



Swearing-In Ceremony set for new Commissioners

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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.

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



Susan White



Christine Mulleneaux



Monica Garfinkel



James Rummage

Four Superior Court Commissioners, who joined the court during the past year, will be honored during an investiture ceremony in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix on August 13.

The commissioners are Christine Mulleneaux, Monica Garfinkel, James Rummage and Susan White. All four commissioners are assigned to criminal calendars.

Presiding Superior Court Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell, who appointed the four commissioners, will administer their oaths of office during the ceremony.

Message From the Presiding Judge



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge

Lack of resources and budget cuts have not deterred the Court from creating innovative outreach programs that improve accessibility for its customers.

In fact, two of our programs, *Accountability Court* and *Web Broadcast*, will receive National Association of Counties (NACo) awards during a ceremony in August hosted by Maricopa County Manager David Smith.

Not only do the award-winning programs help further the mission of the court, they offer significant cost savings to taxpayers in Maricopa County. What's most impressive is that these two programs enjoyed such a high level of success without adding any additional costs or resources.

Accountability Court, a program spearheaded by Presiding Family Court Judge Colleen McNally, is a problem-solving court focused on enforcing child support and spousal maintenance orders from litigants who are chronically non-compliant.

Parents who owe support are ordered to appear in this court for contempt proceedings. Although jail may be imposed after a finding of civil contempt, the goal is to avoid having the community pay the cost of jail, and rather, motivate the parent with the obligation to come up with a reasonable plan to pay down the total amount owed.

Since it began, Accountability Court has collected more than \$500,000 in child and spousal support.

Another program that enjoyed huge success last year was our Web Broadcast program. The program, developed by employees from the Media Relations and Community Outreach Office, Court Technology Services and Electronic Records Services, relays important court case information to the news media and the public by posting high profile video clips to Superior Court's web site.

The project has been a cost-effective venture because it allows reporters and members of the public the opportunity to view court events without coming to the courthouse. It also allows television, radio, print and web bloggers the ability to download and broadcast the clips free of charge and at no cost to the Court.

Members of the media have praised the Court about the accessibility to high profile videos. The current economic landscape has forced many media outlets to lay off numerous reporters and photographers. More and more, the media is reliant on media relations staff to help report their news stories.

These innovative programs are just a few examples of how Superior Court employees have stepped up to meet the challenges of improving court programs and services so we may continue to enjoy our reputation as one of the best trial courts in the country.

Newsmakers

Court Counsel Wins President's Award

Jessica Funkhouser, special court counsel for Superior Court, was one of three attorneys recognized by the State Bar of Arizona for their work on the Consumer Information and Education Task Force.

Funkhouser, along with attorneys Patrick McGroder and Pamela Treadwell-Rubin, were presented with a President's Award at this year's State Bar of Arizona Convention held at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix.

"It is a great honor to receive a President's Award from State Bar President Ed Novak," Funkhouser said. "It was a privilege to work with such a talented group of people on the Consumer Information and Education Task Force, including our court's Community Outreach Director Patricia Seguin. I hope our work helps Arizona citizens for years to come."

Serving under committee chair Treadwell-Rubin, Funkhouser and McGroder served as chairs of subgroups. Funkhouser was responsible for overseeing a committee that reviewed the services and information the Bar and legal profession provides to Arizona citizens regarding hiring legal counsel.

The President's Award is given at the discretion of the State Bar president to a person or persons who have contributed enormous effort toward the furtherance of the president's goals and priorities during his or her year as president.



Jessica Funkhouser receives an award from State Bar President Edward Novak

Adult Probation Wins NACo Award

Maricopa County Adult Probation has received a 2009 NACo Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for **Special Incident Reporting: A Management Tool for Staff Safety**.

MCAPD collects data on special incidents and produces reports to guide decisions essential to staff safety and security. Knowledge from the reports and discussions with staff led to policy changes. The changes include specialized training, equipment upgrades, new office procedures, architectural changes, and the addition of security staff at probation offices. Report data assisted managers to secure support from court and county managers to enhance safety.

