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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.”



Employees Fill Court’s Needs

For some Superior Court employees, the economic downturn and budget cutbacks facing Maricopa County have presented new career opportunities.

Jason Novak sees it as a way to increase his knowledge of Arizona’s judicial system.

Michele Anderson views it as an opportunity to meet new people.

James Horst looks at it as a vote of confidence.

The positive approach of Novak, Anderson and Horst and their willingness to help the Court has turned a challenge into an opportunity. Their new assignments are paying off for them in ways they did not foresee.

Novak and Anderson were working as recruiters in Superior Court’s Human Resources before the hiring freeze brought their workload to a halt.

Because of their down-sized workload, the former recruiters were asked by their supervisor if they would be willing to handle new duties to help Superior Court fill its critical needs. Both agreed.

“Right before the hiring freeze hit, my typical work week involved reviewing approximately 175 probation officer resumes and working two job fairs a week,”

New Assignments

- Marianna Baxter** - Criminal Court
- Gladys Villegas** - CASA
- James Horst** - Probate
- Otillia Santos** - Criminal Court
- Theresa Topf-Fife** - Jury
- Jason Novak** - HR/Juvenile Court
- Michelle Anderson** - HR/Family Court
- Dina Cavazos** - HR/FTR
- Yanet Ramos** - Procurement



Jason Novak Michelle Anderson



James Horst

Novak said. “I was the busiest I’ve ever been. I went from overwhelmed to underwhelmed.”

Message From the Presiding Judge



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge

June is a month filled with traditions including weddings, graduations, family vacations and - for Superior Court in Maricopa County - it is the traditional month when judges and commissioners rotate to new assignments.

Why does this occur in June? It's because it is when the Arizona Supreme Court hosts the statewide judicial conference, which our judges and commissioners are expected to attend. With minimal court proceedings scheduled in our absence, it allows the relocations to occur during a time that is least disruptive to court customers. The conference is being held Monday through Wednesday, June 16, 17 and 18.

The new assignments - affecting 21 of the court's 95 judges and 11 of our 58 court commissioners - take effect with the start of business on Monday, June 23. None of the departmental presiding judges' designations are being changed.

Judges going to new assignments include:

- Judge Christopher Whitten, who is currently handling a civil calendar at the Southeast Court Facility in Mesa, moves to the downtown Phoenix court complex to assume the criminal calendar currently being handled by Judge Michael Gordon.
- Judge Whitten's civil calendar goes to Judge Louis Araneta.
- Judge Araneta's Southeast Juvenile Court calendar moves to Judge Robert Houser.
- Judge Houser's civil calendar at the Northeast Regional Court Center in Phoenix is assumed by Judge Robert Budoff.
- Judge Budoff's downtown Family Court calendar is reassigned to Judge Robert Miles.
- Judge Miles' downtown civil calendar is reassigned to Judge Joseph Heilman.

Additional judges' rotations include:

- Judge Linda Akers, currently assigned to a criminal calendar in downtown Phoenix, moves to the Southeast Juvenile Court calendar currently handled by Judge Robert Oberbillig.
- Judge Akers' criminal calendar is assumed by Judge Janet Barton.
- Judge Barton's complex civil case calendar is reassigned to Judge Oberbillig.

Three judges are rotating assignments among themselves. They are:

- Judge Pendleton Gaines assumes the downtown criminal calendar currently assigned to Judge Andrew Klein.
- Judge Gaines' complex civil calendar is reassigned to Judge Douglas Rayes.
- Judges Rayes' downtown special assignment-civil calendar becomes Judge Klein's calendar.

Additional rotations involve:

- Judge Kristin Hoffman, currently on a downtown civil calendar, is taking the downtown criminal calendar presently assigned to Judge Jeanne Garcia.
- Judge's Hoffman's civil calendar is assumed by Judge Kenneth Mangum.
- Judge Mangum's downtown family court calendar is acquired by Judge Gordon.

The final rotations include:

- Judge Michael Jones, who currently is assigned to a civil calendar at the NE Regional Court Center, moves downtown taking the criminal calendar now assigned to Judge Heilman.
- Judge Jones' calendar is reassigned to Judge Eddward Ballinger. Judge Ballinger retains his responsibilities as Superior Court Northeast Regional Court Presiding Judge.
- Judge Ballinger's family case calendar at Northeast is reassigned to Judge Carey Hyatt.
- Judge Hyatt's downtown civil calendar is assumed by Judge Garcia.

