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The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations and Community Outreach Department.

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: [karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov](mailto:karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov).

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



## Two New Departmental Presiding Judges Appointed

Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell announced the appointments of Judge Norman Davis as the new Presiding Juvenile Judge and Judge J. Richard Gama as the new Civil Presiding Judge.



*Norman Davis*

During the Judicial conference in June, Judge Davis will take over for current Presiding Juvenile Judge Eileen Willett and assume her calendar. Judge Davis will also continue his duties as the Associate Presiding Judge.

Judge Craig Blakey will take Judge Davis' juvenile calendar at Durango; and Judge Willett will take Judge Blakey's downtown civil calendar.

Also during the conference, Judge Gama will become the new Civil Presiding Judge and will take Judge Mark Aceto's downtown civil calendar. Judge Jo Lynn Gentry-Lewis will take Judge Gama's juvenile calendar at Durango. Judge Aceto will take Judge M. Jean Hoag's Southeast juvenile calendar; and Judge Hoag will take Judge Gentry-Lewis' Southeast family court calendar.

"My deep appreciation goes to Judge Willett and Judge Aceto for all of their hard work," Judge Mundell said. "Congratulations to Judge Davis and Judge Gama on their new appointments."

## Susan Brnovich Sworn In as Judge

Former Superior Court Commissioner Susan Brnovich was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge on February 17th in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

Judge Brnovich was appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano in January and is assigned to the criminal court department. She served as a court commissioner for five years, handling a variety of court assignments. During that time, she also served as a judge pro tempore.

Judge Brnovich received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Finance and Spanish as well as her Juris Doctorate and Masters of Science in Finance through a joint degree program at the University of Wisconsin.

# Message From the Presiding Judge



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell  
Presiding Judge

Judge Anna M. Baca retired last month but her work has left a lasting mark on the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County.

Judge Baca's career epitomizes the highest standards of judicial conduct. She has demonstrated courage and leadership during tough times.

In April 2007, Judge Baca agreed to accept the appointment as Presiding Criminal Judge when the Superior Court was facing a large backlog of capital cases combined with the challenges of implementing Proposition 100.

I appointed Judge Baca because of her successful term as the Presiding Civil Court Judge. During her Civil Presiding term, she implemented a highly-successful system for fast-tracking complex civil litigation.

Immediately upon appointment to her criminal leadership position, Judge Baca formed a Maricopa County Capital Case Task Force and also served on the Arizona Supreme Court's Capital Case Task Force. She created her own capital case processing electronic data system and used the data she collected to discover bottlenecks in capital cases. She drafted Administrative Orders for the appointment of mitigation masters to oversee the progress of mitigation and for a new system of managing and monitoring complex and capital cases.

Throughout her career, Judge Baca worked tirelessly on resolving cases more efficiently and effectively. In fact, just before she announced her retirement, Superior Court's criminal division launched the Master Calendar Pilot Project. For nearly two years, Judge Baca sat at the head of the table, orchestrating a project that would use a teamwork approach to help streamline cases.

After implementation of Judge Baca's reforms, the backlog is reduced, even though only one new judge has been appointed to the criminal bench.

Judge Baca also spearheaded changes to the Case Transfer system in Maricopa County. The cases are closely managed and the list of cases is now posted on a website so that it can be accessed by both judges and attorneys. Since Judge Baca took on this project, the court has improved its ability to deliver certain trial dates – a benefit to the attorneys, defendants, victims, witnesses and the public.

Since her appointment to the Superior Court in 1994, Judge Baca has been an innovative leader, taking on tough assignments and demonstrating the highest ethical standards. She was never swayed by partisan or personal interests, and always put her duties to the judiciary and the public before all others.

It was pleasure to serve alongside Judge Baca, and I wish her the best in retirement.

# Judicial Rotations

Below are the latest judicial rotations:

Newly appointed Judge David Gass is taking over Judge Edward Bassett's Family Court calendar at Southeast; Judge Bassett will take Judge Joseph Welty's Family Court calendar downtown, which is currently being covered by Commissioner Colleen French.

