



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."



Jury System Enhancements Underway

by Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer, Jury Commissioner and Court Administrator

A major technology project, new court facilities and other innovations all stand to reshape the jury system in Maricopa County. These initiatives are part of the Court's concerted effort to enhance the experience of citizens called for jury service and to streamline the jury process.

A New Jury Management System:

Currently in early development, the new jury management system will be fully integrated with the Court's case management system, the Integrated Court Information System (iCIS). Maricopa County has approved approximately \$1 million funding for the new jury automation system, which is targeted for roll-out in 2009. Developed by Court Technology Services (CTS) and the Jury Commissioner's Office, the automation plan was unanimously approved by the Supreme Court of Arizona's Commission on Technology (COT). The juror automation system supports the random selection of prospective jurors, summoning and per diem/mileage payments for superior court, justice courts, 14 municipal courts and the state-wide grand jury.

Proximity Weighted Summoning (PWS) System:

A plan to reinstate "regional juror" summoning through the PWS system will be submitted to the Supreme Court this Fall, pursuant to Senate Bill 1434. Implementation of the system is targeted for the first quarter of 2008.

Improved Jury Facilities:

The downtown criminal justice courthouse plans include a spacious

Jury Facts - FY07	
Jury Summonses Mailed	896,843
Persons Reporting to Jury Duty:	92,105
Number of Trials	
Criminal:	1,003
Civil:	363
Budget	\$3 million
Juror Phone Lines	48
Jury Commission Staff	15

30,000 sq. ft. jury assembly room, serving all superior courts in the downtown complex. Amenities planned include a juror quiet room, juror business center with workstations, improved jury deliberation rooms and separate circulation patterns for jurors. The juror assembly room and overflow areas may also double as training/meeting facilities.

Court and county planners are designing a separate "jurors only" entry into the downtown court complex during construction of the tower.

Also included in the new criminal justice courthouse plan are four large courtrooms, some with accommodations for dual jury trials in cases with co-defendants.

Our thanks to the Supreme Court of Arizona and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support of our jury system.

Message From the Presiding Judge



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge

It has been a decade since a diverse group of county leaders joined together to create a consortium of key officials in courts, defense and prosecution agencies, probation, corrections and others to work together to identify and overcome challenges facing the criminal justice system.

Known as McJustice - the Maricopa County Justice Coordinating Committee – this organization still exists. As its chairperson this year, my goal is to energize and revitalize its mission, focus and function with the collaboration of all of the diverse criminal justice partners.

Last month, I sent out invitations to Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Clerk of the Superior Court Michael Jeanes, Office of Public Defense Services Director James Logan, County Manager David Smith, County Attorney Andrew Thomas and Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Eileen Willett. I sincerely asked each to join the “Policy Group,” take an active role in identifying problems and issues within the criminal and juvenile justice system and work together to find solutions that are mutually beneficial.

I also asked each invitee to join me in making the commitment to take a collaborative and coordinated approach to improving the quality of justice for adults and juveniles in Maricopa County.

The need for recharging McJustice became apparent after a recent informal survey was taken of members and stakeholders. They revealed a widespread belief that McJustice and its various committees and working groups no longer engage in the most important issues affecting the administration of criminal and juvenile justice in Maricopa County.

We need to get back to the original purpose of McJustice, which was to explore problems and issues in our criminal and juvenile justice systems and to collaborate on the solutions.

I look forward to the challenge of reinvigorating McJustice, returning our mission to the original goals set a decade ago, setting new challenges and goals and achieving solutions to issues and problems with a spirit of teamwork and collaboration.

I anticipate that with the help and support of the key leaders I have invited to participate in the “Policy Group,” we will be able to refocus our collective efforts and recommit McJustice to its original purpose.

To maximize its effectiveness, McJustice needs an Operational Group to help develop solutions to key issues and problems identified by the Policy Group. Working with Presiding Criminal Judge Anna Baca as chairperson, the Operational Group will direct and oversee the work of the specialized committees and working groups of McJustice. Individuals invited to participate in the Operations Group include justice agency senior managers and key stakeholders.

My inaugural meeting as chairperson was held on Tuesday, September 18. Discussions during the 90-minute session ignited a renewed interest in the core goals of McJustice. To sustain the commitment required to meet our goals, we will meet monthly through the end of the year and bimonthly thereafter.

I look forward to the challenge of reinvigorating McJustice, returning our mission to the original goals set a decade ago, setting new challenges and goals and achieving solutions to issues and problems with a spirit of teamwork and collaboration.

