Court Collaborations

By Presiding Judge Norman Davis

It was recently pointed out that as of today, August 24, 2011, my staff and I will have completed 444 days in the chambers of the Presiding Judge. That is just over a year and two months, and seems an appropriate time to reflect on our court’s strong sense of mission and continuing commitment to excellence in judicial branch services.

Over this time, I have become increasingly aware of our court’s many partnerships and a genuine spirit of collaboration in working with other branches of government, the bar and stakeholders. Judicial officers and court personnel clearly recognize the importance of a systemic approach to identifying issues and solutions, and the need to involve others – courts, individuals, agencies – as borne out by our innovative court and probation programs.

I commend our judicial officers, court staff and stakeholders for their hard work in these joint endeavors, including, for example:

- McJustice, a consortium of the major law enforcement and justice agencies in Maricopa County, is dedicated to exploring problems in the criminal justice system and collaborating on solutions from a systemic point of view. It has been in existence since 1989. Although on hiatus for a period of time, recent meetings of the court and various law enforcement agencies have been well-attended by agency decision makers interested in addressing critical issues, including SB 1070, attorney visitation at the new criminal tower, expert contracts, expanded use of video hearings and juvenile court services.

- Capitalizing on a model program out of San Diego, the municipal courts of Phoenix, Tempe, and Glendale, along with prosecutors and defense attorneys, founded the Maricopa Regional Homeless Court, located at Maricopa County’s Lodestar Day Center Campus. Working with the founding courts and the Board of Supervisors, Superior Court is assisting with program expansion to include additional municipal courts and the justice courts.

- Recognizing that many veterans return to the community with difficulty, overcome by substance abuse, alcoholism and behavioral health issues, Veterans Court is an attempt to identify veterans involved in the justice system at an early stage and to provide a single point of access to needed services.
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This is a collaboration of city, county, state, federal and community stakeholders, who share information and provide assistance.

· Judges, commissioners and court staff are working closely with our Court Technology Services and Research and Planning Departments to enhance the iCIS case management system, with streamlined business processes targeted for the 24 hour initial appearance court this fall.

· In collaboration with County Management, our court management team is developing a long term master space plan for the downtown court complex, integrating the Criminal Court Tower with existing court facilities. These plans include co-location of family court services at the East Court Building, a Juvenile Court Center pilot project, a new Grand Jury Center at the West Court Building, and extensive renovation of existing courtroom floors.

· Working closely with justice system stakeholders to improve public safety, the court has successfully reconciled some 20,000 arrest warrants with criminal justice agency data repositories. As part of this initiative, CTS has developed a new, court-wide warrants screen in iCIS.

My sincere thanks to our dedicated judges, commissioners and staff, for your tireless work in these and other system improvement efforts. Our community is well served by your “service above self” and the close working relations we enjoy with other justice stakeholders.

Two Judges Sworn-in at Investiture Ceremonies

Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch administers the oath of office to Judge Danielle J. Viola during her investiture ceremony in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch administers the oath of office to Judge Michael Herrod during his investiture ceremony in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.
News and Notes

CTS Receives Award for FARE Program

The 2011 CIO 100 Awards honor 100 companies that exemplify the strategic partnership of IT and business. Superior Court’s Fare Program was chosen as one of the top 100 programs to receive this honor.

Project Description: As the IT department for the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County, Court Technology Services was under pressure to find a way to improve collections of fines, fees and other court-ordered financial obligations following two declared financial crises, in fiscal years 2002-2003 and 2008-2009. The result is the statewide Fines/Fees and Restitution Enforcement (FARE) program. One part of the program, Backlog FARE, put in place an automated, Web-based payment system that made it much easier for individuals to submit payments than it had been under the previous system. It also made it easier to share case and financial data between the courts and various government agencies. FARE has nearly doubled the monthly take of delinquent collections, and in calendar year 2010 it brought in over $1.5 million more than had been collected using the older process, even though it had not been implemented for the full year in some courts.

APD Chief Win Prestigious Honor

Adult Probation Chief Barbara Broderick is the 2011 recipient of the National Association of Probation Executives’ Dan Richard Beto Award. This award, created in 2005, recognizes individuals who have distinguished and sustained service to the probation profession.

“This highly coveted award is a very prestigious honor, and it is very gratifying that others are finding out what we already know about Barbara and her quest for excellence in all she does,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Founded in 1981, the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE) is a professional organization representing the chief executive officers of local, county and state probation agencies.
Volunteers Fill Vital Roles in Court Programs

A couple of years ago, the recession and the increasingly growing tough economic climate put Maricopa County Superior Court in a position to make difficult budget cuts and eliminate successful programs and jobs. The road to economic recovery has been slow and despite the economic conditions, Superior Court has been able to maintain a high-level of social responsibility by keeping many of its existing programs alive by relying on a volunteer workforce.

“Our programs help the communities in which we live and work by keeping them safe and protecting those who are vulnerable,” Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer said. “We have programs that help children, adults and the elderly.”

