, General Jurisdiction Court Administrator Phil Knox, **Mary Smith**, Deputy Criminal Court Administrator Christopher Bleuenstein and Criminal Court Administrator Bob James at Smith's retirement celebration.

Smith was the supervisor for Criminal Administration's Information Desk. She worked for both the Court and County for more than 20 years.



Bottom Left - Designers of the new Downtown Criminal Court Tower compare concrete samples against the Old Courthouse. The color of the tower is expected to complement the Old Courthouse.