My goal as its chairperson is that McJustice serves as the catalyst for improving the criminal justice system so each person in Maricopa County is guaranteed equal and open access to timely, fair and impartial administration of justice.

Newsmakers

Assistant Attorneys General Hired as Commissioners



*Richard Albrecht
Commissioner*



*Patricia Arnold
Commissioner*

Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell appointed **Richard Albrecht** and **Patricia Arnold** to serve as Superior Court Commissioners.

Commissioners Albrecht and Arnold replace former Commissioners Dean Fink and Hugh Hegyi who have both been appointed judges on the Maricopa County Superior Court bench.

Commissioner Albrecht, who worked for the Arizona Attorney General's Office for 22 years, most recently served as an Arizona Assistant Attorney General in the Liability Defense Litigation Department. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University in 1978.

Commissioner Arnold served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Child and Family Protection section. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver College of Law.

Judge Joseph Kreamer Sworn In

Judge Joseph C. Kreamer, who was sworn in to office in the Board of Supervisors' Auditorium in Phoenix on September 14, brings to the Superior Court bench a philosophy of "doing what you can to make the world a better place."

As a young lawyer, he started looking for ways to improve access to the legal system for people in need. When he graduated from law school in 1989, he became a volunteer attorney with the Homeless Legal Assistance Project at Arizona State University. At the same time he was building his career as a trial lawyer specializing in civil law.

In 1991, he co-founded a legal clinic for persons affected by HIV. The clinic has grown and is presently known as the Volunteer Lawyers' Program HIV-AIDS Law Project. Judge Kreamer continued in efforts to help provide civil legal services to individuals with few financial resources by serving as chairman of the State Bar Legal Services Committee, on the Board of Directors of Community Legal Services and on the Advisory Board for the Volunteer Lawyers Program. He currently serves as President of the Board of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education.

"As a young lawyer, I saw a need and had an opportunity to do something about it, so I did," Judge Kreamer said, crediting his parents' philosophy that making the world better is "simply a part of how you ought to live."

Judge Kreamer was a trial lawyer prior to his judicial appointment. He specialized in personal injury and commercial litigation cases. He has been assigned to the Civil Department in Mesa.

Governor's Office Honors Judges



*Eileen S. Willett
Juvenile Court Presiding Judge*

Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Eileen S. Willett was honored by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for her influence over Juvenile Court standards, her continuous assistance to families and her involvement in Restorative Justice as Juvenile Presiding Judge.

"I'm so honored to receive this award on behalf of all the dedicated probation officers and court employees who work tirelessly for the benefit of victims, families and children," Judge Willett said.

Former Superior Court Judge, now Arizona Court of Appeals Judge, Maurice Portley and the **Honorable John Gaylord** received awards at the 2007 GOHS Summit.

Judge Gaylord, honored posthumously, was recognized for his intensive and continuous service to the families of Maricopa County.

Court Briefs

News from around the Court

Human Resources

Judicial Branch Human Resources recently promoted **Janet D. Baca** to the position of Senior Employee Relations Specialist. The position was recently vacated by the departure of Helen Sterbach. Since October 2006, Janet served as the Lead Staffing Analyst for Judicial Branch Human Resources Recruiting and Staffing. Janet started her career in October 2001 with the Adult Probation Department as Payroll Coordinator. She was later promoted to Policy Analysis Coordinator with Adult Probation in March 2004.



Janet holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management, and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, both from Ottawa University. Additionally, Janet recently joined the U.S. Army National Guard as a Finance Specialist and will report for three months of basic training in South Carolina in January 2008.

As Senior Employee Relations Specialist, Janet joins Peter Marturana in conducting internal investigations into employee complaints; providing guidance and interpretation to employees on policies related to employment; and assisting supervisors, managers and executives with personnel issues.

Story Submitted by Gary M. Bridget
Employee Relations Administrator

Law Library

Research Tip of the Month: Don't Strike Out with Public Speaking

It is common to fear speaking in public. But, as a judicial officer, court administrator or court staff member, we have to be prepared to overcome that fear because our jobs often put us in the position of being required to speak to large audiences. When we do have to speak in public, we are typically well-versed in our speaking topics. However, we can still get thrown the occasional curve ball. If you find yourself with a curve ball headed at you, the Law Library is here to help. Here are just a few of the ways we can help you prepare for a public speaking event:

- The Law Library staff can prepare bibliographies to update you on current events related to your topic.
- We can draft literature reviews to provide you with a list of seminal works on your topic.
- If you have a particular publication that you need to prepare for your presentation and it is not owned by the Law Library, there's no need to go out and purchase it. We can request to borrow a copy from another library for you.

