



Administrators on the Move in Juvenile and Probate

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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.”



On the heels of last month’s administration rotations, Superior Court has announced additional personnel changes.

Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator (SEF) Laurie Laughlin has accepted the CASA Director position, taking over for Robert Hahn who is now working as a Management Analyst in the Research and Planning Unit. This will be Laughlin’s second time as CASA Director. Laughlin held the position in 2007 prior to Hahn’s appointment.

Replacing Laughlin as Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator (SEF) will be Linda Sandbloom. For the past five years, Sandbloom has worked in Court Administration’s Probate Department.



“Linda and Laurie are extremely excited and look forward to their new roles in the Juvenile Department,” Juvenile Court Administrator Sheila Tickle said.

According to Probate Administrator Elizabeth Evans, the Probate Department was fortunate to have Linda as an employee.

“We will miss Linda’s knowledge, humor and professionalism. She began in the forensics unit and is considered the administration expert in Rule 11 matters. Linda has demonstrated her talent for overseeing operations, both as deputy and interim administrator,” Evans said.

Laughlin and Sandbloom will start their new jobs on August 30th.

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News and Notes

Attorneys Needed for Courthouse Experience

Whether it's introducing kids to a legal career or teaching them about the law so they don't end up on the wrong side of Arizona's judicial system, volunteering to become a court guide in Maricopa County Superior Court's *Courthouse Experience* program has many benefits.

To help children learn about accountability and expose them to the judicial system, Maricopa County Superior Court is launching its 20th year of the *Courthouse Experience*. For 19 years, *Courthouse Experience* has given Maricopa County students an opportunity to see and understand what really goes in the courtroom.

But to reach these children and make a difference in their lives, Superior Court needs the help of volunteer attorneys.

The program's success is due greatly to volunteer attorneys who provide valuable time to lead student groups varying from 6th grade through college age on a personal tour of the court. A *Courthouse Experience* often include visits with judicial officers and staff, observations of court proceedings including trials, visits to the jury assembly room and the law library, and informative question-and-answer periods.

Traditionally, the program has taken place in the downtown court complex but ,visits can be arranged to any regional Superior Court location.

An information packet, offering valuable guidelines and suggestions, is given to all volunteer attorneys to help make the tours well paced and valuable.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this program, please call Patricia Seguin, Community Outreach Director, at 602.506-3206, or e-mail seguinp@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

Patricia Seguin
Community Outreach

CASA Receives Justice Achievement Award



Pictured left to right: Michele Oken, NACM Board Member and an administrator of Interpreter Services for the Los Angeles Superior Court, Maricopa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Norman Davis and Rob Hahn, former CASA Program Director.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has been awarded the National Association for Court Management (NACM) 2010 Justice Achievement Award for the CASA Volunteer centric Website Design. In collaboration with Court Technology Services (CTS), the CASA program developed a website through which volunteers and staff would be able to perform all their required duties.

The Maricopa County CASA Program is the first in the nation to use this level of technology and programming sophistication.

The NACM Justice Achievement Award was established in 1988 to recognize outstanding achievement and meritorious projects that enhance the administration of justice.

This prestigious award was presented at the NACM Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Friday, July 23, 2010.

AZ Supreme Court Justice Retires

Arizona Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Ryan Retires

Former Superior Court Judge and current Arizona Supreme Court Justice Michael Ryan has retired after serving 25 years as a judge.

Justice Ryan was appointed to the Court in May 2002 by Governor Jane Hull. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Ryan served on the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One for more than five years, having been appointed to that position in September 1996. Before his appointment to the court of appeals, Justice Ryan served as a Judge of the Arizona Superior Court for more than ten years.

As a trial judge, Justice Ryan presided over a number of high-profile cases in the Maricopa County Superior Court, including AzScam, the Phoenix Suns' drug case and the 1988 criminal trial of Governor Evan Mecham, the first criminal trial in Arizona with "gavel to gavel" television and radio coverage. Prior to becoming a judge, Justice Ryan was Deputy County Attorney in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, where he served in the major felony bureau and the office's sex crimes unit.