Newly appointed Commissioner James Rummage will take Commissioner Scott McCoy's downtown calendar; Commissioner McCoy will train on the Early Disposition Court calendar and take Commissioner James Morrow's downtown calendar; Commissioner Morrow will train with Commissioner Shellie Smith and assume her therapeutic court calendar; Commissioner Smith will take Judge Susan Brnovich's position as floater commissioner. Commissioner Smith will cover Judge Raymond Lee's criminal calendar downtown, and he will start training in juvenile to take over Judge Robert Houser's juvenile calendar at Southeast on 4/13, which is currently being covered by Judge Brnovich. When that is completed, Judge Brnovich will train on 4/13 and take Judge Lee's downtown criminal calendar on 4/20.

When Judge Anna Baca's vacancy is filled, the new judge will take Judge Michael Gordon's family court calendar downtown; Judge Gordon will take Judge John Rea's family court calendar at Northeast; Judge Rea will take Judge Glenn Davis' former civil calendar downtown.

When Judge Louis Araneta's vacancy is filled, the new judge will take Judge Karen Potts' family court calendar at Southeast and Judge Potts will take Judge Araneta's civil calendar at Southeast.



## Adult Probation Receives Award

The Adult Probation Department's *Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI)* program received a Showcase in Excellence Award from the Arizona Quality Alliance at its annual awards banquet on February 10, 2009.

This is the department's third Showcase in Excellence Award; previous award winners were the Sex Offender Supervision and Collections programs.

The *Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI)* application emphasized the key elements of the Adult Probation Department's SMI supervision program, including specialized caseloads with specially trained officers, a screening instrument, collaborative problem solving, and the Mental Health Court.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Novak  
Adult Probation

## Investiture Set for Judge Gass

The Investiture Ceremony for Judge David B. Gass will be held on April 3, 2009 from 12:30 to 1:30 in the Board of Supervisors auditorium in Phoenix.

Judge Gass, who is assigned to Family Court, was appointed in January by Governor Janet Napolitano.

He worked as the director of legislative affairs to the Attorney General's Office before joining the bench.

Judge Gass received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, a Masters of Arts in Communications from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University.



Judge David Gass

# Juvenile Probation: Employees of the Year

*Juvenile Probation selected their employees of the year for 2008. The employees were selected from a group of employees who received a Star Fish Certificate during the year. Staff who receive a Star Fish Award are nominated by their peers, supervisors or other Juvenile Probation staff.*

## **BRUCE BAUS – Probation Officer of the Year**

Bruce has been the Training Unit Mentor at the Southeast facility for more than two years. During that time, he guided and coached staff on *what it means to be a Juvenile Probation Officer*. The agency could not have chosen a better person for this responsibility. Bruce is truly a knowledgeable professional that cares about the Department and staff who work daily to make a difference in the lives of young people and their families. Bruce exemplifies patience, responsibly and dedication to the Department. His positive attitude is an asset to the Department, and he is a great friend and co-worker to many. Bruce is also involved with many special projects, including the Community Supervision Bureau's Policies and Procedures workgroups. He is committed to the betterment of the Juvenile Probation Department.

## **GRACE KU – Supervisor of the Year**

Grace is an outstanding manager in the Juvenile Probation Department. She has a great working relationship with her staff, and is consistently sought out by individuals looking for good advice and direction. She has exceptional communication skills and is a great coach and mentor. Grace sets high performance standards, and generally gets what she asks for. Since she has supervised in the Probation Services SEF Division, the overall work performance of staff in her unit has increased. Grace actively participates in the work of our agency. She is one of the leaders who helped develop the "Hands on" Supervisor's Manual, designed to help supervisors respond to issues with expertise and consistency.

## **TERESA TSCHUPP – Employee of the Year**

Teresa has been with the department for more than four years. She has always been available to help others with their projects and her help with the Justice Involved Youth with Children (JIYWC) grant has been invaluable as she designed our database and continues to be available to answer any questions we may have about upcoming obstacles. Teresa has recently assisted us in seeking out an opportunity for a garden here in detention as she nominated detention for the work with the Carefree Gardener. This opportunity could potentially bring us a garden for the detainees worth up to \$50,000. In addition, she also assisted in creating a data collection system for our programming reports, something that has been put on hold with Court Technology Services for approximately a year and a half.

## **TODD WEISS – Detention Officer of the year**

Todd is a Juvenile Detention Officer working on the 2PM to 10PM shift in SEF Detention. Todd is assigned to a utility staff position and one of the people who nominated him said "The utility position was created for Mr. Weiss, he is forever answering calls when needed and fills in wherever needed." Todd was also described as a person who "exemplifies the responsibility pillar of Character Counts." He is described as someone who goes above and beyond what is expected, takes his job very seriously and is known for his work ethic.