Superior Court’s volunteer programs include:

**Maricopa County Juvenile Probation** - Citation Diversion Probation Officer, Teen Court, Community Justice Panel, Drug Diversion, Drug Court, JCORPS, Programming Detention, Administrative Services, Research and Development, Juvenile Electronic Tracking System and CSB Field Services

**Probate/Comprehensive Mental Health Court** - Guardianship Review Program

**Juvenile Court Administration** - CASA, JLAP, National Adoption Day, Internships

**Maricopa County Adult Probation** - APD Adult Education Program, School of Social Work or Counseling Internships, Employment Resource, Coordinator, Internships and Work Furlough Program

**Superior Court** - Internships, Courthouse Experience and Judge Pro Tempore

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Probation Officer Receives Purple Heart

Recently, Bill Harkins, a former Task Force Officer and current Maricopa County Adult Probation Officer, was presented the Purple Heart Award from the US Marshals Service.

Harkins was wounded on August 3, 2005 when he was part of an operation to apprehend a fugitive. Chris Dudley, deputy director of the US Marshals Service, came to Phoenix to present the award to Harkins.

Pictured left to right – Adult Probation Deputy Chief Saul Schoon, Adult Probation Officer Bill Harkins and Adult Probation Deputy Chief Therese Wagner.
Court Hires Two Interpreters

Court Interpretation and Translation Services has hired Jeremy Brunson (American Sign Language) and Luis F. Hernandez (Spanish) as its newest interpreters. Pictured: Jeremy Brunson (left) and Luis F. Hernandez (right)

Promoting Cultural Diversity

Beatrice Moreno, who is a Judicial Clerk Lead in the Criminal Department’s Early Disposition Court (EDC), was recently appointed as co-chairperson to the board of directors for the Maricopa County Hispanic Network.

The vision of the Hispanic Network is to form a united and cohesive organization that respects the quality of the public services offered to both court staff and to the community as a whole, by serving as a catalyst for meaningful change within Maricopa County.

Their mission is to promote cultural diversity within all levels of County government, with a commitment to excellence through leadership, education, training, and service throughout Maricopa County.

Dr Christopher Bleuenstein
Deputy Criminal Court Administrator

New CASA Class Sworn-in

Commissioner Terri Clarke swears-in the newest class of court appointed special advocates.
Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Tracey Tompkins  Court Recording Monitor
Larry Schulze  Judicial Assistant-Classified
Jacqueline Wurm  Judicial Clerk
Christopher Miller  Juvenile Detention Officer
Alphonso Bryant  Juvenile Probation Officer
Patricia Lozano-Garcia  Security Officer II
Cindy Maldonado  Security Officer II
Carol Scott  Security Officer II
Christopher Levine  Judicial Assistant-Classified
Kayla Cathcart  Adult Probation Officer
Erica Ephriam  Adult Probation Officer
Christopher Fox  Adult Probation Officer
Alejandra Garza  Adult Probation Officer
Kathryn Graham  Adult Probation Officer
Joseph Paladin  Adult Probation Officer
Katherine Schiets  Adult Probation Officer
Terry Short  Adult Probation Officer
Pamela Dalzell  Business/Systems Analyst
Kelly Huerta  Judicial Assistant-Classified
William Janowicz  Judicial Clerk
David Johnson  Judicial Clerk
Gisela Stock  Judicial Clerk Associate
Deborah Barnaby  Judicial Clerk Associate
Karen Roush  Management Analyst
Julie Anderson  Surveillance Officer
Veronica Fierro  Judicial Assistant-Classified
Javier Osornio  Judicial Clerk Associate

10 Years

Mary Ruelas  Judicial Clerk Associate
Gregory Cotronakis  Juvenile Detention Officer
Pamela Hall-Blake  Juvenile Probation Officer
Shana Leach  Juvenile Probation Officer
Amanda Martinez  Juvenile Probation Officer
Emelda Dailey  Program Coordinator
Hance Wilhite  Lead Comm Systems Operator
Devon Clifford  Juvenile Detention Officer
Jacek Slowinski  Programmer/Analyst - Sr/Ld
Joann Paulus  Business/Systems Analyst
Cynthia Markovic  Judicial Clerk Lead
Cheri Clark  Justice System Administrator
Robert Casillas  Juvenile Detention Officer
Eric Lavine  Juvenile Detention Officer
Demond Pride  Juvenile Detention Officer
Harry Turner  Security Officer II

15 Years

Luann Keil  Judicial Assistant
Bonnie Fellenz  Judicial Clerk
Pamela Lim  Juvenile Probation Officer
Robert Noble  Juvenile Probation Officer
Carol Coronado  Case Administrator
James McDonald  Programmer/Analyst
Karen Westover  Superior Court Deputy Admin
Shelby Demassari  Judicial Assistant
Maureen Legeune  Juvenile Probation Officer

20 Years

Hector Ramos  Adult Probation Officer
Steven Lessard  Adult Probation Division Mgr
Cheryl Newcomer  Case Administrator
Janis Scanlon  Judicial Clerk Lead
Stephanie Garner  Juvenile Probation Officer

25 Years

Kim Boettcher  Adult Probation Officer
Elizabeth Forton  Adult Probation Officer
Joann Tinajera-Arens  Adult Probation Officer
Douglas Frantz  Adult Probation Officer Supv
Sherry Smithee  Judicial Clerk Supervisor

30 Years

Scott Loos  Court Interpreter Team Leader
A delegation from the Mexican State of Morelos, which is located south of Mexico City, visited Superior Court on August 8th. The group, hosted by the Arizona Attorney General, had a strong interest in the operation of Superior Court’s Criminal Department. The dignitaries included: Pedro Luis Benitez Velez, Attorney General of Morelos and Hugo Bello, former Attorney General.