



## Brutinel to be Sworn-in as Supreme Court Justice

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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](mailto:karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov).

***"Equal Justice Under Law"***



Invesiture ceremonies for Supreme Court Justice Robert Brutinel will be held in late January or early February.

The Governor announced the appointment of Robert Brutinel to the Arizona Supreme Court in November.

"It is my privilege to appoint long-time Prescott attorney and judge, Robert Brutinel, to serve as the newest Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court," stated Governor Brewer. "Judge Brutinel has served on the Yavapai County Superior Court with distinction and is known as a man of high honor and integrity. He will make an excellent addition to our already outstanding Supreme Court."



*Robert Brutinel*

Robert Brutinel is the Presiding Judge of the Yavapai County Superior Court. He was appointed to the Yavapai County Superior Court by Governor Fife Symington in 1996 to fill a vacancy, and was then elected to four subsequent terms by the voters of Yavapai County. He graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelors Degree in Economics in 1979, and received his law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1982. He was admitted to practice law in Arizona in 1982.

Judge Brutinel has presided over cases involving civil, criminal, juvenile, mental health, drug courts, probate and domestic relations matters. He also handled juvenile dependency, delinquency, severance and adoption cases. Prior to serving as a judge he practiced law in Prescott focusing on Indian law and business and real estate matters. He is the past-president of the Arizona Judges Association and the Yavapai County Bar Association. He served nine years on the Commission on Judicial Conduct and has taught numerous seminars for attorneys and judges.

He currently serves on the Arizona Judicial Council and served three terms on the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission.

"Judge Brutinel is one of the most distinguished and accomplished jurists in our State," said Governor Brewer. "Although it will be difficult to fill the void left by the retirement of the Honorable Michael Ryan, I am certain Judge Brutinel is up to the challenge and will help the Arizona Supreme Court as it continues to lead the country in judicial excellence."

# FY 2010 Annual Report

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County has posted its Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report online:

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/MediaRelationsAndCommunityOutreach/docs/annualrep/FY2010AnnualRpt.pdf>

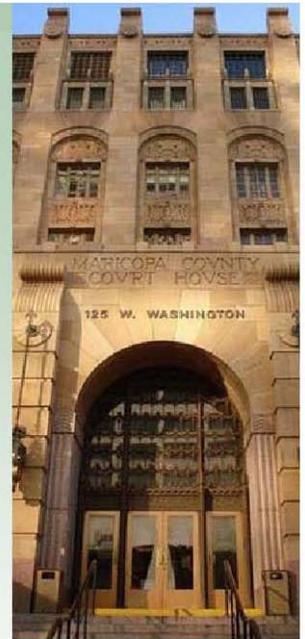
The report, designed by the Research and Planning Department, includes: court facts, statistics, court programs and descriptions and highlights.

## Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County



Superior and Justice Courts  
Adult and Juvenile Probation

Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2010  
July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010



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# Court Departments

## Court Operational Changes

Superior Court has announced some organizational changes for court departments and the regional court centers.

Mitch Michkowski has been asked to work with the tax court, and to continue his work in the Jury Department. As many of you are aware, the economic downturn has led to an historical increase in the filing for tax cases (160% over the past two years). Presiding Tax Court Judge Fink has drafted several recommendations for the continued improvements of services for the department. While Mitch will be busy with this new assignment, he is also asked to do much in the Jury Office. Efforts are on-going to complete a re-write of the jury system database and planning has been underway to move the jury assembly operations into the new criminal court tower.

Peter Kiefer, who has more than 30 years of experience in caseload management, will now be assigned to the Civil Department. Although never far from department operations while at the regional courts, he looks forward to an assignment that includes caseload management, program development and personnel.

Replacing Peter Kiefer as regional administrator is Danna Quinn. Danna's prior experience in Juvenile Probation operations and close work with the operational management of the departments over the last several years will prove beneficial. While she has attended meetings on personnel, budgeting and general management with the department managers, she has developed a solid knowledge base and desire to explore some new opportunities in this area.

**Submitted by Phil Knox  
General Jurisdiction Court Administrator**

## Criminal Court Administration Employee Becomes a U.S. Citizen

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Nigerian born Fraser Amali became a U.S. citizen.

Due to the political climate and instability of the educational system in Nigeria, Amali moved to the United States with his family in 2003 to attend school. He was in his fourth year of law school when striking and political unrest from the country's transition from military rule to democracy curtailed his education.

According to Amali, getting an education is very important in his family. Several of his uncles are teachers in Nigeria, and his father has a Ph.D.

When he moved to the United States, he enrolled in Scottsdale Community College. Unfortunately, Amali's college credits did not transfer so he had to start over. At SCC, Amali played on the soccer team for two years; while earning his associates degree. Later, he transferred to Arizona State University and received his graduate and undergraduate degrees.

Prior to starting with Criminal Court Administration in November of 2007, he did an Internship in the Public Defenders Office. He was assigned to a Mitigation Specialist and went to the jails to do interviews with defendants.

Amali plans to apply to law schools next year. When he gets out of law school, he would like to work in the Public Defender's Office.

He says his life consists of work, school and watching football. He is a sports fan and cheers for the Suns and Cardinals.

