

Judicial Branch News

Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County

A Distinguished Career



Hours of
8:00 A.M. 1

NO WEAPONS
ALLOWED



NO WEAPONS
OF ANY KIND ALLOWED IN
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PER A.R.S. 13-3102

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NO PERSONAL PROPERTY
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Per Order: Presiding Judge

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ALL METAL
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KEYS, CELL
PHONE CLIPS

INSPECT ALL
IN THE BOWLS

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Judicial Branch News

The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations Department.

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Produced by the Media Relations Department

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Farewell to Marcus Reinkensmeyer



Norman Davis

Marcus will be greatly missed by the Court. Before being appointed Presiding Judge, I had continually heard of what a great Court Administrator Marcus was, and this was born out when I was privileged to work with him on a limited basis during that time. The last two years I have worked with him on a daily basis, and my respect and admiration for him, his abilities and his character have grown each day. Much of the national recognition we receive as a court can be traced to Marcus and his work with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), National Association for Court Management (NAACM), the Urban Court Managers Network (UCMN), and many others. They have given him their top awards and respect. He is relentless in asking the entire administrative staff to strive for excellence, and suggesting many new and innovative projects for the bench. I know of no one better read on new court developments nationwide, and he is universally known and respected throughout the country as an innovator and extremely able Court Administrator.

As good as Marcus is in his job as our Court Administrator, he is an even finer person. Until

I took this job I did not fully realize the scope of responsibilities that we ask Marcus to perform every day. Our business often sees conflict and disagreement, and Marcus is able to strike a balance in every instance that not only resolves issues in a proper manner, but leaves the participants with a feeling that they have been heard and with a continuing respect for Marcus. He has served us so well over the years in budget negotiations with the County, in directing the hiring and discipline of several thousand employees of the Court, in scheduling, staffing and operating so many court and administrative processes too numerous to mention, and in performing so many other tasks that ultimately find their way up the chain to him.

I believe one of the reasons Marcus is so universally admired by all those that come in contact with him is his complete honesty, his sterling character and his unwavering integrity. He genuinely cares about people and treats everyone with dignity and respect. I have seen him continually take on many more tasks than his job description would require simply because he was concerned about the welfare of someone else. He is one of a kind, and we will truly miss him. Before you ask, yes I have relentlessly lobbied Marcus to stay on even for just a bit longer, but he has certainly has earned his retirement. Knowing Marcus as I do, this retirement won't be in a rocking chair but simply an interlude to another career, with perhaps more time available for hiking and photography in the great outdoors.

Please wish him well when you see him.

Norman J. Davis
Presiding Judge

Superior Court's New Bench Appointments

Erin Otis was appointed as a Superior Court Commissioner. She recently assumed Judge Pamela Svoboda's criminal DUI calendar.

Prior to her appointment she served as an assistant bureau chief with the sex crimes division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.



Former Commissioner Pamela Svoboda, who has more than 20 years of legal experience, was appointed as a Superior Court Judge. Judge Svoboda served as a Court Commissioner since 2005. Before joining the Court, Judge Svoboda worked at the Arizona Attorney General's Office. In 1998, she was named Prosecutor of the Year by the Attorney General's Office.

Judge Bradley Astrowsky assumed Judge Raymond Lee's Juvenile calendar at the Southeast Regional Center. Previously, Judge Astrowsky served as an assistant bureau chief with the family violence division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

In 1999, he was honored with a Special Recognition Award for the first successful prosecution of a computer-related sex crime. In 2004, he received the Cooperative Law Enforcement Award from the U.S. Department of Justice for his service in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.