With a little effort, you can still hit a home run with your speech even if the topic isn't your specialty! For more information about assistance in preparing for speeches or any other library services, please contact the Law Library at (602) 506-3461, or services@scll.maricopa.gov. Our mission is to provide the Court with timely, efficient and reliable access to legal information. And, we welcome the opportunity to help you with your legal information needs.

Story submitted by Jennifer Murray
Law Library Assistant Director

CASA PROGRAM RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

The Maricopa County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program recently received certification by the National CASA Association recognizing that the Maricopa County Program is in compliance with National CASA's high standards for quality child advocacy.

Michael Piraino, CEO of the National CASA Association, explained: "The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous and reflects our commitment to ensure every child we serve has the most powerful volunteer advocate working on their behalf. This certification says Maricopa County CASA has demonstrated to us a strong capacity to provide excellent services to the abused and neglected children within their community."

CASA Program was started in Maricopa County in 1985 by former Presiding Juvenile Court Judge C. Kimball Rose to recruit, screen and train community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court proceedings. The CASA Program is the only volunteer program that works within the court system to give foster children a voice.

For more information on the Maricopa County CASA program contact **Justine Grabowsky-Paluh** at (602) 506-3930 or visit www.maricopacasa.org.

Local Responders Attend Homeland Security Training

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County sent several court staff members to attend Homeland Security training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, Alabama. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation.

Debra Olsen from Juvenile Probation, **Gary Streeter** from Adult Probation, **Beverley Dupree** and **Gary Bridget** from Human Resources and **Heinz Sauermann** from the Department of Judicial Security attended a two-day Pandemic Influenza and Preparedness training.

Responders attending CDP training are specially selected from the nation's 11 million emergency responders. Training at the CDP ensures that responders gain critical skills and confidence to be better prepared to effectively respond to local incidents or potential WMD.

The CDP provides federally-funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders from across the United States and U.S. Territories. Training includes: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative, Hazardous Materials, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Safety Communications and Public Works.



Employees who attended the Pandemic Influenza and Preparedness training class. **First row** - first on left: **Debra Olsen**, Trial Courts' Juvenile Division; **Third row** - third person from left: **Beverly Dupree**, Trial Courts' Admin. Services, **Fourth row** - second from left: **Heinz Sauermann**, Trial Courts' Security; second from right: **Gary Streeter**, Adult Probation

New Judges Assume Calendars

Get to Know New Superior Court Judges and Commissioners

Moving crews have been busy getting chambers and courtrooms ready for the eight new judges and two new commissioners joining the Superior Court bench. The move-ins began late last month and will be completed in early October.

Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell has selected assignments for each of the new judicial officers. Family Court has four new judges and Civil and Juvenile Court each have two new judges. The two newly hired commissioners have been assigned to Initial Appearance Court.

Each new judge and commissioner brings to the court a unique background of legal expertise which serves the court well, adding new perspectives and talent.

The four new judges in Family Court include Judges Dean Fink, Daniel G. Martin, Susanna C. Pineda and Randall H. Warner.

Judge Dean M. Fink has been presiding over Family Court cases for almost a month handling a calendar in the downtown court complex. He served as a Superior Court Commissioner since 2004, handling a mixed calendar of probate and mental health cases, until he was reassigned to the criminal department just before his appointment as a judge. Before becoming a commissioner, Judge Fink worked as an attorney at Lewis and Roca law firm from 2000 to 2004. Before that he spent over four years at Kirkland & Ellis and two years at Fennemore Craig.

Judge Daniel G. Martin assumes a Family Court calendar on Oct. 9. During the past year, he served as a Superior Court Judge Pro Tem. Since 1999, he served as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Arizona Office of Administrative Hearings. And most recently, he was an Assistant Presiding Judge there. Shortly after graduating from law school, he clerked for Arizona Supreme Court Justice James Moeller. Judge Martin assumes the Family Court calendar that had been handled by Judge Kenneth Fields, who retired in June.

Judge Susanna C. Pineda served a lengthy career of more than 20 years as an Assistant Attorney General with criminal and civil law experience. She served 12 years in the Criminal Appeals Section of the Attorney General's Office and nearly two years in the Drug and Violent Crime Section. Since 2001, she worked in the Liability Management Division. Her first assignment as a Superior Court Judge begins on Oct. 1, when she assumes Judge Gary Donahoe's previous Family Court calendar in the downtown court complex.

