

State of the Judicial Branch

In Maricopa County

**Honorable Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge**

*Office of the Presiding Judge
Office of the Court Administrator*



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

September 2006

Introduction

Although the court currently serves 3.7 million county residents, it is also preparing for ongoing unprecedented population growth.

The programs and services included in this report on the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County represent the collective work of the Court's judges, commissioners, administrators, probation and court personnel. The Judicial Branch continues to improve services in the areas of public access to court, prompt and affordable justice, and accountability to the citizens. Although the court currently serves 3.7 million county residents, it is also preparing for ongoing unprecedented population growth.

Court-wide initiatives completed or in substantial operation

Court Departments

Family Court

Developed and largely implemented a Family Court reform plan with 29 initiatives, including Post Decree Court, a Decree on Demand Program and simplified processes for service to the public

Probate/Mental Health

Implemented the Comprehensive Mental Health Court, integrating court services for civil and criminal mental health cases

Criminal

Enhanced criminal case management, including reinstatement of the Continuance Panel (effective September 5, 2006)

Juvenile Court

Implemented system improvements based upon strategic planning and consulting studies by the National Center for State Courts and the Office of Juvenile Justice Consulting

Civil Court

Further developed the Complex Litigation Pilot Project and a program evaluation methodology, and added a supporting law clerk

Court-Wide Initiatives



Probation and Detention Services

■ **Adult Probation**

Implemented the evidence based practices (ETBP) initiative utilizing scientific methods to sustain reduced recidivism, established a Pretrial Services Bond Review Unit and acquired security screening at Probation Field Offices

■ **Juvenile Probation**

Increased the number of Community Justice Panels, expanded the Teen Court program, created the investigative supervision probation and dual ward supervision units, launched the Title IV-E (Foster Care) program, implemented a Leadership Development program and developed a Community Resource Unit. Carol Boone was appointed as the new Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

Public Service

■ **New Court Locations**

Opened the new Northeast Regional Courthouse, with the first co-located Superior and Justice Courts

■ **Performance Measures**

Implemented the National Center for State Courts' CourTools Performance Measurement System, including user exit surveys, employee satisfaction surveys and case management data, which in combination will be displayed court-wide as an electronic dashboard to inform all judges and staff as to progress in performance

■ **Outreach**

Expanded Community Outreach through community forum meetings, publications and television programming

■ **Self Service Center**

Celebrated the ten year anniversary of the Self Service Center, the first self-help program of its scope in the country; over 1,000,000 litigants have been served to date

■ **Special Court Counsel - Justice System Planning and Communications**

New position created to help reduce jail and juvenile justice overcrowding; serve as court liaison to the county, other justice agencies and the Citizens' Jail Oversight Commission and also oversee communications and community outreach

Court-Wide Initiatives

Electronic Courtrooms

Video cameras are activated by sound. Microphones can detect the slightest whisper. Flat screen monitors simplify evidence presentation. Two-way video conferences allow court appearances from other locations around the country.

Technology

■ **New Court Locations**

Developed the first county-wide Information Technology Plan encompassing the Superior, Justice and Municipal Courts; Clerk of the Court; and Adult and Juvenile Probation

■ **Filing**

In coordination with the Clerk of Court's Office, E-Filing Project expansion to Superior Court civil and criminal cases

■ **Case and Cash Management**

Integrated Court Information System (iCIS) enhancements, including case/cash management system for Justice Courts and the planned JOLTS replacement for juvenile court

■ **Courtroom Technology**

Initial Appearance Court On-line

■ **E-Courtrooms**

Exhibit presentation, video recording and video conferencing systems and real-time reporting

■ **On-line Interactive Forms Generation**

Family Court and Justice Courts

Court Personnel

■ **Increased Resources**

Expanded judicial resources with the addition of one new judgeship, four commissioners, several interpreters, and many probation/detention staff and security personnel and division support staff

■ **Pay increase**

Implemented market study pay increases for division staff (e.g., court reporters, bailiffs, judicial assistants), interpreters and court security guards

■ **Orientation**

Established a new two-day New Employee Orientation Program with particular focus on the mission, ethics, and workflow of the court.