**Submitted by Carol Boone  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer**

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# Probation Service Awards



Left to right - Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Max Wilson and **Robert Payne** of Adult Probation



Left to right - Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Carol Boone, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Don Stapley, Chairman Max Wilson, **Grace Arriaga** of Juvenile Probation and Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Debra Hall



Left to right - Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Don Stapley, Chairman Max Wilson and **Stephen Carpenter** Juvenile Probation

## BOS Honors County Employees

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors honored three employees from Adult and Juvenile Probation during their formal meeting on February 9th in Phoenix. The employees were honored for their length of dedicated service to Maricopa County.

**35 Years of Service**

Stephen Carpenter - Juvenile Probation

**30 Years of Service**

Robert Payne - Adult Probation  
Grace Arriaga - Juvenile Probation

# Media Relations and Community Outreach

## High Profile Trials Drawing Media Attention



*Dennis Mahr, CBS 48 Hours, (front) and Doug Klausen, NBC Dateline, (back) produce video of the State v. Douglas Grant trial in Judge Margaret Mahoney's witness room.*



*Mike Watkiss, a reporter with 3TV in Phoenix, and Steve Kraft, a reporter with Fox 10 Phoenix, discuss the State v. Dale Hausner trial in the media room in the Central Court Building.*

Local and national media have focused their attention on several high profile trials in Superior Court.

The local television stations have been carrying the State vs. Dale Hausner trial live on their web sites during the last few months. Each day, the media room is packed with both television and print reporters, reporting the latest news from the trial. Some of the print reporters are in the courtroom using laptops to *blog and twitter* trial updates for various news web sites.

"This is the most media we've ever had in the courthouse," Karen Arra, public information officer, said. "On any given day, we can have up to 30 members of the media covering various trials."

ABC 20/20, NBC Dateline and CBS 48 Hours have been cramped in a tiny closet-turned-media-room covering the State vs. Douglas Grant.

Dateline and CBS 48 Hours are also covering additional criminal trials in the downtown courthouse. Depending on the outcomes of the trials, the shows will air late Spring or early Summer.



*Radio and television reporters watch live coverage of the State v. Dale Hausner trial in the media room.*

# Research Tip of the Month

## Library and Self-Service Center Tip: Fresh Start Women's Foundation

The Law Library and Self-Service Center have many partners in the legal community that share our goal of providing access to legal services. Fresh Start Women's Foundation is one of our more significant partners.

At the Fresh Start Women's Foundation, women can obtain assistance from a staff domestic relations attorney, legal assistant and certified legal document preparer who specialize in domestic-relations cases such as divorce, child custody and child support. There is no charge for consultation. There may be fees for document preparation.

Fresh Start also offers an array of services beyond legal counseling. They provide career education, professional development, library services, childcare, and much more. A Fresh Start 101 overview class is available at Fresh Start for anyone wanting to learn more about their services. Their facility is located at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and McDowell across from Good Samaritan Hospital. Be sure to keep an eye out for the occasional COJET on Fresh Start, too. With a focus on female empowerment, Fresh Start is an excellent referral resource for female litigants dealing with life-changing events.

All Self-Service Center locations carry the Foundation's class catalog. If you haven't had the opportunity to hear about the Foundation before now, you can also read more about them at their website:

<http://www.wehelpwomen.com/>

If you have any questions about this or other resources, please contact the Law Library at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the East Court Building, by telephone at 602-506-3461, or via email at [services@sccl.maricopa.gov](mailto:services@sccl.maricopa.gov). You can also discuss Fresh Start with the Self-Service Center Supervisor at your court location.

Submitted by Jennifer Murray  
Law Library

## Westwood Fills Top Interpreter Slot

Carol Westwood is the Court's new interpreter manager. She took on the job following Raul Roman's departure to the Superior Court in Sonoma, California to manage interpreters and managers.

Westwood has been with the Court since 2003. She has an MBA and is a certified public manager and certified court manager.

Westwood has extensive finance, procurement, human resources and court management experience. She is looking forward to the opportunity to work with the interpreters and customers in providing service and streamlining processes during these economic hard times.

Submitted by Karen Westover  
Court Administration

## Public Defender Named to the Bench

James Rummage, a former Maricopa County Public Defender, was appointed as a Commissioner by Superior Court Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell.

Rummage is assigned to the criminal court division, handling initial pretrial conferences.