Judge Randall H. Warner begins his Family Court calendar on Oct. 9 in downtown Phoenix also. He was a partner in the firm of Jones, Skelton & Hochuli immediately before his appointment to the bench. Judge Warner began his legal career clerking for one year with Justice Thomas A. Zlaket of the Arizona Supreme Court. From there he went into private practice specializing in commercial litigation and appellate work. Judge Warner dedicated much of his time and expertise working with the State Bar of Arizona and other organizations to train legal professionals in a variety of educational programs and forums.



Judges - left to right: Susanna C. Pineda, Daniel G. Martin, Samuel J. Myers, Roger E. Brodman, Randall H. Warner and Dawn M. Bergin.

Continued - New Judges Assume Calendars

New to the Civil Court Department are Judges Hugh E. Hegyi and Samuel J. Myers.

Judge Hugh E. Hegyi also assumed his responsibilities as a judge a month ago, assigned to the Family Court calendar that previously had been assigned to Judge Jeffrey Hotham, who retired on June 30. Judge Hegyi started his Superior Court career in 2003 as a Court Commissioner. He was assigned to Family Court until June when he began handling a Civil/Probate Court calendar. Prior to becoming a commissioner, Judge Hegyi served in the Attorney General's Office from 1990 until 2003 and drafted Arizona's "Used Car Lemon Law," enacted in 1998. Judge Hegyi is in the Central Court Building in Phoenix.

Judge Samuel J. Myers is a former prosecutor for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, specializing in homicide and other major felony cases. As a prosecutor, he was a volunteer speaker for the organization Parents of Murdered Children and also helped educate law enforcement officials about domestic violence. After receiving his law degree in 1993, he worked as a law-trained bailiff for Superior Court Judge I. Sylvan Brown. He then joined the county attorney's office. Judge Myers' first day on the bench is Oct. 9 with an assignment to a newly created Civil Department calendar. His courtroom is in downtown Phoenix.

Juvenile Court has gained Judge Dawn M. Bergin and Judge Roger E. Brodman, both assigned to calendars at the Durango Juvenile Court Center.

Judge Dawn M. Bergin begins handling cases on Oct. 9. She is a former partner in the commercial litigation section of Lewis and Roca and was the Chair of the firm's Litigation Department. She formerly served as the Chair of the firm's Associates Committee. Judge Bergin assumes the Juvenile Court calendar that had been assigned to Judge Dennis Dairman, who retired in June.

Judge Roger E. Brodman is the co-founder of Holden Brodman PLC, which specializes in general construction law. Prior to his appointment, he practiced law for 24 years in California and Arizona. Since 1992, he served on the American Arbitration Association's construction law panel. On Oct. 1, he assumes the Juvenile Court calendar that had previously been assigned to Judge Jonathan Schwartz, who retired on June 30.

The two commissioners working in Initial Appearance (IA) Court held in the Fourth Avenue Jail in downtown Phoenix are **Richard Albrecht and Patricia Arnold**.

Both join Superior Court from careers with the Arizona Attorney General's Office. Commissioner Albrecht had worked with the Liability Defense Litigation Division. Commissioner Arnold worked in the Protective Service Section of the Attorney General's Office.

Commissioners Albrecht and Arnold were hired to fill the commissioner positions vacated with the appointments of Judges Fink and Hegyi. They just recently began their assignments in IA Court.

Completing the rotations made necessary because of judicial appointments are the reassignments of former IA Court Commissioners **Michael Barth and Charles Donofrio**, who have filled the vacancies created with the appointments of Judges Fink and Hegyi. Commissioner Barth is assigned to the Civil/Probate Court calendar that had been handled by former Commissioner (now Judge) Hegyi. Commissioner Donofrio moved to the Downtown Regional Court Center calendar that had been handled by Judge Fink when he was a commissioner.

Also, on September 24, **Commissioners James Blomo and David Cunanan** swapped calendars. Commissioner Blomo will conduct jury trials and other criminal hearings. Commissioner Cunanan is assigned to the Regional Court Center calendar in the East Court Building.



Dean M. Fink
Judge



Hugh E. Hegyi
Judge

Get Ready for Flu Season

AHHHCHOO! It's that time of year again when your actions could make all the difference in the world to those that you live, work and interact. Influenza (flu) season is nearly upon us, and receiving your annual flu shot will not only help keep you healthy, but also others around you.