Future Challenges



Spanish DUI Court Award Winners

Court Services

- **Pending Litigation**
Spanish DUI Court
- **Jury**
Challenge to proximity weighted juror summoning system
- **Night Court**
Pilot Projects for Juvenile and Family Court (January 2007)
- **Judicial Formation**
Expansion of information and services for new judges and outreach to judges with experience through mentoring programs
- **Juvenile Justice**
Develop graduated sanctions and Community Justice Panels to address violations of juvenile probation and develop additional resources and alternatives to reduce detention overcrowding

Future Challenges

“This new court structure reinforces our county leaders’ philosophy of maximizing the use of public funds by constructing court facilities where the community is well served by multiple programs and services and enhanced accessibility to timely justice,” said Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell.

Administration

■ Facilities Planning

To address space needs of the Court:

- Downtown Criminal Tower Restorative Justice Center proposal
- SE Regional Court Tower (EDC/RCC, Adult/Juvenile Probation and Justice Courts)
- One West Madison – Criminal Courts (EDC & RCC)
- Conceptual Space Plan for Family Court Restorative Model
- Southwest Regional Court (Avondale), San Tan (Chandler), Downtown Justice Center

■ Strategic Planning

Development of court-wide plan encompassing public access, timely justice, cultural competency and workforce development

■ Judicial Turnover

Retirement of Superior Court judges in 2007; use of paid pro tem judges and incorporation of new judges appointed as replacements

■ Disaster Preparation

Disaster and Business Continuity Planning, including alternative court sites and plans for pandemic flu

■ Pay increase

Judicial Officer Compensation advocacy

■ Pay Studies

Compensation market studies for probation, detention and court management personnel

Commitment to Excellence

Spanish DUI Court, a program to help rehabilitate individuals who drive under the influence of drugs and alcohol, was recognized for “improving communication and cooperation with the community.”

Awards for Programs and Services to the Public

- **Spanish DUI Court**
National Association of Counties Special Achievement Award
- **Spanish DUI Court**
Arizona Judicial Branch Achievement Award for “Improving Communication and Cooperation with the Community, Other Branches of Government, and within the Judicial Branch”
- **Spanish DUI Court**
Governor’s Office of Highway Safety Award
- **Sex Offender Residential Density**
National Association of Counties Achievement Award
- **The Sex Offender Program**
“Showcase in Excellence” Award from the Arizona Quality Alliance
- **The Garfield Community Probation Center**
Arizona Judicial Branch Achievement Award for “Connecting with the Community”
- **Family Court**
Arizona Judicial Branch Award for “Protecting Children, Families and Communities”
- **Judicial Formation Program**
Arizona Judicial Branch Award for “Serving the Public by Improving the Legal Profession”
- **The Education Center**
Administrative Office of the Courts award as the “LEARN Adult Education Center of the Year”
- **Juvenile Probation Department**
Phoenix Mayor’s Partnership Award for Innovation

Commitment to Excellence



*Presiding Judge
Barbara Rodriguez Mundell*

Awards to Judges

Judge Colin F. Campbell

“Foundation Justice Award,” Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education

Judge Ronald S. Reinstein

Attorney General’s Distinguished Service Award for Victims and Victims’ Rights

Arizona Judicial Branch Award for “Improving Public Trust and Confidence”

Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell

Maricopa County Diversity Champion Award

Awards to Court Staff

Probation Officer William J. Harkins III

Arizona Judicial Branch Awards for “Employees Being Accountable”

