

News and Notes

Court Security Ceremony



Presiding Judge Norman Davis, (left) Security Director Edward DeCoste (center) and Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer (right) pose with security personnel following an officer graduation ceremony at Table One.



Presiding Judge Norman Davis (left) and Officer Brian Jacobsen (right). Officer Jacobsen was one of several officers to complete the security officer training academy.

Superior Court Hires Multimedia Journalist



Kelly Vail interviews Liz Kotalik during a shoot inside the Old Courthouse

Presiding Judge Norman Davis set a new first for the Court when he hired Multimedia Journalist Kelly Vail.

Superior Court is one of the first court systems to hire a multi-media journalist to reach out to the community via social media. To assist Kelly, Superior Court employed intern Liz Kotalik from Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. Both positions will work with Media Relations Director Karen Arra and Public Information Officer Vincent Funari.

Kelly and Liz will be developing and producing videos about the court system. The videos will be uploaded to Superior Court's website and social media sites.

Kelly has a degree in Broadcast Journalism from Cal State Northridge. While in school, she learned how to shoot, edit, write, report and produce.

After graduation, Kelly began working for the Fox affiliate in Fresno, California as a photographer. She spent four years in the Fresno area before being hired by KPHO Channel 5 in Phoenix.

Liz is a senior at ASU. She has volunteered at Channel 99 in Phoenix where she edited, produced, filmed and performed stand-ups. She also has a rich background in community service, leadership and acting.

To check out the Superior Court AZ YouTube channel go to: www.youtube.com (Superior Court AZ)

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Law Librarian Selected for Summit

Law librarians from around the country will meet in Oak Brook, Illinois in November to discuss the future of law librarianship in the 21st Century.

Among those in attendance will be Superior Court's Jennifer Murray who was one of 25 librarians selected from more than 5000 librarians nationwide.

"I'm proud of Jennifer. This is a real honor for her and the Court," said Deputy Court Administrator Karen Westover.

The American Association of Law Librarians (AALL) Futures Summit is designed to generate discussions about the future of AALL and of law librarianship. Attendees will work together to envision the future by exploring various questions including: "What will the profession look like in 21st Century America?"; "What will AALL members need to thrive as law librarians in the future and what will be the formula for success?"; and "How can AALL engage its newer members in planning for this future?"

The Summit will be held November 3-4, 2011 at the Lodge in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Phil Knox Named NACM Committee Chair

The National Association for Court Management (NAM) has appointed Phil Knox, General Jurisdiction Courts Administrator, as chairman of the association's Publications Committee.

This is a highly responsible chairmanship, with duties that include oversight of key national publications on court administration and court system improvements, including:

The *Court Manager*, a quarterly journal that includes articles pertinent to court administrators, clerks of court and judicial leadership; the monthly electronic *Court Express*; and the timely, single-focus *Mini Guides*, which have touched on topics as diverse as *Achieving and Sustaining the Green Court* (2009); *Court Security Guide* (2005); *Developing Comprehensive Public Information Programs for Courts* (1996); and *Court Administrator: A Manual* (2011).



Phil Knox

Court Hires Jury Administrator

Superior Court hired Candace Atkinson as its new Jury Administrator. Before coming to Maricopa County, Atkinson was Jury Administrator for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida in Tallahassee. Prior to her work at the Federal Court, she was Court Administrator for the Greeley Municipal Court in Colorado.

Atkinson received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Regis University, graduating with honors.

She will begin with the Court on September 27th.

2011 NACo Awards



Remote Interpreter Program

The remote interpreter program allows the court to provide an interpreter to over 25 courtrooms throughout Maricopa County in all areas of the law from a remote location. The program has increased the interpreters' productivity, provided a means to satisfy the increasing demands, and improved the utilization of resources.

Backlog FARE

Backlog FARE addresses the need to collect monies owed to the justice courts that have been uncollected. The program also makes it easier for citizens to pay monies they owe. Backlog FARE utilizes the transmission of electronic case and financial data between the administrative office of the courts, motor vehicle department and state courts to ensure applicable obligations are met and have increased collections from about \$300,000 to \$500,000 per month.



Probation Re-entry Initiative



Over 100 offenders per month are released from prison with a consecutive probation sentence in Maricopa County. A specialized re-entry unit implemented a new supervision model, collaborated closely with the Arizona Department of Corrections and community-based service providers, and dramatically improved the re-entry process, achieving noteworthy reductions in recidivism.

2011 NACo awards

Juvenile Court Community Services Unit



The community services unit began development in 2006 with the establishment of the juvenile court guide program. Over the next several years, the CSU became fully formed with the collaboration of internal and external partners. The CSU is composed of representatives from child welfare, behavioral health, court conciliators, court guides, and early intervention staff. Additional collaborative partners include: court operations, and volunteer lawyers and law students. The CSU is available to the public as a “one stop shop” for information, referral services, and limited free legal advice.

Juvenile Court Guide Program

The juvenile court guide program was established in 2006. The court guides are known as the “ambassadors” of the court and are available to community members attempting to navigate the juvenile court system. Guides are usually the first point of contact for the public who come to court with questions regarding juvenile guardianship, emancipations, and dependencies. Juvenile court guides are also available to review documents and to ensure that the public understands court process.