During his career as a public defender, Commissioner Rummage represented three death penalty defendants as lead counsel and was second chair for four death penalty defendants.

Commissioner Rummage earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona College of Law.

# Court Technology Services

## CTS connects Justice Courts with Defensive Driving Schools

The Maricopa County Justice Courts started receiving data from defensive driving schools electronically on January 9 as the first part of a multi-phase project. Compared with the old way of doing business, this greatly increases the efficiency and communication between the 25 Justice Courts and various defensive driving schools. This successful joint initiative was completed with the help of the MCJC, Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Technology Services and more than 15 defensive driving schools across the state.

The old way of doing business was slow and inefficient. Individual defensive driving schools would notify each individual court of defensive driving school attendance by defendants. The method of this notification would vary widely, ranging from email to faxed documents. Staff at each individual court was then tasked with manually matching those documents to data in the iCIS case management system.

The new electronic feed is a big improvement. It starts with the AOC serving as a hub between all of the defensive driving schools and the courts. Defensive driving schools transmit relevant data to the AOC in a standard data record format. The AOC acts as a clearinghouse by sorting the notifications and forwarding them to the appropriate receiving courts. iCIS processes the notification data for all of the MCJC and traffic schools. Then, iCIS transmits data back to the AOC on a daily basis.

The following are the types of available notifications:

- New Completion
- New Registration
- Updated Completion
- Updated Registration/Date
- Updated Registration/Data
- Deleted Completion
- Deleted Registration
- Registration/Extension Request
- Completion/Court Ordered

All data sent by the traffic schools is processed by iCIS, where it attempts to match that data to a unique case in the system. Reports are then available instantly to the MCJC so they know who has attended or registered for traffic school, or if there is a notification that there is no record in iCIS. The integrity of data involved with these cases improves over time as more cases are run through the new process.

Beyond the improvements mentioned above, this new automated data feed opens the door for many more efficiencies allowing court staff to focus attention on other important tasks.

The following are potential system improvements that can be leveraged as a result of this new feed:

- Automated charge disposition, which removes the need to manually enter a disposition stating that the defendant attended traffic school.
- Automated funds processing, which removes the need to manually handle and post funds received from defensive driving schools to many individual cases.

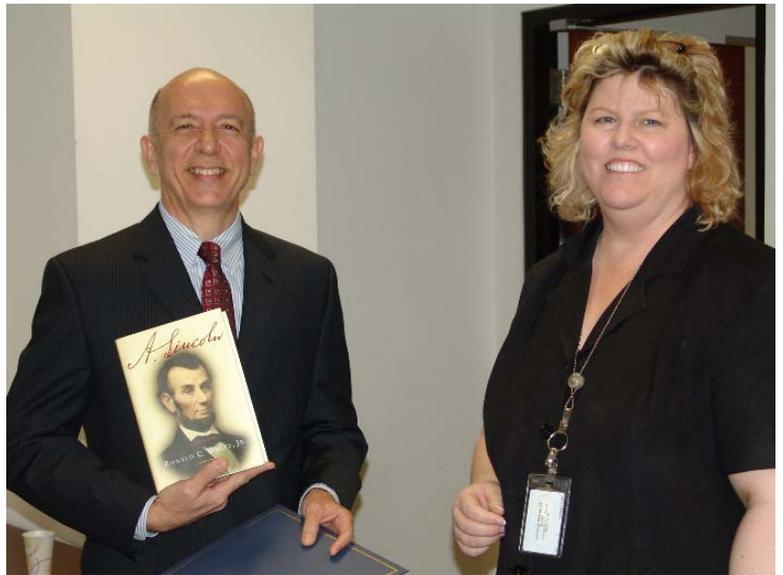
# Courtside

## Photo Highlights

**Top Right** - As part of the Court Tower Construction project, the bridge formerly connecting the Central Court Building to the Madison Street Parking Garage, will be removed on Saturday, February 28th.



**Middle Right** - Karen Westover (right), on behalf of the court, presents Raul Roman an Abraham Lincoln book as a gift at his farewell party. Roman, who worked as the administrator for Court Interpretation and Translation Services, accepted a similar job in Sonoma County, California.



**Bottom Right** - Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor delivers the oath of office to newly-appointed Superior Court Judge Susan Brnovich at a swearing-in ceremony in the Board of Supervisors auditorium in Phoenix.



**Bottom Left** - The final demolition of the Madison Street Parking Garage.