Old Courthouse Receives Legacy Distinction

Superior Court is pleased to announce that the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission has designated the Old Courthouse as an official Legacy Project to mark Arizona's Centennial. The proposed project is the creation of a Justice Learning Center and Museum in and around a cellblock on the sixth floor of Maricopa County's Historic Old Courthouse that has been renovated to its 1929 grandeur.



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.

The centerpiece of the museum will be a multi-media display presenting the justice system in words, sounds and images, including the roles and functions of law enforcement, courts and corrections. Adjacent conference rooms on the sixth floor will host a diorama of displays depicting some of Arizona's most famous cases and the evolution of the court system in Maricopa County and throughout Arizona.

To complete this project, grants will be pursued through local, state and federal sources. For more information, please visit the official Centennial website, www.azcentennial.org or contact **Robin Hoskins** at hoskinsr@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov, 602-372-3004.

From the Presiding Judge - continued from page 1

- Judge Paul Katz and Judge Brian Hauser, both assigned to the Northeast Regional Court Center are swapping calendars - with Judge Katz assuming Judge Hauser's family cases and Judge Hauser taking Judge Katz' civil case calendar.

Superior Court Commissioners getting new assignments are:

- Commissioner Stephen Kupiszewski, who is at the Northeast Regional Court Center handling a family court calendar, relocates to the Northwest Regional Court Center and assumes Commissioner Casey Newcomb's caseload that includes family and civil matters.
- Commissioner Kupiszewski's family court calendar is reassigned to Commissioner Mina Mendez.
- Commissioner Mendez' current assignment on the Early Disposition Court/Regional Court Center calendar at the Southeast facility in Mesa goes to Commissioner Margaret Benny.
- Commissioner Benny's assignment on the Family Night Court calendar at the Northeast Regional Court Center is going to Commissioner Richard Albrecht.
- The Initial Appearance Court assignment in downtown Phoenix that Commissioner Albrecht is currently handling goes to Commissioner Virginia Richter.
- Commissioner Kirby Kongable moves to Southeast to assume Commissioner Richter's civil/probate calendar. The probation violation calendar being handled by Commissioner Kongable is being assumed by Commissioner Frank Johnson.
- Commissioner Sheila Madden relocates to the Probation Revocation Court calendar of Commissioner Lisa Roberts at the downtown Regional Court Center. Commissioner Roberts is moving to the RCC calendar of Commissioner Charles Donofrio, who moves to Commissioner Madden's Initial Appearance Court calendar.
- Commissioner Newcomb is assuming the "floating" calendar that Commissioner Johnson is currently handling. That calendar utilizes a commissioner to fill in where needed on a variety of calendars.

In a very short time, a new judge will be appointed to the bench to fill the vacancy created with the recent retirement of Judge Thomas O'Toole. The new judge's assignment will be announced then.

Q and A: Judge Joseph Kreamer

Judges who have joined the bench over the past several months are being featured in a question-and answer feature that runs regularly in the Judicial Branch News.

Prior to his appointment to the bench in May 2007, Judge Kreamer dedicated much time and effort into ways of improving access to the legal system for people with few financial resources and other barriers. He specialized in personal injury and commercial litigation as trial attorney.

Judge Kreamer is assigned to a Civil Court calendar at the Southeast Superior Court Facility in Mesa.



Joseph Kreamer
Judge

Q. What has surprised you the most about becoming a judge?

It is the amount of paperwork that I see on a daily basis. I knew as a trial attorney that judges had a lot of reading to do, I didn't realize how much. I now feel bad about some of the long-winded briefs I filed as a lawyer and I probably ought to apologize to a few judges.

Q. You have focused a great amount of effort on helping others. You've used your legal expertise to provide access to the legal system to people without the means of finding and hiring an attorney. You've volunteered your time and knowledge to help others. What has motivated such a high level of service to others?

The example set by my parents. Both of them operated under the principle that you should utilize whatever your talents are to help others and I grew up simply accepting that principle. As a young lawyer I saw that many people had no access to civil legal aid and that I might be able to help, so I did. I thoroughly enjoyed being a trial lawyer, but my work on civil legal aid issues has been the most rewarding part of being a lawyer.

Q. Have you ever tried anything that was a total failure? Were there any lessons learned from the experience?

If you see me attempting to build or put anything together, you can probably assume it will be a total failure. My father could fix anything. I can't. I am essentially the Anti-Handyman. I wish I could say that I learned my Dad's patience in putting things together, but the only thing I learned was that I can't and I am probably better off getting someone to do it for me.

Q. What's your favorite quote?

I have lots of quotes that I like, but my current favorite is from Jackie Robinson: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

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?

Either of my parents, who have both passed away, would be the easy choice. Other than them, it would be Abraham Lincoln. The day would probably consist of me asking him a thousand questions about his life.