Judge Warner Active in the Legal Community

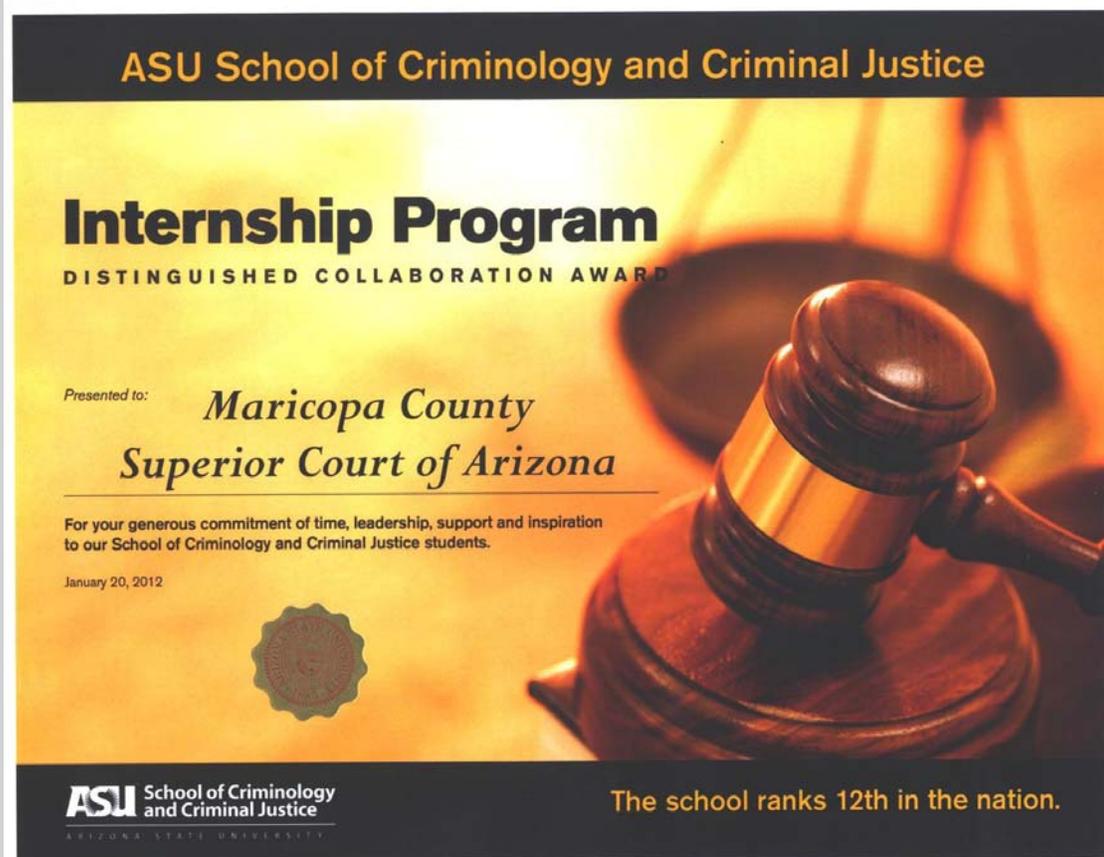
Judge Warner to Participate in ABA Conference



Randall Warner

The American Bar Association appointed Judge Randall Warner to participate in the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (ULC) Study Committee on Family Law Arbitration.

According to the ABA, arbitration has not normally been permitted in family law matters, in recent years a number of states have adopted legislation that authorizes arbitration with respect to some issues in the family law area. This Study Committee will consider and make recommendations concerning the need for and feasibility of drafting a uniform act on family law arbitration.



ASU's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ), within its College of Public Programs, recognized Superior Court as a Community Partner for its support of the CCJ Internship Program and awarded it the Distinguished Collaboration Award.

Through this program, the court has assigned more than 18 interns to at least 16 judicial officers over the past year alone.

Judge Randall Warner, Chair of the Intern/Extern Program was the driving force behind the program and Judge Samuel Thumma worked extensively on the externship policy.

The Court appreciates the judges who welcomed interns into their divisions. This is a commitment of time, support, leadership and inspiration for all students who participated.

Since 2008, the CCJ internship program has grown more than 93 percent.

Governor Appoints Judge Thumma to Court of Appeals

The Governor appointed Judge Samuel A. Thumma to the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 1.

“Sam’s knowledge of the law, judicial disposition and temperament are highly-regarded in the legal community,” said Governor Jan Brewer. “His strong work ethic and impressive professional background render him a valuable asset to the Court and to the citizens he’ll serve.”

Judge Thumma has served on the Maricopa County Superior Court since 2007, during which time he has presided over hundreds of trials and thousands of hearings. Originally appointed to the juvenile court rotation, he has been assigned to the criminal court docket since June 2010. He also has presided over the Lower Court of Appeals, for which he has managed appeals from municipal and justice courts. In 2010, Judge Thumma served in three cases as a Judge Pro Tem for the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division 1.

Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court, Judge Thumma was a Director at the local law firm of Perkins, Coie, Brown & Bain (1993-2007); a Law Clerk for the Arizona Supreme Court (1992-1993); an Associate with the firm of Arnold & Porter in Washington, D.C. (1990-1992); and a Law Clerk to United States District Court Judge Hansen (1988-1990).

Judge Thumma has been an active member of his community. He served as a member of Valley Leadership (2001-2002); was named a “Forty Under Forty” honoree (2002); and is a founding member of the Maricopa County Justice Museum and Learning Center. He has received multiple commendations throughout his career, including: the American Bar Association’s Outstanding Subcommittee Chairman award (2010); National and Regional Leadership awards from the American Red Cross; and a Friend of Phoenix commendation for outstanding contributions to the Paradise Valley Village Planning Committee (1996).

Judge Thumma received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Journalism from Iowa State University (1984), and graduated as a Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholar. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law (1988), and has been licensed to practice in the State of Arizona since 1992.

Farewell to Marcus



Marcus Reinkensmeyer shortly after his appointment as Court Administrator.

Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer joined the Maricopa County Superior Court management team in 1991 when he moved from Illinois. He had previously served as an assistant administrative director with the Administrative Office of the Courts, a circuit court administrator, assistant superintendent of juvenile detention and a probation officer.

In 2009, the National Center for State Courts named Reinkensmeyer its recipient of the 2009 Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in Court Administration. His other awards include: the Institute for Court Management’s Award of Merit (1989) and the Supreme Court of Arizona’s Distinguished Service Award (2003). Reinkensmeyer also served as the President of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) in 2008.

He holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Michigan State University Honors College, a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University and is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts.

Juvenile Probation Chief Appointed

Eric Meaux was appointed Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

He comes to the position from Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he served in a similar capacity as the Administrator/Chief Juvenile Probation Officer with Milwaukee County since 2007.

Meaux is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he was awarded Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminal Justice, while also completing several courses in the graduate School of Business.

In addition to his professional experience in Wisconsin's juvenile justice system, he brings a well-rounded mix of administrative experience in both the private and non-profit sectors.

Juvenile Justice Mental Health Initiative

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice selected the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department to participate in the Juvenile Justice Mental Health Training Initiative.

Juvenile Probation was selected among 43 strong applicants from states and jurisdictions across the country.

According to Joseph J. Cocozza, the Director of the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, the selection process was difficult. "Maricopa County's application was among the strongest we received, demonstrating a commitment to improving staff knowledge in this area, and a clear plan for how this training will be institutionalized to maximize the impact," he said.

The Juvenile Justice Mental Health Training Initiative is supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Superior Court to Host Veterans Court Celebration

Veterans Court Celebration of Progress

You are invited to join the Maricopa County Superior Court as we review the progress made and plans for moving forward in addressing the needs of veterans involved in the justice system.

*Monday, April 16th
12:15 to 1:30 p.m.*

*Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium
205 W Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ*

*Program:
Color Guard
Brief Presentation
Testimonial
Panel Q & A
Closing Remarks*

*Presented by Co-Chairs of the McJustice Veterans Court Sub-Committee
Hon. Douglas Rayes and Commissioner Michael D. Hintze and the Veterans Court Team*

Adult Probation Wins Arizona Quality Alliance Award

After more than four months of inspection, examination, and judgment, the Adult Probation Department's Adult Education Program was awarded the Arizona Quality Alliance (AQA) Showcase In Excellence Award.

This award is based on the nationally recognized Malcolm Baldrige criteria. In the past, the APD Sex Offender, Financial Compliance, and SMI units won this award. A main goal of AQA is to assist organizations in finding and implementing proven best practices and to achieve a cost-effective competitive advantage.

The Adult Probation Education Program assists between 1,000 and 2,000 adults with their education goals.

Photo Highlights

Commissioner Bench Photo



Court Administrators: *Front Row* - Phil Knox, APD Chief Barbara Broderick and Richard Woods Jr. *Back Row* - Marcus Reinkensmeyer and Karen Westover.



Jennifer Vidlak-Nothnagel, classification and compensation manager, relocated to the Chicago area to be with her family. Vidlak started with Superior Court in November 2005.



Departmental Presiding Judges: *Front Row* - Tax/Civil Presiding Judge Dean Fink, Family Presiding Judge Carey Hyatt, Presiding Judge Norman Davis, Probate/Mental Health Presiding Judge Rosa Mroz.

Back Row - Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes, Juvenile Presiding Judge Eddward Ballinger and Civil Presiding Judge Robert Oberbillig.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Victoria Curness Adult Probation Officer
Patricia Fernandez Case Administrator
Chesha Moore Adult Probation Officer Supv
David Niemi Case Administrator
Donald Sharp Surveillance Officer
Jennifer Ward Adult Probation Officer
Marsha Taylor Work Crew Leader
Charlene Goulding-Reed Program Coordinator
Dianna Manzutto Judicial Clerk Associate
Jessica Zimmerman Adult Probation Officer
Elvis Dickson Juvenile Detention Officer
Lolita Fowler Juvenile Detention Officer
Thorin Mailloux Juvenile Detention Officer
Gillian Taylor-Dorsett Juvenile Probation Officer
Emilie Nocella Juvenile Probation Officer
Arhonda Robinson Juvenile Detention Officer
Veronica Brame Court Commissioner
Scott Kagiwada Programmer/Analyst - Sr/Ld
Alice Clifton Judicial Clerk Associate
Joanna Smith Judicial Assistant-Classified
Christopher Bleuenstein Justice System Manager
David Marquez Judicial Specialist

15 Years

Angela Thelen Judicial Clerk Senior
Lisa Garcia Juvenile Probation Officer
Pamela Talbert Juvenile Probation Officer
Stephen Burton Juvenile Probation Officer
Timothy MacLeod Juvenile Probation Officer
Grayson Merdick Surveillance Officer
Alan Speer Juvenile Probation Officer

20 Years

Janet Kasha Adult Probation Officer Supv
Allison Thompson Adult Probation Officer Supv
Mary Summus Judicial Clerk Lead

25 Years

Michael Edison Judicial Assistant

10 Years

Daniel Arreola Judicial Clerk Lead
Berenice Facio Judicial Clerk Lead
Stacy Davis Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Maribel Rivas Judicial Assistant-Classified
Lori Dennison Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Sandra Frimodig Judicial Assistant
Annie Gonzalez Bailiff
Todd Herrera-Ridenhour Judicial Clerk Lead

30+ Years

Brad Finch Human Resources Specialist (31 Years)