Michael D. Ryan

"It has been an honor to work in Arizona's judicial system for more than 30 years," stated Justice Ryan. "Clearly, serving on the Arizona Supreme Court has been the highlight of my career but I have truly enjoyed every court I have served on. With retirement, I look forward to continuing to serve my community but this will allow me to spend more time with my family as well as allow flexibility to work on various public service projects."

"Justice Ryan has been a selfless public servant for nearly all of his life. His service to our country, our state, and this court is to be commended," said Arizona Supreme Court Justice Rebecca White Berch. "Arizona is losing a wonderful judge who is thoughtful, patient, courageous, and kind. He is a quiet, considerate colleague, who has a wonderful sense of humor and has been an absolute pleasure to work with. It has been an honor to serve with him."

Justice Ryan received his B.A. degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota in 1967. After college he served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry platoon commander from 1967 – 1969. He received a medical retirement because of wounds received in combat in Vietnam, and was awarded two Purple Hearts, and a Bronze Star with a Combat "V" for heroism in combat. Justice Ryan came to Arizona in 1970 and later obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Arizona State University Law School in 1977.

In 2001, Justice Ryan received the Honorable Henry S. Stevens Judge of the Year Award from the Maricopa County Bar Association and the Judicial Award of Excellence from the Public Lawyers Section of the Arizona State Bar. In 2002, Justice Ryan received the Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law Award from the State Bar's Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law. In 2003, he received the Arizona State University College of Law Outstanding Alumnus award and the Distinguished Achievement Award, and in 2005, he received the State Bar's James Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award.

In addition, Justice Ryan has done extensive volunteer work. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Maricopa County Bar Association from 1987 to 1991 and from 1997 to 2002. Since 1998, Justice Ryan has been a member of the Maricopa County Bar Association's Task Force on the Recruitment and Retention of Women and Minority Lawyers. He also serves on the State Bar Task Force on Persons with Disabilities in the Legal Profession.

Jennifer Liewer
Chief Communication Officer, Arizona Supreme Court

News and Notes

Japanese Judge Visits Juvenile Court



Pictured left to right are Karin Philips, Juvenile Court Collaboration Director, Judge Saeki, Sheila Tickle, Juvenile Court Administrator and Judge Eddward Ballinger, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge.

Judge Ryoko Saeki is our newest visiting judicial officer from Japan. She is part of an ongoing program that Maricopa County Superior Court partners with the Supreme Court of Japan offering yearlong experiences for young Japanese judges.

Judge Saeki was appointed to the Supreme Court of Japan in 2004 and began her practice with the Osaka District Court. Since 2008, she has been with the Nagasaki District Court hearing criminal trial cases as an assistant judge and managing civil preservation, civil execution and bankruptcy proceedings.

While in Arizona, she will attend classes at the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at ASU for a semester and conduct research with Maricopa County Superior Court. She has expressed a strong interest in both juvenile and criminal process and spent a week with each department meeting judicial officers, court administration and staff.

Judge Saeki will return to Japan in June 2011.

Innovative Program Awards

Maricopa County Regional School District (MCRSD), Phoenix's only accommodation school district serving youth in transition, was recently recognized at the 2010 Arizona Correctional Educators Symposium in Tucson.

MCRSD received the Innovative Program of the Year award and the Outstanding Correctional Educator of the Year award.

The award for Innovative Program of the Year illustrates the effectiveness of the district's new Transitional Program, which was designed to focus on student achievement through both academic and vocational based instruction.

Additionally, one of MCRSD's veteran teachers, Susan Mueller of Durango Transitional Learning Center, received the Outstanding Correctional Educator of the Year award for juvenile instruction. Mueller created several successful programs at the school that have impacted the students she's taught and motivated them to move beyond their past circumstances.

"We are pleased that our hard work has been recognized by the Arizona Correctional Educators," said Mr. Ernest Rose, MCRSD's superintendent, who was elected to serve as President of the Arizona Correctional Educators at the recent symposium.

"Student success is our primary goal. Our new programs have really helped the students to grow and change both inside the classroom and out," Rose said.

MCRSD is Phoenix's only accommodation school district and serves students through its accredited alternative schools, youth detention centers and community-based learning centers.