Q. What goal haven't you yet reached?

I have not been able to break 80 on a golf course. Unfortunately, right now my game is going south and my scores are going north. More seriously, my real goal is to make the most out of my life, and I hope that I will have another 40 or 50 years to work on it.

Court News and Notes

Rebecca Loftus Visits Oxford, England

By Shani Martinez



Rebecca Loftus

Rebecca Loftus, Ph.D., Adult Probation Supervisor and Policy Coordinator, is also an adjunct professor at ASU and one of 34 scholars from around the world who were invited to the prestigious Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England in March.

Loftus presented a paper on Internet Child Pornography. The Oxford Round Table is a not-for-profit organization that gathers scholars and select leaders from the public and private sectors to discuss public policy over a five-day period in a “think-tank” atmosphere.

Loftus is currently assigned to the Planning, Research and Technology Department of Adult Probation.

Security Updates

By Karen Westover

This is a friendly reminder that when you are using your security bypass cards/privileges that Court policy restricts you from the following: 1) giving your badge to someone else to use, including but not limited to family, friends, other co-workers and/or visitors 2) allowing anyone to tailgate behind you into any of the court buildings and 3) allowing anyone to accompany you into any of the court buildings. Failure to follow these restrictions can result in your privileges being removed or other disciplinary action if you are an employee.

In addition, please remember that if you or a family member is involved in any personal litigation, including as a victim or a witness, you must notify Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell if you are a judge or commissioner, or your supervisor if you are an employee, who will then notify Judge Mundell or me. The Court is in the process of revising the personal litigation policy and you will receive a new version shortly.

On another note, effective immediately no glass containers will be allowed into the buildings. We appreciate everyone’s patience and support with increased security measures and the closing of a number of doors due to budgetary needs. We also appreciate the feedback we receive from you and the efforts you are making to help us make the court a more secure place to work.

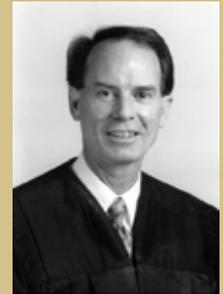
Employees Published in National Journal

Elizabeth Ncube and **Noreen Sharp** of Court Administration had articles published in *the National Center of State Courts Justice System Journal*.

Sharp’s article is about judicial formation and Ncube’s piece focuses on New Employee Orientation. The articles can be read at: http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Comm/Projects/JSJindex/JSJ_TOC/Vol29_1/vol.29_1.html

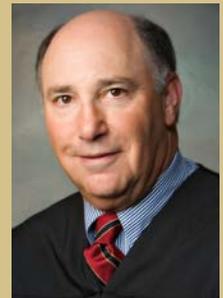
State Bar Honors Judges

Judge Gary Donahoe has been awarded the 2008 Judicial Award of Excellence by the Public Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Arizona for “extraordinary and exemplary contributions to the state and the justice system.”



Judge Donahoe

Also, the State Bar named Retired **Judge Barry Schneider** as its 2008 James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award recipient. The award



Judge Schneider

recognizes “that judge who exemplifies the highest standards of judicial conduct for integrity and independence.”

The awards will be presented at the State Bar convention in Tucson in June.

Employees and Family Members Serving Our Country

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County pays special tribute to employees and their family members who are serving or have served in the U.S. military branches. Below is a selection of photos and stories submitted by several court employees.



Name of Military Personnel:
Allen Todd Crist Jr.

Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Military Rank: Second Lieutenant

Era Served: 2007 - Served a tour of duty in Iraq.

Name of County Employee:
Camille Simon, Bailiff to Judge Rosa Mroz

Relationship: Nephew

Name of Military Personnel:
Andrew Gallagher

Branch of Service: United States Marine Corps

Military Rank: Staff Sergeant

Era Served: Seven years of service. He returned on 4/20/08 from his 3rd tour in Iraq. He is currently serving with the Military Police-Headquarters Battalion 1st Marines at Camp Pendleton.

Name of County Employee:
Hugh Gallagher, Court Administration

Relationship: Son

Name of Military Personnel:
Adam Ennis

Branch of Service: United States Army

Military Rank: Major

Era Served: One tour in Iraq and is now the Commanding Officer of the New Mexico recruiting company.

