



Oil Painting Unveiled

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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.

"Equal Justice Under Law"



On April 27, friends, family and colleagues paid tribute to Judge John Manuel Gaylord as his official portrait was unveiled. The portrait will be on display in the hallway between the Central and East Court Buildings.

Judge Gaylord was appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court bench in 2000, and he served in family, criminal, and juvenile court before his death in 2007. His work on the bench touched many lives, and he especially enjoyed his time working with juveniles. In juvenile court, he had the opportunity to positively impact the lives of young people – a goal he also pursued throughout a lifetime of volunteering on school boards and in the Boy Scouts of America.



Judge John Gaylord's daughter, Alexandra, unveiled the official portrait of her father during the oil painting tribute ceremony.



In Memoriam

**Judge Peter T. D'Angelo
1931 - 2011**

Retired Judge Peter T. D'Angelo died peacefully at this home on May 14. Judge D'Angelo was appointed as a Maricopa County Superior Court Judge in 1982. During his judicial career, he presided over civil, criminal and family Law matters. He retired from the bench in 2000 after 18 years of service.

New Judge Q-and-A: Danielle J. Viola

Q. What has surprised you the most about making the transition from a partner at Snell & Wilmer to a Superior Court Judge? Please explain.

My only concern about transitioning to the Court was that I would no longer have the same support from my colleagues. Over the years, I came to rely on the mentorship and friendship of my colleagues and I thought it would be a long time before I felt that same level of support in my new role. I have been pleasantly surprised by the extent to which the other judicial officers and the court staff have made my transition seamless.



Danielle J. Viola

Q. How did your work as a Judge Pro Tempore influence your career path?

As a Judge Pro Tempore, I enjoyed having the opportunity to evaluate cases as an outsider rather than as an advocate. My experience with settlement conferences also gave me the opportunity to learn about new areas of the law and to interact with attorneys with which I was unfamiliar. Conducting settlement conferences served as a catalyst to exploring a career on the bench.

Q. What were you doing when you were notified of your appointment to the Bench? Please describe the moment.

I was in the midst of day one of a bankruptcy court trial when I was notified of my appointment. I returned to my office during a break to find several voicemails waiting for me. When I returned the call and heard the news, I was ecstatic. After the call, I realized that I would have to balance my excitement about the appointment with my duties related to the rest of the week-long trial.

Q. What's your favorite quote?

I'd rather be a failure at something I love than a success at something I hate.

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?

Today, I would have to say Louis Zamperini. I just finished reading Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand which is about Zamperini's life. He was a man who lived an amazing life as an Olympic athlete, a plane crash survivor, and a POW during World War II. He endured under circumstances where others could not and he seems to have lived his life without regret. I would spend the day listening to him and discussing his experiences.

Q. Do you own an iPod? If so, what songs are in your playlist?

I do not own an iPod, although I have an MP3 player. While I do not have a playlist, I do have a random selection of artists and the recent additions include Johnny Cash, Fleet Foxes, Katy Perry, and Tennis (Cape Dory).

Judge Retirements

Five Distinguished Superior Court Judges Retire



Gary Donahoe

After long distinguished careers, five Superior Court Judges will be retiring on June 30. Judge Gary E. Donahoe, Judge M. Jean Hoag, Judge J. Kenneth Mangum, Judge Ruth H. Hilliard and Judge Brian R. Hauser will all be missed.

Judge Donahoe has served the court and community for 21 years on the bench with multiple assignments in the civil, probate, criminal and family court departments.

“We all know the tremendous contribution Gary made to this Court and the rule of law during his tenure as Criminal Presiding Judge. Not only did the criminal department make major steps forward in case management and court processes under his leadership, but he lead with dignity and professionalism that inspired everyone at the court and in the community,” Judge Davis said. “More recently Judge Donahoe has taken on the challenge to implement improvements in the Probate Department as the Associate

I have felt a fresh wind at my back pushing me in a new direction.

Judge Gary Donahoe

Presiding Judge working with Judge Rosa Mroz, and has provided exceptional knowledge, strength and leadership in this area as well.”

Judge Donahoe was appointed as a Superior Court Judge in August 2000. Prior to his appointment as a Judge, he served 11 years as a Superior Court Commissioner. Judge Donahoe is a native of Tucson, Arizona and attended the University of Arizona. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology in 1970 and a Master of Science Degree in urban planning in 1972. He worked with the City of Tucson Planning Department for a short while before moving to Flagstaff to work as an urban and regional planner with the Northern Arizona Council of Governments. In 1976, he returned to the University of Arizona and earned his law degree, with honors, in 1979. He worked briefly for the Arizona Attorney General and then joined the Phoenix law firm, Robbins & Green, where he worked for 10 years, specializing in civil litigation.