Human Resources

New Code of Conduct Policy for Court Employees

On July 30, 2010, Presiding Judge Norman J. Davis adopted the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 2010-013 as an update to Superior Court Policy P-304G, Code of Ethics for Court Staff.

The policy addresses four areas related to employee performance and behavior. Those areas, expressed as Canons in the policy, are:

Canon 1: A judicial employee shall uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

Canon 2: A judicial employee shall perform the duties of judicial employment impartially, competently, and diligently.

Canon 3: A judicial employee shall conduct activities outside of judicial employment to minimize the risk of conflict with the obligations of judicial employment.

Canon 4: A judicial employee or candidate for judicial department office shall not engage in political or campaign activity that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity, or impartiality of the judiciary.

Under Canon 1, the Rules call for employees to comply with the law; to promote confidence in the Judiciary; and to not abuse their positions. Canon 2 contains various Rules that require employees of the court to give priority to ethical duties; be impartial and fair; not engage in bias, prejudice, or harassment; exercise professionalism; and manage their personal and business interests so as to avoid conflict or the appearance of conflict with their employment with the court. The Rules under Canon 3 deal with the use of non-public information; employees soliciting for outside activities; and gifts. Finally, Canon 4 has Rules related to workplace political activity; political pressure; and political discrimination.

The policy establishes uniform standards for the ethical conduct of judicial department officials, not covered by the Code of Judicial Conduct, and judicial employees. It is not intended to be exhaustive, as persons governed by the policy are also governed in their professional and personal conduct by personnel policies, merit rules and general or special ethical standards. Violations of this policy are enforced in the same manner as violations of local personnel rules that apply to judicial employees.

Please call Judicial Branch Human Resources at (602) 506-8568 should you have any questions about the policy.

Submitted By Gary M. Bridget, SPHR

August Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Kristi Slade - Adult Probation Officer
Kari Lund - Human Resources Associate
Renee Yabeny - Judicial Clerk Associate
Mary Holman-Ransom - Judicial Clerk Senior
Jeannette Karlbom - Security Officer II
Marlene Cohen - Judicial Assistant
Eduardo Lugo - Work Crew Leader
Mark Barthel - Adult Probation Officer
Lindsay Hertzler - Adult Probation Officer
Melissa Santa Cruz - Adult Probation Officer
Owen Gardner - Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Johnny Tse - Management Analyst
Adrian Deloera - PC/LAN Tech Support
Odetta Blomker - Surveillance Officer
Justin Scheidecker - Surveillance Officer
Maribel Rodriguez - Judicial Clerk Lead
Sharon Cook - Juvenile Detention Officer
Jennifer Cooper - Adult Probation Officer
Robert Craig - Adult Probation Officer
Constance Haggard - Court Interpreter
Jason Novak - Human Resources Associate
Teresa Scharneck - Surveillance Officer

10 Years

Valerie Quintana - Human Resources Associate
Sharon Adams - Adult Probation Officer
Geraldina Blueeyes - Adult Probation Officer
Nicole Branham - Adult Probation Officer
Kristine Fischer - Adult Probation Officer
Linda Helvik - Adult Probation Officer
Michelle Kridler - Adult Probation Officer
Cory Rodes - Adult Probation Officer
Angela Weston - Adult Probation Officer
Carol Zambriski - Adult Probation Officer
Cecilia Ballesteros - General Laborer
Katherine Snyder - Judicial Assistant
Fernando Castillo - Judicial Assistant-Classified
Maria Garcia - Law Library Aide
Williette Famolu - Juvenile Detention Officer
Michelle Cunanan - Judicial Assistant
Nathan Knighton - Security Officer II
Stella Bohn - Administrative Assistant
Carol Faulk - Judicial Clerk Senior

15 Years

Jimmie Hunter - Accountant
Janet Nedved - Juvenile Probation Officer
Michelette Younker - Juvenile Probation Officer
Susana Salinas - Judicial Clerk Lead
Victoria Fugate - Management Analyst
Bunnie Navejar - Judicial Clerk Lead
Laura Cini - Juvenile Probation Officer
Roger Gumm - Juvenile Probation Officer
Sandra Rogers - Administrative Assistant

20 Years

Laurene Simms - Juvenile Probation Officer
Maria Clavijo - Administrative Assistant
Elda Daniels - Judicial Assistant
Joan Weyrauch - Judicial Assistant
Patti Snee - Juvenile Probation Officer

30+ Years

Scott Loos - Court Interpreter Team Leader

Google Scholar Legal Opinions – An Alternative to Westlaw?