Name of County Employee:
William Ennis Jr, Judicial Security

Relationship to Employee: Son

Employees and Family Members Serving Our Country



Name of Military Personnel:
Troy Jobs

Branch of Service: United States Army

Military Rank: Combat Medic

Era Served: Serving in San Antonio Texas, 5 years of service with one tour for 13 months in Iraq

Name of County Employee:
Betsy Jobs (Mom) J.A. to **Commissioner Lisa Roberts** and **James Jobs** (Dad) Bailiff to **Commissioner Shellie Smith**

Relationship to Employees: Son



Name of Military Personnel:
William Burton Morgan Evans

Branch of Service: United States Navy

Military Rank: Second Class Petty Officer (SOG2)

Years, or Era Served: October 1957 through September 1961

Name of County Employee:
Pamela Bryant, Judicial Assistant to **Judge Teresa Sanders**

Relationship to Employee:
Father

Wall of Honor



Maricopa County Board of Supervisors created a "Wall of Honor" that recognizes those who are serving or have served our Country in the Armed Forces. Among those included are employees of Superior Court and their family members.

The "Wall of Honor," located in the first floor lobby and second floor hallway of the Maricopa County Administration Building, 301 W. Jefferson, is on display from May 16 thru June 16.

The display, assembled by the Maricopa County Office of Communications, showcases an exhibit of pictures and biographies submitted by county employees who have served, or those who have family members that have served in the military.

Judicial Branch employees are encouraged to visit the "Wall of Honor."



Name of Military Personnel:
Daniel N. Pietrandoni
Branch of Service: United States Marine Corps
Military Rank: Corporal
Years, or Era Served: 1964-1968; MCAS El Toro, Calif. '64-'66; 7th Engr. Bat. Da Nang '66-'67
MCAS New River, NC '67-'68
Job Title: Bailiff to Judge Michael McVey

Employee Finds Judicial Branch Symbolism in his Vietnam Experience

By Steve Ramsbacher, Justice Court Services

The plane departed Travis Air Force Base in the early morning hours on a day in May, bound for Southeast Asia on what now seems a thousand years ago. Though it was a commercial Pan Am flight, it carried military personnel with contract civilian flight support staff. Meals and beverages were provided minus alcohol. Everyone on board was pensive. The flight crew was solicitous and took great care of their passengers. A fuel stop was made in Fairbanks, Alaska. It was now early evening and typical for Alaska, it was cold! Most of us got off the plane to walk around. Deep down I thought we all just wanted to be in the United States one last time, breathing free before getting back on that flight. Our next fuel stop was in Yokota, Japan. Again everyone left the plane. It was now early morning. After the plane was fueled and ready to go, we boarded for the final leg of this journey. After about two hours from taking off from Japan, rising out of the cloud cover and moving toward each wing, appeared four fully loaded United States Air Force fighter jets. Looking out over the wing from my window seat, I saw the fighters wings tilt in a wave and then swiftly fall into the “guide and protect” formation. The mood immediately changed in all of us. Not only was I proud to see my fellow Air Force “brothers” protecting us and guiding us toward war, I realized for the first time we would all have protection for whatever was to come.



A year later, to the day, I again boarded a Pan Am flight. This flight was affectionately called the “Freedom” flight. I was leaving Vietnam and returning home to the United States of America. The flight was scheduled for an early afternoon departure. Vibrant blue skies, puffy monsoon clouds and an orange tropical sun floating over the runway made for a good departure. I couldn’t wait for them to get the “bird” off the ground. As we taxied to the end of the Tan Son Nhut runway in Saigon, I made sure to get a fast, hard look at where I had been for the last year. The engines roared to life and the captain ran us to the end of the runway and lifted the “Freedom” flight up off the ground and over the tropical jungle. Just as the flight began to level out, the orange sun burst from behind a dark cloud and there appeared our fighter escorts. Again they signaled with tipped wings and fell into the “guide and protect” formation. I had forgotten this part of the flight, but silently thanked them for keeping me safe for a year. About two hours out, somewhere over the Pacific Ocean and free from the China Sea, our escorts tipped their wings in a final farewell and left over the darkening horizon. In unison, everyone on the flight saluted our departing escorts. We were free and we had done our job. No more, no less.

Why am I telling this story? I had forgotten this whole thing until yesterday. Now that I have completed the Court Manager Program (Graduation photo below) and prepare for a graduation ceremony this story came back to me. I have been trying to explain to myself, and now to all of you, just what role I feel the Judicial Branch of government plays in society and where I fit in. To me it represents those escorts guiding and protecting civilian charges from harm. Again, I am proud to be part of the mission and in such distinguished company.



Court Management Graduates

Steve Ramsbacher and 14 more employees of the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County graduated from the NCSC Court Management Program. The program enhances management knowledge, skills and abilities of mid-level court managers. Employees include: *Superior Court* - Cheri Clark, Diana Hegyi, Guat Hoon Loo-Bellofiore, Karin Philips, Gina Sanchez, Patricia Seguin, Johnny Tse and Donna Williams. *Justice Court* - Steven Gonzales, Mark Liem, Steve Ramsbacher, Maria Santiago, Gracie Hernandez and Maria Torres. *Adult Probation* - Connie Koch.