Flu is caused by a virus in the body. It spreads when infected persons cough, sneeze or talk around others. People with flu are *contagious* a day before symptoms appear and three to seven days after. Children can be contagious for more than a week. You can get the flu simply by touching a surface like a telephone or doorknob that has been contaminated by a touch from someone who has the flu. The viruses can pass through the air and enter your body through your nose or mouth. If you have touched a contaminated surface, viruses can pass from your hand to your nose or mouth.

The good news is that most flu viruses are preventable, and during the latter part of October and early November *free* vaccinations will be available at a location near you! Clinical studies have proven the efficiency of vaccinations in reducing the outbreak of flu. The endorsement and support of annual flu vaccinations are worldwide. Statistics show that:

- Among the elderly, vaccination is thought to reduce influenza-related cause of disease by 60 percent and influenza-related mortality by 70-80 percent.

- Among healthy adults the vaccine is very effective (70-90 percent) in terms of reducing influenza-caused disease, and vaccination has been shown to have substantial health-related and economic benefits in this age group.

- Influenza vaccination has a positive cost-benefit ratio and leads to approximate savings of \$260 per vaccinated child, mainly due to savings in indirect costs, such as reduction in number of working days lost by parents because of flu-like illnesses or in order to stay home to care for their sick child.

The flu shot myth...

Different side effects can be associated with the flu shot. The viruses in the flu shot are killed (inactivated), so you cannot get the flu from a flu shot. Some minor side effects that could occur are: soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given low grade fever and aches.

If these problems occur, they begin soon after the shot and usually last 1 to 2 days. Almost all people who receive influenza vaccine have no serious problems from it. However, on rare occasions, flu vaccination can cause serious problems, such as severe *allergic* reactions.

An excellent resource regarding the flu, flu symptoms and vaccinations - www.flufacts.com - has interactive tools such as *Symptom Checker*, *Is it a Cold or the Flu*, and the *Flu Tracker* that are easy to use. Additionally, the website provides *Resources for You and Your Family*.

Remember, by getting your flu shot, you substantially reduce your, and your loved ones', vulnerability for getting the flu, as well as reducing the spread of flu.

Story Submitted by Beverly Dupree
Management Analyst

FLU SHOT SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Time	Dept/Bldg.	Location	Room
Monday	Oct. 22	6am-4pm	Admin	301 W. Jefferson St.	Breezeway
Tuesday	Oct. 23	6am-10am	McDot	2901 W. Durango	Apache
Tuesday	Oct. 23	12pm-4pm	Juv. Pro	3325 W. Durango	Upstairs Conference Room
Wednesday	Oct. 24	8am-9am	Admin	BOS (301 W. Jefferson)	Tom Sullivan Rm-10th floor
Wednesday	Oct. 24	10am-12pm	MCSO Train	2627 N 35th Ave.	Nurse's Station
Wednesday	Oct. 24	2pm-5pm	Jail	3250 W. Lower Buckeye Rd	RTC Room (2nd floor)
Thursday	Oct. 25	7am-11am	Security Bldg.	222 N. Central	Suite 101 (BLM Room)
Friday	Oct. 26	7am-10am	Courts	620 W. Jackson	COC training Rm-3rd floor
Monday	Oct. 29	7am-10am	Qir Quality	1001 N. Central	West View Rm (1st floor)
Monday	Oct. 29	12pm-4pm	P.H.	1645 E. Roosevelt	TBA
Tuesday	Oct. 30	7am-2pm	Admin	301 W. Jefferson St	Breezeway
Wednesday	Oct. 31	9am-12pm	Courts	222 E. Javelina	TBA
Wednesday	Oct. 31	2pm-5pm	Adult Pro	245 N. Centennial Way	TBA

Courtside

Photo Highlights

In the News



More than 40 employees from Superior Court, the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office joined together to re-engineer many of the processes in the Criminal Department. This three-day session chronicled the current processes used to move criminal cases through Superior Court.



Arizona Supreme Court Justice W. Scott Bales swears in **Judge Joseph C. Kreamer** (right) to the Superior Court Bench at the investiture ceremony in Phoenix on September 14.

Save the Dates: The Courts and the Community Working Together

The Judicial Branch of Arizona and the Honorable Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell invite you to participate in upcoming community forums.

These forums will provide an opportunity to meet judges and court personnel. They will answer questions and discuss issues and concerns affecting our families, youth and community.

For more information contact:
Media Relations and Community Outreach
602-372-0595

Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be made upon request, please call 602-506-7546.

TTY 602-372-0714

Please Join Us!

Phoenix College

Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 6pm
Dome Room

3310 North 10th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85013



Mesa Community College

Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 6pm

Navajo Room of the Kirk Center
1833 West Southern Avenue

Mesa, AZ 85202



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