In 2008, Judge Donahoe was 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 justice system.

“If we still have true American heroes, and I believe we do, Judge Donahoe is at the top of my list. An era is passing,” Judge Davis said.

Judge Hoag has served in the family, civil, probate, and juvenile departments of the Court. During her tenure, she also served as the Presiding Judge of the Southeast Regional Center and the Associate Presiding Juvenile Judge.



M. Jean Hoag

“I will personally miss Jean’s lighthearted, cheerful spirit even in difficult times, and the advanced course on Minnesotan culture she taught everyone. Judge Hoag has served the court and community with honor and distinction,” Judge Davis said.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the State of Arizona.

Judge M. Jean Hoag

Judge Hoag became a Superior Court Judge in 1996 after 13 years as a felony prosecutor at the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. Her last five years as a prosecutor, she specialized in the prosecution of sex crimes and physical abuse cases. She also served as an Assistant State Attorney General assigned to the Organized Crime Division. Before coming to Arizona in 1988, Judge Hoag worked as an Assistant Hennepin County Attorney in Minneapolis Minnesota, specializing in the prosecution of domestic violence. She was adjunct faculty at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota from 1983 until 1988. In 1982, she graduated cum laude from the same college. In 1969, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in secondary English education from Mankato State University in Minnesota.

Judge Retirements

Five Distinguished Judges Retire - Continued from Page 3

In his 20 years as a Judge with Maricopa County Superior Court, Judge Mangum has presided over civil, family, criminal and juvenile court calendars.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Mangum was an attorney for the law firm of Robbins and Geen. He was also a Judge Advocate General Corps in the United States Navy. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1972, and his Bachelor's Degree, *magna cum laude*, from Brigham Young University in 1969.

"We will miss his experience, wisdom, good humor, and steady manner in handling complex issues and cases in every area of the law. Ken was one of the experienced judges when I came to the bench and was always generous with his advice, encouragement and mentoring to me and many others," Judge Davis said.



J. Kenneth Mangum

Judge Hilliard has served as a judicial officer with Superior Court for 26 years, longer than any other judge. She came to the Court as a commissioner, and was appointed judge just one year later.

During her 26 years, she has presided over civil, criminal and family court calendars.

"I have long admired her ability to cut through the sophistry and address the real issue in any case or matter before her," said Judge Davis. "We are losing a gifted and exceptional colleague to retirement, and I wish her the best in whatever awaits her."

Prior to her judicial career, Judge Hilliard was in private practice. She specialized in personal injury law, medical malpractice cases, appellate work and general civil litigation.

It is hard giving up Division #1, and I shall miss the incredible group of judges and commissioners.

Judge Ruth H. Hilliard

Judge Hilliard earned her Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland in 1977. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Connecticut College for Women in 1971.

After 20 years of service with Maricopa County Superior Court, Judge Hauser announced his retirement.

In his letter to the Governor, Judge Hauser was appreciative of the opportunity to serve as a Superior Court Judge.

Judge Hauser wrote, "With the gratitude for my appointment and for the voters who retained me in office five times, I resign from the office of Judge of Superior Court."

During his Judicial Career, Judge Hauser has handled criminal, juvenile, civil and family court calendars.

"Brian brought years of experience gained as an attorney serving in both the public and private sectors to the bench. He has the reputation as an extremely intelligent, forthright and fair judge," Judge Davis said. "Judge Hauser will be difficult to replace."

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Hauser worked in the Civil Division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. He also served in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office between 1980 and 1984. He was in private practice from 1977 to 1979, as an associate in the firm of Carroll, Creamer, Carroll and Duffy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1974 and his law degree in 1977 from Temple University.



Brian R. Hauser



Ruth H. Hilliard

With the gratitude for my appointment and for the voters who retained me in office five times, I resign from the office of Judge of Superior Court.

Judge Brian R. Hauser

"I have the greatest admiration and respect for these great Judges," said Judge Davis. "We will miss them, and I wish them well in their retirement."

News and Notes

Court Appoints Commissioner

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed Wendy S. Morton, former City of Phoenix Judicial Officer and nationally award-winning author and illustrator, to serve as a Superior Court Commissioner.



Wendy S. Morton

Commissioner Morton has a rich law and mass communications background.

Prior to joining the City of Phoenix, Commissioner Morton served four years as a City of Scottsdale Judge and four years as an Administrative Law Judge for the Arizona Office of Administrative Hearings. She also served as a consultant for the Supreme Court of Arizona, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Prior to her judicial career, she worked nine years as a deputy county attorney in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and one year as a special deputy county attorney for Pinal County.

