



The Judicial Branch News

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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."



Message from the Presiding Judge



Norman J. Davis
Presiding Judge

The Maricopa County Superior Court is a court of excellence, and serves the fourth most populous county in the United States. The Court's national reputation for excellence and innovation has been earned over many years and is a tribute to the combined commitment, dedication and hard work of those that have served the Court previously. We will miss Judge Mundell and the professionalism and courage she displayed in leading the Court over the last 5 years. Now it is up to all of us to move forward, not knowing exactly what challenges will be presented, but committed to responding to those challenges with integrity,

innovation, and an unwavering commitment to constitutional principles and the rule of law.

I have been asked many times why I wanted to do the job of Presiding Judge. My response has consistently been:

"Who wouldn't want to do this job? We have the best bench in the country, a unified desire to be the best court in the country, and a group of people that continually steps forward to meet challenges and improve the Court."

We have great leaders in this Court. My thanks go to the departmental presiding judges and administrative leaders that have just completed their leadership assignments and rotated to new calendars. Your service and insightful leadership is greatly appreciated and will be long remembered. I am also gratified with the willingness of our new departmental leaders to step forward and serve. They bring a wealth of experience, skill and enthusiasm to their new positions.

The last 2 years we have experienced budget cuts totaling \$11.8 million that has resulted in the reduction of approximately 417 court employees, and made it more difficult to perform our core functions.

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Message from the Presiding Judge

From the Presiding - Continued From Page One

One response by a court of excellence to resource limitations will be to maximize the use of technology in courtroom and case management applications. We have started the process to transform our aging iCIS case management system into a more dynamic, user-friendly system with functionally specific displays and accurate, user-generated statistical information. We will need to explore more innovative uses of website technology like our new national award-winning CASA site, better navigation tools for electronically-filed documents, and remote video technology to name a few.

As we prepare to move into the new court tower, we have the opportunity to improve criminal case processing, insure fairness and due process to all parties, identify efficiencies, and better serve jurors, victims and the public in criminal cases. A similar review of probate, civil, family, juvenile, and tax processes will also maintain our edge as a court of excellence.

The wonderful thing about our Court is that although no one can now predict from where the next innovation will come, we know that it will come. Whether in the form of a new Restitution Court pioneered by Judge Roland Steinle, an Accountability Court recently established by Judge Colleen McNally, a new Veteran's Court, or an enhancement to an administrative process or other function, we will remain on the cutting edge to meet the needs of an ever changing society and improve the Court.

Even though the economy is in a recession, construction has stalled and our resources continue to dwindle, Maricopa County continues to grow, and is expected to add 750,000 people in the next five years. It will be a challenge to keep pace with this growth, but I am confident that we will continue to deliver fair and impartial justice to everyone that comes to our Court.

All of us that work at the Court take great pride in the institution that we helped build. We should welcome the opportunity to compare our performance with the best courts in the country, and we will be making those comparisons to insure that our progress and performance is more than subjective. I view my job as one of support to the bench where the real work of justice is done, and look forward to the amazing things that you all will be doing the next five years. I feel honored and privileged to support your efforts.

Old Courthouse Jail Artifacts to be Restored



Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper was carved into a cell door by a former inmate housed in the Old Courthouse.

Historical artifacts from the Old Courthouse, which were beginning to deteriorate, were recently sent to a curator for preservation.

The artifacts will eventually find their way to the Justice Learning Center and Museum. The museum will be located in and around a cellblock on the sixth floor of Maricopa County's Historic Old Courthouse.

The museum is envisioned to give the visitor a sense of the history of Maricopa County, its court cases and important elements of the Rule of Law, including individual rights and liberties guaranteed in the United States and Arizona Constitutions.

New Judge Q-and-A: Thomas L. LeClaire

Q. You spent a large portion of your legal career representing Native Americans and working with various tribes around the country. How do you feel this area of law prepared you for your judicial appointment?

Much of my work with tribes focused on building or revising tribal governmental infrastructure, which often included creating judicial systems where no such system existed. I studied and observed many judicial systems—state and federal courts, peace-making courts, council courts, and even foreign courts—to help craft a workable system that took into account the traditional tribal dispute resolution processes. This helped me look at judicial systems from a variety of perspectives, not just from an advocate’s viewpoint. That was enormously helpful in expanding my perspective of the role of courts and judges.

