

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEES OF THE JUDICIAL
BRANCH IN AND FOR MARICOPA
COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2026-005

WHEREAS, Local Rule 1.7 provides that the Presiding Judge shall create and appoint judges to certain committees; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge has administrative supervision over the Judicial Branch in and for Maricopa County ("Judicial Branch"), including assignment of judges and general supervision over court personnel, pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order 2017-79 and Rule 92, Arizona Rules of the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, properly formed and functioning governance committees are critical to the operation and improvement of the Judicial Branch,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Judicial Branch establishes a structured framework of governance committees and workgroups to support the mission of the Judicial Branch and ensure coordinated, transparent, and efficient operations.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective the date of this Administrative Order, this structure will consist of the Judicial Branch Executive Council (JBEC), the Judicial Leadership Team (JLT), and the following standing committees: Data Committee, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee, Jury Committee, Judicial Education Committee, Specialty Courts Committee, and Access to Justice Committee. Each committee and its workgroups are established to fulfill a defined administrative, operational, or strategic purpose, and report through the appropriate governance channel as follows:

A. Judicial Branch Executive Council (JBEC)

1. **Purpose.** The JBEC provides organization-level leadership, coordination, and oversight of the administrative and strategic functions of the Judicial Branch. It serves as the principal governance body responsible for advancing the court's mission, ensuring effective and efficient administration of justice, promoting equal access, and fostering innovation in judicial services.
2. **Membership.** The JBEC is chaired by the Presiding Judge and includes the following: the Associate Presiding Judge; the Presiding Judges of Criminal, Civil, Family, Juvenile, Probate/Mental Health, the Presiding Commissioner;

the Judicial Branch Administrator; the Deputy Court Administrators; the Director of Human Resources; the General Counsel; the Chief Financial Officer; the Chief Information Officer; the Director of Security; the Chief Adult Probation Officer; the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; and the Communications Director. Additional members may be appointed at the discretion of the Presiding Judge.

3. Meetings. The JBEC meets quarterly, in January, April, September, and November, on dates and times established by the Presiding Judge.

B. Judicial Leadership Team (JLT)

1. Purpose. The JLT provides strategic direction, fosters collaborative decision-making, and supports the effective administration of justice. The JLT serves as a forum for judicial leaders to align on policies, share insights, and drive initiatives that enhance efficiency, accessibility, and fairness.
2. Membership. The JLT is chaired by the Presiding Judge and includes the following: the Associate Presiding Judge; the Presiding Judges of Criminal, Civil, Family, Juvenile, and Probate/Mental Health; the Presiding Commissioner; the Judicial Branch Administrator; and additional members as appointed by the Presiding Judge.
3. Meetings. The JLT meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

C. Standing Committees

Each standing committee operates under the authority of the Presiding Judge and the governance framework established herein. The chairs and members of each committee will be designated by the Presiding Judge. The chairs of each standing committee, in consultation with the Presiding Judge and the Judicial Branch Administrator, may establish subcommittees or workgroups as necessary to accomplish the committee's purpose and may appoint chairs and additional members to those subcommittees or workgroups. The Presiding Judge may also create subcommittees or workgroups within the structure of the standing committees to address specific issues or initiatives. Each standing committee shall report regularly on its activities and initiatives to any leadership group as requested by the Presiding Judge. Administrative support will be provided by the Judicial Branch Administrator or designee.

1. **Data Committee.** The purpose of the Data Committee is to oversee data governance, integrity, analytics, and reporting for the Judicial Branch. The Committee ensures the accuracy and reliability of case and operational information, identifies data-driven improvements, and recommends

enhancements to systems and processes. It also promotes consistent data practices and fosters a culture of accountability and informed decision-making across the Judicial Branch.