NACo awards recognize unique, innovative county programs.

**Submitted by Cathy Wyse
Adult Probation**

New Education Series for Court Supervisors

The Superior Court Training Department and the Human Resources Management Team invite supervisors to enroll in a new education program: *HR Basics for Supervisors*. The first session will begin in August, and the series will continue through the fall.

Employment law and Court policies have changed in the last few years, and these courses will brief new and seasoned supervisors on current laws and policies. Faculty will also cover the "nuts and bolts" of performance management plans, time cards and payroll, and maintaining a bias-free workplace. The series will give participants an opportunity to network with their peers while learning the latest in effective management techniques.

Education series - continued on page 4

News and Notes

Education Series for Court Supervisors - Continued

The series will include 6 modules:

- Behavioral Based Interviewing 09/23/09
- Disability Management 08/21/09
- Understanding the Judicial Merit System 08/10/09
- Preventing Harassment in the Workplace 10/15/09
- Performance Management 10/2/09
- Understanding the Judicial Payroll System and Leave Policy 09/09/09

Each module is 2.0 hours. The first series will be taught downtown, and the next series will go on the road to the regional sites.

**Submitted by Elizabeth Evans
Education Administrator**

Security Tip of the Month

Recently, a water pitcher was thrown at one of our judges in the courtroom. The judge had to hit the floor to avoid being hit by the water pitcher.

So please, look around your area, and check for objects that can be used as weapons or that could hurt you if thrown. If possible, remove or replace those items. Things to consider: staplers, scissors, water pitchers, tape dispensers, decorative items, etc.

**Submitted by Karen Westover
Court Administration**

Judges and Administrators Appointed to Committees

The Arizona Supreme Court appointed Criminal Presiding Judge Gary Donahoe, Presiding Family Court Judge Colleen McNally, Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer and Juvenile Probation Chief Carol Boone to sit on committees.

Judge Donahoe has been appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Commission on Victims in the Courts. The Commission on Victims in the Courts was established as a standing committee of the Arizona Judicial Council. The commission is responsible for advising the council on matters affecting victims' rights and making recommendations to the AJC that preserve the rights afforded to victims in the Arizona Constitution.

Judge McNally and Reinkensmeyer, appointed as members of the Committee on Superior Court, will both serve three-year terms. As members of the Committee on Superior Court, they will assist the AJC and the Supreme Court in the development and implementation of policies designed to improve the quality of justice, access to the courts and efficiency in court operations.

Chief Boone, appointed to the Juvenile Detention Task Force, will review the Arizona Auditor General's Performance Audit Report and submit a final report outlining the implementation of the remaining Auditor General's audit recommendations to the AJC.

Juvenile Court

Can you Advocate for an Abused Child?

Do you want to do something that is satisfying and of great service to the forgotten children living in your community? Then consider becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer. (CASA)

CASA is the only volunteer organization that empowers everyday citizens as officers of the court. In an overburdened social welfare system, abused and neglected children often slip through the cracks among hundreds of current cases. CASA volunteers change that. Appointed by judges, CASA volunteers typically handle just one case at a time—and commit to staying on that case until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. While others may come and go, CASA volunteers provide that one constant that children need in order to succeed.

A CASA volunteer is someone who is passionate about protecting the best interests of abused and neglected children. Anyone with this passion can be successful as a volunteer - regardless if you work full-time, part-time, or not at all; regardless of your gender, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation or economic status. We are willing to train you if you are willing to pursue a child's case with enthusiasm and persistence.

You do not need any medical or legal skills; a college degree; and/or even know what to say. All you need to do is sign up for our next advocate volunteer training session starting July 18. After becoming certified, you will be sworn in, appointed on a case by the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge and become an actual officer of the court, ready to advocate for your appointed child.

Are you ready to stand up for a child who needs you?