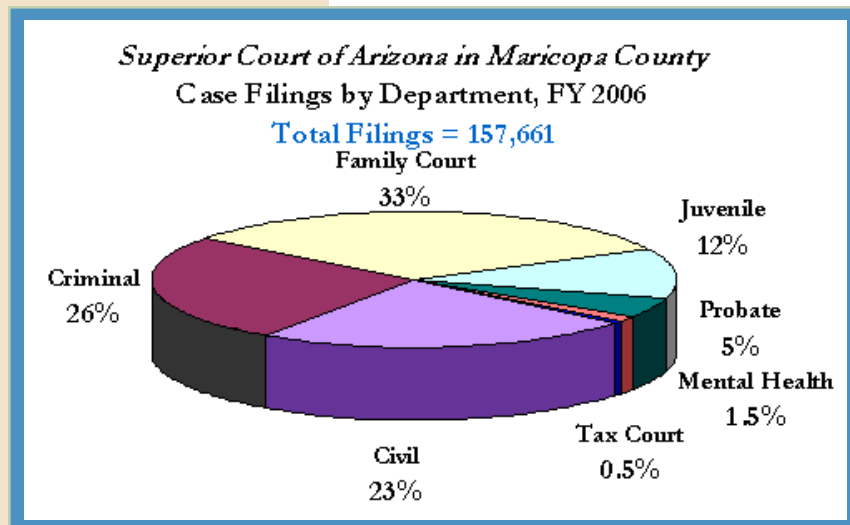
United States Marshal’s Service Award for “Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2005”

Adult Probation Supervisor Marilyn Windust

Arizona Judicial Branch Achievement Award for “Connecting with the Community”

Trends: Now and the Future

	Fiscal Year 2006 Year	2015 (projected)
Maricopa County Population	3.8 million	4.8 million
Case Filings - Superior Court	157,661	199,125
Case Filings - Justice Courts	373,935	472,280
Superior Court Judges	94	122
Commissioners	52	68
Justices of the Peace	23	33
Judicial Branch Staff	3,600	4,550
Adult Probation - Active Probationers	30,631	?
Juvenile Probation - Juveniles Referred	24,499	?
Total Budget	\$224.9 million	?
Court and Probation Buildings	52	?



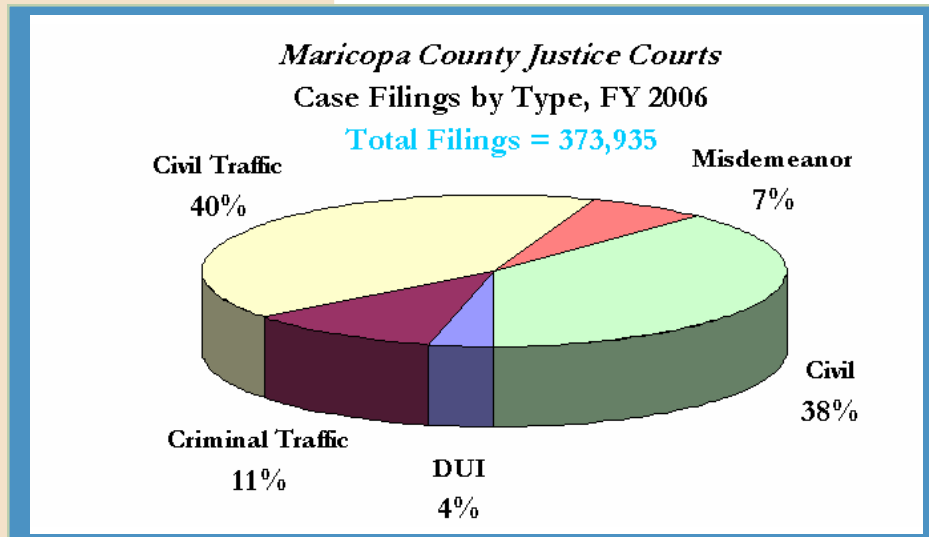
Limited Jurisdiction Courts

Justice Courts

Transitioned to a decentralized organizational structure for staff supervision and administration; extensive operational revisions based on Supreme Court standards, case management training modules and centralized late-payment noticing

Municipal Courts

Improved DUI case management plans in municipal courts, resulting in a 49% overall reduction in time to final case disposition



Conclusion



We thank the Supreme Court of Arizona, Arizona State Legislature, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and County Management for their support of our courts. With their help, the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County is committed to maintain quality justice, increase fairness and access for all, and continue to build public trust and confidence.

For Further Information

On-line services available through the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County, see www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

See also, the Judicial Branch Annual Statistical Report (FY 05), www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/publicInfo/reports.