Q. You are an enrolled member of the Mohawk Nation. Was there any one person in your community or family who influenced you in becoming a lawyer?

Two people influenced me in that direction. First was my 7th grade English teacher Sidney Held. He talked to me about the importance of taking personal responsibility for my education and setting goals. His advice, which I did not immediately adopt because I was a wayward, angry teenager, has guided me since that time and even today. Dr. Fred Simons, VP for Student Affairs, U of Connecticut, patiently mentored me when I was a brash, headstrong campus Indian rights activist and helped channel my enthusiasm so that I was able to effectively implement ideas and changes within a bureaucratic system to the point that I eventually became a college administrator. As a next step in my career, he suggested that I attend law school. We have been friends from the first day we met, his lessons still work, and I still seek his advice.

Q. Do you have a favorite movie or television show in the court or legal genre? Please explain.

My favorite legal movie is *Anatomy of a Murder*. James Stewart does a remarkable job as a small town defense attorney skirting the lines of ethics to “suggest” a defense to Ben Gazarra. The courtroom drama is tense and realistic and the movie has great character development. One of the best features of the movie is Joseph Welch playing Judge Weaver. He was actually a lawyer, not an actor. (He uttered the famous “Have you no decency, sir” statement to Senator McCarthy during the McCarthy hearings.) His facial expressions during the courtroom scenes steal the show.

Q. What’s your favorite quote? (This can be something one of your children said to you, what you said to them, a line from poetry or something you wish you hadn’t said).

“Getting older is no problem. You just have to live long enough.” Groucho Marx.

Q. If you had a day to spend with anyone (living or dead, real or fictional), who would it be and what would you do?

I would love to spend the day with Ernest Hemingway. I would listen to him tell stories, eat in a café, spend the afternoon fishing, and let him guide me through pre-Communist Havana.

Q. Do you own an IPOD and, if so, what kind of music is on your playlists?

Yup, I have a Nano. Classic rock, good guitar hard rock, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, Andrea Bocelli, with Mozart and Bach thrown in to ease the traffic tension.

News and Notes

Meet the New Presiding Family Court Judge and Staff



From Left to Right: Bailiff Thomas Bryant, Presiding Family Court Judge Carey Hyatt, Judicial Assistant Julie Lane and Clerk Charles Brown.

Court Administrators Rotated

Jennifer Murray, who last year agreed to move from the Law Library to Family Court Administration, has agreed to return as the Deputy Director of the Law Library. Replacing Jennifer as the Family Court Administrator is Cheri Clark. Cheri has supported that department in various roles for the past nine years. There have been several changes recently in the management in Family Court and Cheri promises much continuity as she works with Judge Carey Hyatt and the judges, commissioners and staff in that department.

Diana Clarke will begin in a new position that will have her assisting Judge Crane McClennen with the Lower Court Appeals calendar. This addition of administrative support will help lead to more analysis of the multiple functions and operational workings of appeals, administrative reviews and water rights cases. Diana will also share some of her time assisting Judge Rosa Mroz, Elizabeth Evans and the Probate department. Her functions and responsibilities in this area will become more defined as the comprehensive measures that have been underway in Probate continue to evolve.

Committee Appointments

Recently, several members of Superior Court were appointed to serve on committees by Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch.

The Honorable Eddward Ballinger, Associate Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Maricopa County, was appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court as a member of the Committee on Superior Court. He will serve in this position while he serves as Associate Presiding Judge.

Judge Carey Hyatt and Judge Randall Warner were also appointed to serve on the Committee on Superior Court.

Judge Rosa Mroz was appointed to the Committee on Improving Judicial Oversight and Processing of Probate Court Matters.

Judge Sam Thumma was appointed to serve on the Committee on Judicial Education and Training.

Judicial Branch Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer was appointed to the Commission on Technology.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Vincent Iaria was appointed to the Court Leadership Institute and HR Director Phil Hanley was reappointed to the Institute.

News and Notes

Law Library Partners with Office of Juvenile Public Defender

This year the Law Library began a partnership with the Office of the Juvenile Public Defender by hosting a class for restoration of civil rights. This free workshop, held periodically in the Law Library, is for both adult and juvenile ex-offenders who want their criminal records reclassified and their rights restored.