- 2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee.** The purpose of the AI Committee is to develop policies and strategies for the responsible and transparent integration of AI within the Judicial Branch. The Committee serves as the central forum for evaluating, implementing, and overseeing AI initiatives in alignment with the recommendations and directives of the Arizona Supreme Court and its Steering Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts. It identifies opportunities to enhance court operations through AI, ensures ethical use and coordination across departments, and advises on practices that promote consistency, accountability, and innovation.
- 3. Jury Advisory Committee.** The purpose of the Jury Advisory Committee is to support effective and legally sufficient jury management, promote excellence in juror selection and service, and enhance juror education and engagement. The Committee advises on policies and practices that ensure efficient use and proper instruction of jurors, maintain the quality of the jury experience, and address court-wide issues related to jury operations and service.
- 4. Judicial Education Committee.** The purpose of the Judicial Education Committee is to promote excellence and competence within the Judicial Branch by developing, managing, and monitoring judicial education and training programs. The Committee provides continuing education opportunities, ensures compliance with mandated training requirements, and maintains accessible educational resources to support ongoing professional development and effective court operations.
- 5. Specialty Courts Committee.** The purpose of the Specialty Courts Committee is to coordinate, evaluate, and enhance the Judicial Branch's specialty and therapeutic court programs. The Committee develops best practices, recommends improvements to promote effectiveness and efficiency, and ensures alignment with the Court's mission, resources, and strategic priorities.
- 6. Access to Justice Committee.** The purpose of the Access to Justice Committee is to improve and expand public access to court services by evaluating, coordinating, and enhancing the methods through which the Court provides information, assistance, and resources to the community. The Committee shall promote consistency, collaboration, and innovation in initiatives that simplify processes, ensure accessibility, and strengthen the public's ability to navigate the justice system effectively and equitably. The Committee shall also oversee workgroups dedicated to improving public

engagement, accessibility of information and forms, user experience, and staff education in support of the Court's access to justice objectives.

- 7. Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee.** The purpose of the Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee (S.E.P.C.), as set forth in the Judicial Branch Emergency Operations Plan, is to ensure a coordinated, county-wide approach to physical security, emergency management, and disaster response across all Judicial Branch facilities in Maricopa County. The committee is tasked with setting security goals, reviewing threat assessments, planning for emergencies, and developing continuity of operations plans, all while fostering collaboration among judicial officers, law enforcement, and facility stakeholders.

D. Ad Hoc Workgroups and Program Initiatives.

In addition to the subcommittees or workgroups established under the Standing Committees, the Presiding Judge may, as deemed appropriate, establish ad hoc workgroups or program initiatives to address specific issues, projects, or areas of need. These workgroups and initiatives may be formed informally and shall remain in effect only as long as necessary to accomplish their designated objectives.

E. Department and Probation Committees.

Each Department Presiding Judge, the Chief Adult Probation Officer, and the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer may establish department-wide or ad hoc committees, workgroups, or initiatives as necessary to ensure the proper, efficient, and effective operation of their respective departments.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following Administrative Orders are hereby rescinded:

- A.O. 2017-034 (Appointing chair of the Specialty Courts Committee)
- A.O. 2017-111 (Establishing SEPC)
- A.O. 2019-149 (Establishing Data Integrity and Governance Committee)
- A.O. 2022-059 (Appointing chair of the Jury Advisory Committee)
- A.O. 2022-064 (Establishing Judicial Executive Committee)
- A.O. 2022-065 (Judicial Executive Committee members)
- A.O. 2023-098 (Judicial Executive Committee members)
- A.O. 2023-178 (Judicial Executive Committee members-at-large)
- A.O. 2024-011 (Establishing AI Committee)
- A.O. 2024-075 (AI Committee membership)
- A.O. 2025-062 (Establishing Navigational Resource Committee)

Dated this 7th day of January, 2026.



Hon. Pamela Sue Gates
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: All Superior Court Judges and Commissioners
Raymond Billotte Judicial Branch Administrator
Michael Cimino, Adult Probation Chief
Eric Meaux, Juvenile Probation Chief
Judicial Branch Executive Team Members
Superior Court Department Administrators