Employees Fill Court's Needs - Continued From Page 1

Novak, spends three days a week at Juvenile Southeast Regional Court Center overseeing contractors and two days a week working on special projects and staffing issues for Juvenile Probation at the Downtown Court Complex. He said he is gaining a broader knowledge of the court.

"With my new duties, I get the chance to attend court proceedings and learn about court," Novak said. "Working in HR, I did not get a chance to attend court and see how the judicial system operates. I think this experience will help me grow and further my career as a court employee."

Aside from his benefits on the job, he also has more free time to spend with his family. As a Mesa resident who drives to the Juvenile-Southeast Facility three days a week, he has trimmed hours off his weekly commute.

Anderson, like Novak, was dramatically impacted by the hiring freeze.

"I was nervous at first. As a recruiter, finding employees to hire is my lifeline," Anderson said. "Also, it was tough for me because I like to stay busy."

Anderson, who now is assisting Family Court two days a week by interviewing employees regarding standardization at all the court centers, feels rejuvenated in her new role.

"I like learning new things and meeting new people. My new duties give me a chance to talk to employees from all the different court complexes," Anderson said.

Joining Novak and Anderson is James Horst, a former civil judicial assistant floater who is now working as a judicial assistant to Commissioner Michael Barth.

"I was honored when I was asked to accept a new assignment," Horst said. "I felt the court viewed me as a valuable employee who could quickly learn a new job."

Since he made the switch, Horst is thriving in his new role.

"I enjoy working for Commissioner Barth and like the stability. As a floater, I really never knew where I was going to be from day-to-day and what I would be

doing," Horst said. "Commissioner Barth's division is a high volume, fast paced environment where I'm learning different aspects of the court and building strong relationships."

Other employees who accepted new roles are: **Marianna Baxter, Gladys Villegas, Dina Cavazos, Yanet Ramos, Otilia Santos and Theresa Topf-Fife.**

All nine employees are working in critical areas essential to the Court's daily operations.

"Due to current budget constraints, the Court decided it would be most beneficial to use existing staff to provide critical coverage," said Danna Quinn, Assistant Director of Human Resources. "Our employees deserve the credit. Their willingness to accept additional duties is allowing the Court to save money without sacrificing essential services."

Drug Court Month 2008: Overview

May is Drug Court Month. The annual designation gives adult and juvenile participants the opportunity to educate others about the successful probation programs, focused on treatment that leads to rehabilitation of clients who overcome their substance abuse issues to reclaim productive, law-abiding lives.

Maricopa County Juvenile Probation has three Drug Court teams. Each team can manage a maximum of 20 cases. The Drug Court program, works with juveniles who have significant substance abuse issues. It includes a therapeutic component as well as judicial involvement and probation monitoring.

Adult Probation is benefiting from a federal grant provided to the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families for the Access to Recovery (ATR) program. The grant is used to help individuals recover from substance use disorders through a variety of recovery support and treatment services.

Adult Drug Court staff is currently assessing all new referrals to determine who may benefit from the grant-funded assistance program. It is anticipated treatment combined with recovery support services will enhance each client's Drug Court experience and encourage successful recovery.

*By Catharina Johnson, Juvenile Probation and
Carey McGrath, Adult Probation*

Courtside

Photo Highlights



Left to right: **Superior Court Judge Pendleton Gaines, State Bar of Arizona President Daniel McAuliffe, Arizona Attorney Magazine Editor and Panel Moderator Tim Eigo, Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell, State Bar of Arizona President-Elect Edward Novak and Arizona Court of Appeals Judge Maurice Portley.**

Left - Law Day panel poses for a picture following their discussion in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

Maricopa County celebrated its 50th Anniversary of Law Day on May 1st. The event was held in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix

Video of the entire event is available online at: <http://courts.maricopa.gov/training/cojet/videos.asp?OnlineCourseID=43>



Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer discusses the court budget with Superior Court employees during a Brown Bag seminar at Table One.



On May 12, **Judge Robert Budoff** kicked off the Jury Greeting Program that welcomes jurors to Superior Court.



Criminal Court Tower's design team members explain features of the new facility to Andy Ramirez (right) of ABC15.



A full-scale mock-up of a courtroom for the new Criminal Court Tower. Superior Court invited various groups including judges, victims' groups and members of the media. The mock-up was staged at 3125 W. Durango.