If an ex-offender has paid all his or her financial obligations, finished any custody requirement, such as probation or supervision, and completed any other requirements, such as treatment or community service, then the ex-offender may be able to remove barriers to employment, housing, and voting.

The next classes scheduled in 2010 are August 11th and November 17th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Law Library at 101 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor. Participants should bring photo identification, date of arrest and case number, date of discharge, absolute discharge from Arizona Department of Corrections, and proof of completed financial obligations. In some cases when these documents are brought, the paperwork process can be as quick as 15 minutes. If participants do not have these documents, they can still attend the class to learn more about how to start the process.

Seating is limited. Pre-registration is suggested, but walk-ins are welcome. To pre-register, call 602-506-3461. For questions about the class itself and whether it is right for a specific individual, call the Office of the Juvenile Public Defender at 602-372-6803.

Submitted by Jennifer Murray

Court Tower Construction Photo Update: Copper Panels



Copper panels are being installed on the Downtown Criminal Court Tower.

July Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Jean Ayres - General Laborer
Gregory Scott - Adult Probation Officer
Theo McCalvin - Judicial Assistant-Classified
Carissa Allen - Juvenile Detention Officer
Tina Edwards - Health Technician
Mandi Francese - Juvenile Detention Officer
Elizabeth Toyos - Office Assistant Specialized
Wanda Hill - Judicial Assistant
Lynn Burns-Reed - Judicial Clerk Associate
Scherene Murphy - Judicial Specialist
Kristine Adame - Juvenile Detention Officer
Cassandra Page - Juvenile Detention Officer
Richard Cavazos - Security Officer II
Esperanza Pasos - Security Officer II
Brenda Safran - Security Supervisor
Martha Zazueta - Judicial Clerk
Thomas Brown Jr. - Security Officer II
David Flores Jr. - Security Officer II

10 Years

Georgina Coronado - Judicial Clerk
Sara Peralta - Judicial Clerk Associate
Daniel Troyer - Security Officer II
Leah Lara - Adult Probation Officer
Jan Helmrich - Collector
John Swearingen - PC/LAN Tech Support
Megen Cayton - Juvenile Probation Officer
Ernestine Olivas - Judicial Clerk Associate
Margaret Rutigliano - Judicial Clerk
Paul Seashols - Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Dominic Siath - Juvenile Probation Officer

15 Years

Lesley Winquist - Judicial Clerk Senior
Maria Rodriguez - Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Dora Nevarez-Gomez - Adult Probation Officer
Diana Glenn - Help Desk Coordinator
Claudia Facio-Barriga - Case Administrator

20 Years

Cynthia Stuart - Juvenile Probation Officer
Margaret Callaway - Adult Probation Division Mngr
David Strate - Adult Probation Officer Supv
M Lupe Cruz - Judicial Assistant
Elizabeth Jackson - Judicial Assistant
Rebecca Jones - Juvenile Probation Officer
Stanley Armstrong - Juvenile Probation Officer
Susan Jones - Juvenile Probation Officer
Mitchell Simmons - Juvenile Probation Officer
Tawny Peralta - Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Laurie Walsh - Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Lydia Sampson - Court Conciliator
Terry Masciola - Court Reporter
Frank Salaiz - Trades Generalist

25 Years

Ruth McNally - Administrative Assistant
Debra Weirman - Adult Probation Officer
Lilia Linn - Executive Assistant

30+ Years

Minnie Uribe - Judicial Clerk Supervisor

Courtside

Photo Highlights



Phil Knox answers a question about the court tower at a recent "Lunch and Learn" in Downtown Phoenix.



Barbara Johnson of Adult Probation was recognized by the Board of Supervisors for 30 years of dedicated service. Left to right: Pamela Morrow, Vickie Johnson, Chief Barbara Broderick, Barbara Johnson and Chairman Donald Stapley.



Old clerk teller windows from the Old Courthouse were recently discovered at the County's storage warehouse in Phoenix. No definitive plans have been made on how or when the artifacts will be displayed.



Judge Douglas Rayes visits with a group of journalists from the Country of Montenegro. The visit was coordinated through the Arizona State University Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Telecommunication. The journalists who participated in the program were Mirijana Boskovic, Adnan Prekic and Milan Zugic.