



Judicial Rotations 2011

This week's judicial moves marks the first rotation under the leadership of Presiding Judge Norman Davis.

Twenty-three judges will be part of the rotation; while, 18 commissioners will be taking on new assignments. Those who will be covering a calendar for the first time in an entirely new department include:

Judges

Judge Helene Abrams – Juvenile,

Judge Edward Bassett - First time as a Judge in Criminal (He was a commissioner in criminal in EDC)

Judge Dawn Bergin – Criminal

Judge William Brotherton – Criminal

Judge Bruce Cohen – Criminal

Judge Sally Duncan – Civil

Judge Al Fenzel – Civil

Judge Larry Grant – Juvenile

Judge John Hannah – Family

Judge Michael Kemp – Family

Judge Robert Miles – Criminal

Judge Sam Myers – Family

Judge Ben Norris – Family

Judge Roland Steinle – Juvenile

Judge Maria Del Mar Verdin – Civil

Judge Christopher Whitten - Family

Continued on Page 2

In this Issue

Judge Anna Baca to Serve on Merit Commission.....3

Restitution Court in the National Spotlight.....4

Former Judge Appointed as Associate Dean.....6

Courtside Photos.....8

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.

“Equal Justice Under Law”



Judge Donahoe Says Farewell



Judge Gary Donahoe with his staff at his retirement celebration held in his courtroom.

Pictured left to right - Terrie DeDecker, Judge Gary Donahoe, Saralyn Yoder and Sharlie Sanders.

News and Notes

Human Resource Director Named to Retirement Board

Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch has re-appointed Director of Human Resources **Phillip Hanley** as a member of the Correctional Officer Retirement Plan Local Board for the Superior Court.



Phillip Hanley

Hanley, who will serve a term of four years, is one of five members responsible for administering the retirements of probation, surveillance and juvenile detention officers employed by the Superior Court of Arizona.

New Commissioner Appointed

Rodrick Joseph Coffey has been appointed as the newest Superior Court Commissioner.

Commissioner Coffey, a former attorney with Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP, has 12 years of litigation experience including commercial, real estate, products liability and personal injury cases. He has the distinction of achieving the top score on the July 1999 Arizona Bar exam.

He earned his Juris Doctorate from Brigham Young University, *magna cum laude*, in 1999 and his Bachelor of Arts in Economics, *cum laude*, from Vanderbilt University in 1996.

Commissioner Coffey will start on July 18.

Judge Herrod to Assume Civil Calendar



Michael J. Herrod

Judge Michael J. Herrod will begin his Civil Court assignment on the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench on August 1.

Judge Herrod has practiced law in Arizona for nearly 30 years. As a former prosecutor for the Town of Carefree, Judge Herrod has experience with criminal, real estate, bankruptcy, criminal defense and administrative law.

His appointment was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Joseph Heilman.

Judge Herrod received his undergraduate degree from Austin College in 1980, and his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1983.

Judicial Rotations Continued From Page 1

Commissioners

- Commissioner Richard Albrecht** – RCC
- Commissioner Jaime Holguin** – Family
- Commissioner Kirby D. Kongable** – Juvenile
- Commissioner James Morrow** – Civil
- Commissioner Julie Newell** – Family
- Commissioner Lisa Roberts** – Family

The court currently has 5 vacant judicial positions.

The full 2011 Judicial Rotation assignments are now available online:
www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/JudicialBiographies/judicialAssignmentsJudges.asp

Court Briefs

Retired Judge to Serve on Merit Commission

Superior Court has selected former Judge Anna M. Baca to serve as a volunteer on its Judicial Merit System Commission. Judge Baca, who retired in January 2009, will be one of five members to serve on an appeals board that oversees personnel hearings for Superior Court.



Anna M. Baca

Judge Baca has a wealth of legal experience regarding personnel issues. Judge Baca served 11 years on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as an Administrative Law Judge and Enforcement Manager. As an Administrative Law Judge, she adjudicated federal employment law claims filed against Federal agencies. As an Enforcement manager, she was responsible for enforcing statutes that prohibit discrimination in federal employment.

"I am looking forward to serving on the Commission especially since this allows me to draw on my experience in employment law matters," Judge Baca said.

Judge Baca, who served 15 years as a Superior Court Judge, left a lasting mark on the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County. During her tenure, Judge Baca was known as a strong and innovative leader.