While working on her legal career, Commissioner Morton continued to work in the field of mass communications. She serves as the Chair of the Arizona Attorney Editorial Board. In 2010, she produced and directed a documentary series for the Arizona Supreme Court entitled *Legends of the Arizona Judiciary*. She also is the author and illustrator of two books: *Court Story*, a nationally award winning bi-lingual coloring book that teaches children about the court system and *Flipper and Dipper and the Treasures of 6 Bird* published by Syracuse University Press.

Commissioner Morton earned her Juris Doctorate from Widener University School of Law, and she has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Syracuse University in Political Science and Broadcast Journalism.

In 2009, Commissioner Morton received the State Bar of Arizona's Award for Judicial Excellence.

She will start her career with the Maricopa County Superior Court on a family court calendar, replacing Commissioner Arnold who is retiring the end of May.

Everyday Heroes



Left to right: - Mesa Police Commander Heston Silbert, Surveillance Officer Andrew Gongor and Mesa Police Chief Frank Milstead.

On April 26, 2011, the Mesa Police Department honored Special Supervision Unit, Juvenile Probation Surveillance Officer Andrew Gongora with a *Certificate of Appreciation* for heroism.

In February, while attending a group presentation and conducting his routine school checks at Mountain View High School in Mesa, Gongor responded to an incident.

As the students were leaving, there was a loud crash and a person was heard screaming. Gongor sprinted to the scene and observed a young female lying at the bottom of the stairwell with a motorized wheelchair on top of her, pinning her down and impairing her breathing. He reacted quickly and removed the heavy wheelchair. Gongor immediately assessed her condition while summoning medical assistance. He not only reacted swiftly, but was the only person to react and render assistance.

Probation

KPNX Highlights Boss' Heroic Efforts

Joni Lacaria's compassion for one of her employees caught the attention of news producers at KPNX Channel 12 in Phoenix.

Lacaria, a Juvenile Detention Officer Supervisor, was featured on a segment called *Hero Central*, hosted by Television News Anchor Lin Sue Cooney. *Hero Central* focuses on stories of ordinary people showing extraordinary compassion.

Lacaria's assistance to Jason Wittman and his family during their greatest moment of need was nothing short for heroic.

Lacaria, a busy mother of three, rushed to the aid of Juvenile Detention Officer Jason Wittman after he was hospitalized following a traumatic head injury. Wittman was assaulted while he was working a second job as a doorman at a Valley nightclub. As a result of the attack, Wittman endured three major brain surgeries, and he was in a coma for 14 days.

"I couldn't believe it was Jason just lying there in the hospital. It was scary." Lacaria told Cooney. "I just wanted to help Jason, he's such a great guy. He's so well respected at work."

While Wittman was hospitalized, Lacaria looked after Wittman's wife and kids. She made sure they had food and there were enough groceries in the house. She also set up an account at a credit union to help Wittman with expenses while he was out of work.

Nine months later, Wittman is back on the job. He is on the road to recovery, and he is grateful for the help he received from Juvenile Probation's hero.

If you would like to view the segment, please visit: <http://www.azcentral.com/12news/herocentral/>



JDO Supervisor Joni Lacaria



Juvenile Detention Officer Jason Wittman

Community Restitution Project Visits Mesa

An Adult Probation work crew assisted the City of Mesa with a massive property clean-up that helped the elderly, the indigent and those who were facing city code violations.

In all, the crew performed a total of 45 man-hours during this project; a savings of \$585 to the community.

Adult Probation's Community Restitution program partners with cities throughout Maricopa County. APD staff coordinates more than 450 beautification projects, with an average of 30,000 hours worked, each month.

Submitted by Charlene Goulding-Reed
Adult Probation

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Colleen Durham Court Interpreter
Jaime Delgado Juvenile Detention Officer
Maria Phillips Juvenile Detention Officer
Nathan Pittman Juvenile Detention Officer
Michelle Martinez Presentence Screener
Santos Garcia General Laborer
Maria Lujano Judicial Clerk Associate
Lucy Johnson Juvenile Detention Officer
Ramiro Suastegui Adult Probation Officer
Regina Thornton Bailiff-Classified
Joshua McKibben Case Administrator
Beverly Dupree Finance/Business Analyst
Darrel Troxel Web Designer/Developer
Loritza Gonzales Judicial Clerk Senior
Sheila Leon Judicial Clerk Associate

10 Years

Herbert Smith Juvenile Probation Officer
Wayne Spinks Security Manager
Erika Blanco Surveillance Officer
Janice Bedonie Adult Probation Officer
Kendra Archuleta Adult Probation Officer
Kimberly Bennett Adult Probation Officer
Valerie Burrer Adult Probation Officer
Jade Crawford Adult Probation Officer
George Fairburn Adult Probation Officer
Luis Hartly Adult Probation Officer
Amy Hood-Schwindt Adult Probation Officer
Roger Humphries Adult Probation Officer
Gerrick Hyde Adult Probation Officer
Sheila Jones Adult Probation Officer
Cynthia Ortiz Adult Probation Officer
Jodie Rogan Adult Probation Officer Supv
Oveta Sullivan Collector
Steven Scales IT Senior Manager
Rosemary Tripodi Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv
Patricia Hernandez Adult Probation Officer