It was only a matter of time before Google delved into the legal field and, with the introduction of Google Scholar Legal Opinions last Fall, Google has become a hot topic in the field of legal research. But, what exactly does Google Scholar's Legal Opinions provide the researcher?

Google Scholar Legal Opinions database's (<http://scholar.google.com/>) most obvious feature is the cost of using the service — it's free! The price can't be beat, but Google Scholar isn't the first or only free legal database in existence. Two primary resources for free case law research that have been around for awhile are the Public Library of Law (www.plol.org) and LexisOne (www.lexisone.com) which is provided through LexisNexis.

The coverage of Google Scholar's Legal Opinions database isn't readily apparent from looking at the search screen. After digging around the site for a while, a question on the help screen provided the date range of the database. U.S. Supreme Court opinions date back to 1791; U.S. federal district, appellate, tax and bankruptcy court opinions may be found back to 1923; and U.S. state appellate and supreme court cases are included back to 1950. It is also not readily apparent how frequently the database is updated nor how the database is kept current and accurate.

How does Google Scholar compare with Westlaw? First and foremost, Google Scholar lacks any method of keyciting or shepardizing a case to determine if it is "good law". This very important function in Westlaw allows the user the capability of checking the history of a case to see if it has been overturned or in some other way determined to no longer be valid for citing purposes. The "how cited" feature on Google can give some indication of history and what other cases have cited a particular case, but doesn't show whether the cases are still good law or not. Secondly, Google Scholar does not have the capability to perform "Terms and Connectors" or Boolean searching to whittle down search results to more precise hits.. Thirdly, Google Scholar does not have field searching; although the user may be able to adapt their Google search to allow some field searching for such things as citation and judge.

Additionally, Westlaw adds topic information for each case which enables the user to search for cases on the same topic using the West key number system. The Google cases do not contain any of the headnote information from the West database that assigns subject matter designations for each case.

Google's database does not allow the ability to search for a specific federal jurisdiction, i.e. the user cannot specify that search results only come from U.S. Supreme Court cases or the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. When searching for federal cases, results can only be narrowed down to all federal jurisdictions.

Also missing from Google are secondary sources. Many of the treatises and practice guides published by West and LexisNexis included in their respective databases provide guidance for the legal researcher.

Finally, the Google database is quite comprehensive for a free service, but it does not cover the range and diversity of Westlaw. Generally, Westlaw will cover cases from the beginning of a state's history to the present. It will also include unpublished opinions and up-to-date case information. It is not clear how much of the unpublished opinions are included in Google or how frequently the case information that is included is updated.

No doubt Google will continue to enhance and develop their database, and it will be interesting to see what the Google Scholar Legal Opinions database encompasses in the next few years. In the meantime, for comprehensive case law research, please see the online research databases, such as Westlaw, available on computers at the Superior Court Law Library.

Courtside

Photo Highlights



An aerial view of the Criminal Court Tower.



An inside view of the progress made on the Criminal Court Tower.



Left to right: Judges JoLynn Gentry-Lewis, Bruce Cohen and Alfred Fenzel.

A group of judges and commissioners cooked their own lasagna at a cooking school in Scottsdale.



Denise Sanders Pellerito, Court Reporter Manager, demonstrates RoomView software.

Court Interpretation and Translation Services (CITS) recently had the opportunity to test drive RoomView software.

RoomView is software and hardware that CITS utilizes to provide interpretation services remotely from the court's hub to various outlying court locations.

According to Court Reporter Carrie Newman, the test phase conducted in Judge Emmet Ronan's Southeast Mesa courtroom was a success.

"In some ways it was better than being there, the sound quality was crisp and clear," Newman said.

By Denise Sanders Pellerito