Inquire today about the power you have to change a child's life. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age and successfully complete a comprehensive background screening and interview. To receive an application packet or find out more information, please call Justine Grabowsky, CASA Program Development Specialist at 602.506.3930 or visit www.maricopacasa.org

**Submitted by Justine Grabowsky
CASA**

Juvenile Court's Educational Convening

On June 12th, 2009, Maricopa County Juvenile Court, in collaboration with the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families; Administrative Office of the Courts; Casey Family Programs; Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission; Communities in Schools Arizona and both the Cartwright and Washington Elementary School Districts, hosted the second Educational Convening at the AOC.

More than one hundred individuals from the school districts, the community, the court and other counties came together to learn more about promoting the best educational outcomes for at risk youth.

The day consisted of a presentation showcasing each school district's program highlights followed by an overview of court programs and services available to families and children.

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Eileen Willett and Commissioner Peter Thompson, who served as the Educational Convening Planning Committee Chair, represented the Court.

**Submitted by Laurie Laughlin
Juvenile Court**

Court Interpretation and Translation Services

Remote Interpreter Program Saves Travel Time and Costs

The Superior Court in Maricopa County recently launched a Remote Interpreter Pilot Program in 16 courtrooms.

Via video conferencing, interpreters now have the ability to provide high quality and cost-effective interpreting services to non-English speakers without personally appearing in a courtroom. The program is expected to save money by reducing travel and contractor costs for interpreters.

In many instances, significant amounts of travel are required for an interpreter to be present at a proceeding (interpreters are compensated for travel time and mileage). Remote locations include Gila Bend, approximately 70 miles from downtown Phoenix and eight additional courtrooms at the Northwest Regional Court Center, approximately 25 miles from downtown Phoenix. It is not unusual for interpreter costs to be incurred unnecessarily because of last minute travel to these locations. Sometimes an interpreter is assigned to these courts for an entire day, but then only required to interpret for an hour in the morning and then an hour in the afternoon.

Remote interpreting utilizes the latest technology available and provides more timely responses and utilization of interpreter resources. In addition to the 30 full-time staff interpreters, demand for interpreters in Maricopa County for these 16 locations requires an average of five-to-six contractors per day. It is anticipated that the pilot project will significantly reduce the demand for contractors, allowing full-time staff interpreters more time to handle additional cases.

This Pilot Program technology incorporates the use of a dedicated telephone line and special software that can remotely control a network connected camera mounted in the courtroom. This setup gives an interpreter sitting at their office computer audio and video feeds directly from the courtroom. When using this system, the interpreter can receive sound from all of the microphones in the courtroom and can control the 180° camera to view all areas of the courtroom such that the person needing interpretation can be at the witness stand, at the podium, or sitting at the counsel table.

The camera controls also provide the ability to zoom in on an individual so that there is a clear view of the person requiring interpreter services or to zoom out to see an overall view of the courtroom. Through the telephone connection, the interpreter can have a conversation directly with the person needing interpretation (and their attorney, if necessary) on a private channel, and then can provide the translation on a public channel which broadcasts the translation over the amplification speakers in the courtroom for the record. All 16 of these courtrooms have already been using electronic recording systems for several years to make a digital record of proceedings.

**Submitted by Bert Binder
Court Interpretation and Translation Services**

Court Construction: Then and Now



A photo taken from the roof of the Old Courthouse on April 10, 1963 that depicts the early stages of construction of the Maricopa County Court and Government Complex.



A photo of construction crews erecting steel for the New Downtown Criminal Court Tower. The photo was taken on July 17, 2009 from the second floor of the Central Court Building.



CENTRAL COURTS LOWER LEVEL

June 2009

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Project is complete

FINAL FACT

Over 50,000 man hours went into the project. With that many people, it's hard to thank everyone, but here's a brief list of specific contributors to the project's success.

Superior Courts
Barbara Rodriguez Mundell,
Presiding Judge
Patricia Seguin
Nelda Hudson

FMD
Rhys Williams
Lydell Black
Jenny Buckley
Gloria D'Romero

Arcadis
Miya Linsenmeyer
MCSO
Sergeant Frank McWilliams
Captain Bill VanAusdal
Commander Ian Thompson

Design Team
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SCHEDULE