Improving Safety through Apprehension of drug-related offenders

The adult probation department secured stimulus funding to save five surveillance officer jobs and to combat narcotics-related crime by apprehending individuals with drug-related probation warrants. The five officers collaborated with local law enforcement and exceeded project goals. Over 1,900 probationers with drug-related warrants were apprehended in less than two years.



Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

McKenzie Hold-Synk Adult Probation Officer
Aaron Peterson Adult Probation Officer
Donald Rogan Adult Probation Officer
Rebecca Rowland Adult Probation Officer
Susan Stewart Adult Probation Officer
Scott Stoffel Adult Probation Officer
Catherine Vasquez Adult Probation Officer
Annie Cox Judicial Clerk Senior
William Stephen Juvenile Detention Officer
Otilia Santos Office Assistant Specialized
Michael Whitaker Bailiff

Bert Binder Electronic Courtrooms Administrator
Susan Hutcheson Judicial Clerk
Julie Jacoba Adult Probation Officer
Andrew Baiza Bailiff
Tiffany Fotos Bailiff
Lori Britton Judicial Assistant
Christopher Kraus Judicial Assistant-Classified
Carol Ruelas Judicial Clerk
Pamela Harmon Judicial Clerk Associate
Viorel Vrancea Programmer/Analyst
Corrine Cox Bailiff

20 Years

Gracie Hernandez Judicial Clerk Lead
Grace Ku-Richards Juv Probation Div Managr
Michael Garcia Juvenile Probation Officer

10 Years

Rene Blake Presentence Screener
Mary Ramirez Judicial Financial Clerk
Veronica Roman Judicial Clerk Associate
Shareef Muhammad Counselor
Donna Jones Judicial Assistant
Beatrice Moreno Judicial Clerk Lead
Orlanda Carr Payroll Representative
Lilly Quiroz Judicial Clerk Senior
Stephanie Ross Judicial Specialist

15 Years

Gerald Anderson Administrative Assistant
Deanna Baker Adult Probation Officer
Karen Crofford Adult Probation Officer
Jason Hatchcock Adult Probation Officer
Paul McDonald Adult Probation Officer
Phyllis Parham Adult Probation Officer
Consuelo Perez Adult Probation Officer
Eva Smith Judicial Clerk Senior
Elisa Velasquez Judicial Clerk Senior
Mario Figueroa Juvenile Detention Officer

25 Years

Lydia Navarro Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Deborah Johnson Bus Syst Analyst, Sr

30 Years

Jennifer Stadler Bailiff
Herbert Quezada Juvenile Probation Officer

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A Court's Remarkable Recovery from a Capital Case Crisis

Three Superior Court Judicial Officers, Judge Robert Gottsfeld, Judge Douglas Rayes and Commissioner Patricia Starr, co-authored a story that will soon be published in the State Bar's Arizona Attorney Magazine.

The full article is expected to run in the November issue of the Arizona Attorney magazine.

Below is an excerpt from the story:

Faced with the daunting task of managing more than twice the number of active capital cases than the Maricopa County Superior Court had traditionally experienced, the court designed a capital case management system and dedicated considerable resources. Once the Court's redesigned capital case management system was up and running the Court became increasingly efficient at processing and trying capital cases. The record number of capital cases that have been resolved the past three years (148), is one indication of the Court's capital case efficiency. The court's strict trial continuance policy, consistent with the criminal rules, cut delays significantly. The challenge for the Court in the future will be to maintain consistency, avoid unnecessary delays, and continue to ensure a fair process for all parties.

New Judge Appointed



The Governor appointed Court Commissioner Cindy Bailey as a Judge on the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench.

Cindy Bailey

Prior to her appointment, Judge Bailey served as a Commissioner in the criminal court division. Before joining the Court, she spent five years with the Civil and Criminal Divisions at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Her state government employment includes service as the Arizona State Senate's Rules Attorney and Judiciary Committee Analyst. She also worked at Kimerer & Derrick, PC; Fromm, Smith & Gadow; Bailey Law Offices, PLC and the Grant County Prosecutor's Office in Marion, Indiana. She graduated from Arizona State University in 1988, completing her law degree from ASU in 1992.

She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gary Donahoe.

Adult Probation Chief Honored



Adult Probation Chief Barbara Broderick (Right) is the 2011 winner of the National Association of Probation Executives' Dan Richard Beto Award. Broderick accepted the award from NAPE President Ellen Brokofsky (Left).

Watermaster Thanks Clerk

For the past three years, Courtroom Clerk Robin Tomlinson has prepared the hearing minute entries for the Gila River Adjudication. She showed great interest in the proceedings, took good notes, and was prompt.

Robin told us, "Having the opportunity to be a part of these hearings sparked many a lively conversation with my closest friends, many of whom had not really stopped to consider the implications of water rights, where they might originate, and how difficult it might be to find a way to fairly and equitably divide those rights." Thank you for your assistance and commitment.

Submitted by Special Water Master George Schade



Adoption Day Seeks Volunteers

Volunteers Needed for NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY on Saturday, November 19, 2011

Be a part of this nationwide event – the Maricopa County event has been the largest in the nation for the last three years.

To volunteer, please send an email expressing your interest to:

traherj@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov no later than October 14th.