As Presiding Criminal Judge, Judge Baca led various projects to streamline cases and reduce the backlog of Capital cases. During her Civil Presiding term, she implemented a highly-successful system for fast-tracking complex civil litigation.

"Judge Baca's background as an administrative law judge makes her an ideal candidate to sit on the Judicial Merit System Commission," Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer said. "We truly appreciate her willingness to serve."

Project Honors JP Gandarilla



Adult Probation clean-up crew

Recently, Adult Probation hosted a neighborhood cleanup project and community celebration in honor of the late Justice of the Peace Armando Gandarilla.

The event, held at Grant Park in Phoenix, consisted of probationers, neighborhood residents, Adult Probation Department (APD) staff, city officials and city of Phoenix personnel collecting trash and cleaning up the park.

Probationers who participated in the project were from the Garfield Probation Center and Southport Office. APD Community Restitution Coordinators Jack Dillon and Julie Quiroz as well as Community Rehabilitation Coordinator Bob Kaliszcaik supervised crews and helped with the clean up.

During the celebration, a beautiful mural to honor JP Armando Gandarilla was unveiled. This mural will be displayed in the new Hall of Fame located in the Grant Park Recreation Center.

**Submitted by Colleen Evans
Adult Probation**

News and Notes

Court Counsel Retires After Distinguished Career

Special Court Counsel, and one of Arizona's experts on election law, Jessica Gifford Funkhouser is retiring after more than 30 years as a public lawyer.

"Jessica is a truly gifted and highly committed attorney who has dedicated her entire career to public service. Her exemplary work here at the Superior Court is clearly evident in the innovative programming for the criminal court tower and our highly respected public information office. Jessica will be missed, and we wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement," said Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer.

During her memorable career, Funkhouser was directly involved in some of the biggest news stories in Arizona. She participated in the prosecution of AzScam, and, as the State Election Director, she was involved in the decision on whether the Secretary of State's Office was required to hold a recall election of then Governor Evan Mecham.

Funkhouser joined Superior court in 2006. She served as Special Court Counsel and supervised the Media Relations and Community Outreach Office. But perhaps her greatest contribution to the Court was her work on the new Criminal Court Tower. She was instrumental in its development and planning.

"Over the years, your quiet but strong presence have helped guide the court through its triumphs and challenges. You have done so with dignity and grace. While you have shunned the spotlight for being credited, we all know what a key role you have played for our court," Judge Bruce R. Cohen said.

Before joining the Court, Funkhouser served in the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and the Secretary of State's Office. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona College of Law. In 2009, she was the recipient of the President's Award from the State bar of Arizona.

"You have not only been great at your job here but, you were a great boss at the AG's office," Judge Susanna Pineda said.

Judge Daniel Kiley, who also worked for Funkhouser at the Attorney General's Office, said, "You were a great boss and mentor at the AG's office, and you've been a wonderful friend to me in the years since. While I'm sad to see you go, I'm happy that you will be able to enjoy a well-deserved retirement after your many years of dedicated service to the people of Arizona."



Jessica Funkhouser

The Continuous Educator: Cindy Reid

Every year for two weeks, Cindy Reid, the Superior Court's Education Director, teaches advanced leadership skills for the Army Reserve as a Sergeant First Class.

After serving eight years as a missile maintenance technician, Reid left the military. When September 11 happened, she joined the Army Reserve to help protect our Country. When she returned to the Army, she became a Human Resource Specialist and Instructor.

"I have never regretted my decision to return to the military," Reid said. "I love teaching, especially leadership skills."



Reid teaching ethical reasoning.

News and Notes

Former Judge Appointed as Associate Law School Dean

Phoenix School of Law Professor Penny Willrich has been appointed as the new Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, beginning July 1st. She will take on the post as Associate Dean Shandrea Solomon steps down to become a full-time Assistant Professor of Law.

"Professor Penny Willrich is the perfect person to serve as our Associate Dean for Academic Affairs," said Shirley L. Mays, Dean of Phoenix School of Law. "As one of the tenured faculty members of the law school, she is both knowledgeable and passionate about Phoenix School of Law. A former judge, Professor Willrich is a well-respected member of the legal community and a great model for our culture."

"If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the entire Phoenix Law family – students, faculty, staff, and administrators – to lead and develop an educational institution," said Penny Willrich, newly appointed Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. "I look forward to working with all of my colleagues at Phoenix Law as we strive to develop a Center of Excellence, as we implement programs and projects to further our mission pillars, as we become more entrenched in the fabric of the legal community and as we continue to graduate lawyers who rock the state in bar passage. This new job is a set of new responsibilities in a labor of love."