15 Years

Linda Felan Security Officer II
Jeanne Duncan Adult Probation Officer
Maria Milburn Adult Probation Officer
Steven Levine Judicial Assistant
Robin Gastelum Adult Probation Officer
Anne Merrill Adult Probation Officer
Adelita Nunez Adult Probation Officer Supv
K Darlene Benard Judicial Assistant
Brigid Jastrzebski Juvenile Probation Officer
Linda Kamins Judicial Clerk Associate

20 Years

Patricia Carey Surveillance Officer
Jan Hutchinson Adult Probation Officer
Frederick Wilhalme Adult Probation Officer
Robert Demers Adult Probation Officer Supv

25 Years

Antionette Salazar Court Reporter
Darlene Jackson Judicial Clerk Associate
Kathryn Lyman Adult Probation Officer

30 Years

Ronni Patterson Programmer/Analyst

New Judges

Michael Herrod Appointed to Bench

Michael J. Herrod has been appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench.

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 law, and his legal background includes work in real estate, bankruptcy, criminal defense and administrative law.

Judge Herrod is a founding director of the law firm Schmitt, Schneck, Smyth & Herrod, P.C. His areas of expertise included adoptions, private dependencies, private termination of parental rights and paternity practice. He also practiced in the area of family business and estate planning, and represents small companies and individuals doing business and estate planning, wills, trusts, probate, guardianships, conservatorships and business formation.

Judge Herrod served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Paradise Valley Hospital and as a member of the Board of Directors for Paradise Valley Christian School.

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

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

Two Commissioners Appointed as Judges

Two Superior Court Commissioners have been appointed as Judges.

Judge James Blomo and Judge Gerald Porter have served as Commissioners since 2003.

Before his judicial appointment, Judge Blomo was presiding over criminal matters. Prior to serving as a commissioner, he worked as a Judge Pro Tem for the City of Tempe and a Deputy County Attorney for Maricopa County, and he spent several years in private practice specializing in criminal defense, civil matters and domestic relations.

Judge Blomo graduated from the University of San Diego College of Law in 1989, and he received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California in 1984.

His appointment filled the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Robert Budoff.

Judge Porter was serving as a commissioner in probate and family court. He served as Associate Presiding Judge for Limited Jurisdiction Courts from 2003 to 2006, and as the Scottsdale Justice of the Peace from 2001 to 2003. Previously, he was a senior policy advisor to Governor Fife Symington and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

He graduated from Creighton University School of Law in 1993, received his Masters of Business Administration from Creighton University in 1990, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska in 1989.

His appointment filled the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Edward Burke.

Courtside Photos



ESCALATOR PROJECT UPDATE: The Court Tower Project Team is installing an escalator in the lobby of the Central Court Building that will lead court customers to the new Downtown South Court Tower.

Once completed, court customers will ride the escalator to a sky bridge, located on level three of the Central Court Building, connecting to the tower. The project will create continuity between the two buildings and improve the flow of pedestrian traffic.

The project is expected to be completed on November 11, 2011.



Commissioner Phemonia Miller receives her award from retired Superior Court Judge Penny Willrich.

COMMISSIONER PHEMONIA MILLER WINS AWARD: Commissioner Phemonia Miller received the Exemplary Public Servant award from the Black Women Lawyer's Association of Arizona. Retired Judge Penny Willrich, the Chair of the BWLAA, presented Commissioner Miller with the award on April 29 at the University Club of Phoenix.

The BWLAA works toward enhancing diversity in the legal profession. Their goal is to increase the presence of women, with an emphasis on women of African American descent, in the legal profession.



Left to right (Back row) - Sharon McCammond and Jennifer Vidlak Nothnagel. (Front row) Brad Finch and Mikisha Steel.

MEET THE EMPLOYEE SERVICES TEAM: The Employee Services Department is staffed with a dedicated group of employees with an in-depth knowledge of Human Resources.

The team comprised of Brad Finch, Sharon McCammond, Mikisha Steel and Jennifer Vidlak Nothnagel has more than 60 years of experience with Maricopa County.

Finch and McCammond are responsible for new hires, position changes and benefits. Steel handles Family Medical Leave, Leave of Absence, Worker's Compensation and ADA requests. Vidlak Nothnagel is the Manager of the ESD and Payroll and she serves as the project manager for the ADP implementation.

Please contact the ESD (602-506-4343) with any of your HR questions.