Prior to teaching at PhoenixLaw, Professor Willrich served as the first African American woman trial court judge in the history of the State of Arizona from 1999 to 2005. She served in the Juvenile, Criminal, and Family Division. However, she continues to serve the Court as a Judge Pro Tem. From 1995 to 1999, Professor Willrich served as a Commissioner of the Superior Court in Maricopa County. She served in the Juvenile and Criminal Division. As a Juvenile Court Commissioner, Professor Willrich was appointed by the Supreme Court of Arizona to prepare the initial version of re-drafted Juvenile Court Rules.

From 1992-1994, Professor Willrich served as an Assistant Director of the Department of Economic Security – Administration of Children, Youth and Families Division. Willrich was instrumental in securing legislation that would fund a multi-year statewide technological improvement initiative which placed computers at the desk of every social worker assigned to Child Protective Services and allowed the Department to better track the services being provided to children in foster care.

In June, 1987, Professor Willrich joined Community Legal Services (Phoenix, AZ) as its managing attorney and Director of Domestic Violence. Willrich often testified before the Arizona Legislature on pending domestic violence and family law bills. She was instrumental in re-writing the Domestic Violence Victims Handbook, as well as getting legislation passed that protects the address of domestic violence shelters.

Professor Willrich holds active licenses to practice law in Texas and Arizona. She is a member of the District Courts for the Northern District of Texas and the District of Phoenix as well as being admitted to the 5th and 9th Circuit Courts of Appeals. She also serves on the Supreme Court of Arizona Centennial Commission, Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary, the Arizona Black Lawyers Association Board of Director, the Arizona Black Women Lawyers Board of Directors and is a AZ State Bar Disciplinary Hearing Officer. She serves on the Boards of Directors for Community Legal Services, Arizona African Drum and Dance, the Arizona Advocacy Network, the Mesa Community College Justice Department Advisory Board, the Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The Center for African American Health, and is the founder of the Arizona Youth Innocence Project, Inc. Professor Willrich has received many educational, community, and professional awards for her service to the Community, including the 2008 NAACP Roy Wilkins Award.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Brian Thompson Adult Probation Officer
Angel Vega-Porras Case Administrator
Dene Bimber Adult Probation Officer
Azel Jackson Adult Probation Officer
Mauro Munoz Adult Probation Officer
Delma Melo Bailiff
Sherri Anderson Judicial Clerk
Elidia Galaviz Judicial Clerk Associate
Monica Balbastro Judicial Clerk Senior
Benedict Maston Security Officer II
Grayce Mayhew Trainer
Cheryl Kee Judicial Assistant
Sherry Ellis Judicial Clerk Associate
Sarah Matzke Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv
Thomas Covington Juvenile Detention Officer
Christopher Cuddington Juvenile Detention Officer
Christy Calderon Juvenile Detention Officer
Vincent Funari Comm Officer/Govt Liaison
Cythia Monson Juvenile Detention Officer
David Newman Program Coordinator
Mark Harris Trainer

10 Years

Karna Tommeraasen Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Kathryn Cantrell Juvenile Probation Officer
Lori Fraley Court Reporter
Peter Kiefer Justice System Administrator
Susan Leong Judicial Assistant
Carolyn Little Judicial Clerk Associate
Beatrice Horoho Juvenile Detention Officer
Casey Heussner Juvenile Probation Officer
Blair Jamison Judicial Assistant

15 Years

Bradley Habros Judicial Clerk Lead
Sylvia Paynter Judicial Clerk Associate
Kelly Seppanen Surveillance Officer
Bertha Sanchez Juvenile Probation Officer
Mary Taube Judicial Assistant

30 Years

Zach Dalpra Deputy Chief Adult Prob Ofcr

Courtside Photos



Judge Mark Brain swears in his last group of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA Volunteers) before he heads to his new Civil Court rotation. Judge Brain has donated his time to train and swear in new CASA volunteers every other month for the last few years.

Best Arizona Landmark in a Movie



The Old Courthouse was recently selected by azcentral.com as the Winner of the Critics Pick Award for "Best Arizona Landmark in a Movie"



In 2007, OCH was the backdrop for the major motion picture *The Kingdom*, starring Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Garner.