**Submitted by Faye White, Criminal Court Administration**

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# December Employee Anniversaries

## 5 Years

**Francesca Gruber** Adult Probation Officer  
**Nicole Szkutak** Adult Probation Officer  
**Tiffany Butler** Case Administrator  
**Judy Chacon** Collector  
**Christine Eaton** Comm Sys Optr  
**Patrica Robertson** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Naita Venerable** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Marci Hough** Judicial Clerk Lead  
**Jennifer Nikolaus** Judicial Clerk Senior  
**Debra Olsen** Juv Court Asst Dir  
**Andrea Cocking** Judicial Clerk Senior  
**Carla Montgomery** Adult Probation Officer  
**Cheryl Mitchell** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Corie Sleseman** Judicial Clerk Lead  
**Sarah VanGoethem** Judicial Clerk Senior  
**Katrina Williams** Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
**Sharon Proctor** Judicial Clerk Associate

## 20 Years

**Ruben Cruz** Courier  
**Gazell Taylor-Johnson** Surveillance Officer  
**Geralyn Beltran** Surveillance Officer

## 30+ Years

**Juli Deyoung** Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
**Judith Lopez** Administrative Assistant

## 10 Years

**Clinton Hill** Surveillance Officer  
**Guat Loo-Bellofiore** Management Analyst  
**Judy Hassinger** Help Desk Coordinator  
**Robindee Jensen** Judicial Clerk  
**Cleo Quinn** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Paul Starr** Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv  
**Scott Kirby** Juvenile Detention Officer

## 15 Years

**Luzviminda Vacca** Case Administrator  
**Catharina Johnson** Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv  
**Nancy Hamana** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Linda Martinez** Judicial Clerk Senior  
**Steven Gonzales** Management Analyst  
**Nelda Hudson** Office Assistant Specialized  
**Debra Stalhut** Judicial Clerk Supervisor



# County News

## Court Employees Join Maricopa County Charitable Motorcycle Ride



Recently, Sheila Tickle, David Elston, Ron Pitts and Gary Bridget of Superior Court took part in the first Maricopa County Combined Charitable Campaign's (CCC) Diversity Ride Honoring Veterans.

Twenty-one riders, made up of county employees and Luke Air Force personnel, followed a 176-mile round trip course from Phoenix to Globe, where they enjoyed camaraderie, the outdoors and some of Arizona's most impressive saguaro cactus forests, craggy mountain rock formations and spectacular vistas.



*Court Employee David Elston*



Maricopa County extended invitations to Luke Air Force Base and motorcycle clubs to form a partnership that honors military Veterans.

Superior Court's Gary Bridget played an integral part in planning the event.

"Although we were a small group of 21 riders and about 15 bikes, we managed to raise \$340.00 for the CCC," Bridget said. "Next year, we hope to double the contribution to CCC."

The 2011 CCC Motorcycle Diversity Ride is set for Saturday, November 5.

Anyone interested in riding or volunteering for Maricopa County's next motorcycle ride event, may contact Ed Guerrero:602-506-1962 or send him and email at [guerreroe@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:guerreroe@mail.maricopa.gov).

**Submitted by Richard De Uriarte, Maricopa County Office of Communications  
Ed Guerrero, Maricopa County Diversity Director**

# News and Notes

## Garfield Turkey Feast – A Huge Success!

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Garfield Probation Center Turkey Feast was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. This feast is a celebration of the partnership between the probation department, local law enforcement, and the surrounding Garfield community. All residents living in the area were invited to come enjoy good food and a visit from Santa Claus.

The feast consisted of a complete turkey dinner and plenty of desserts. More than five hundred people enjoyed a delicious meal! A gift basket was raffled off and awarded to one of the local residents. We also had a gift basket awarded to one of the many staff volunteers who helped us out. Music was provided courtesy of Manny Barron and was enjoyed by all. Santa Claus put smiles on all the children's faces throughout the day!

This event was made possible as a result of collaboration between many people. Probation staff, their family members, and residents of the Garfield program assisted with set up, serving, crowd control, clean-up, and helping Santa. Several Court staff attended as well and Judge Karen O'Connor helped with clean up after a busy day on the bench. Numerous probation staff attended and worked together to pull off the annual event. It was a team effort and it was much appreciated by everyone who attended!

**Submitted by Janet Kasha  
Adult Probation**

## The Self-Service Center Celebrates 15 Years

This year marks the 15th year anniversary of the Maricopa County Superior Court's Self-Service Center. For its 10th anniversary, the Self-Service Center touted over one million served. In the 15th anniversary, we can make that over 1.4 million served. While the idea of helping self-represented litigants navigate the Court is commonplace now, it was a revolutionary idea in 1995. The Maricopa County Superior Court's Self-Service Center was the trend-setter for the concept of helping self-represented litigants then, and it continues to be a model for this service throughout the country. The Self-Service Center receives requests for tours and information from other Courts on a regular basis.

The landscape of our Self-Service Center has definitely changed since its origination. We have online dynamic or intelligent Family Court legal forms available through eCourt. Our latest project is to transition from having both pdf and Word versions of all the forms on our SSC website to having only a single fillable form format for each form. We look forward to seeing where the Self-Service Center will be for its twentieth anniversary. And, we are shooting for 2 million served in 2015 too! Help us reach our goal by remembering to refer litigants to the Self-Service Center for preprinted legal forms and information.

**Submitted by Jennifer Murray  
Self Service Center**

# Courtside

## Photo Highlights



*It's a rivalry-themed Holiday for Judge Dean Fink.*



*Judge Cari Harrison and Sandra Frimodig count down the days.*



*Commissioner Lisa Roberts and staff sit near the warm fireplace.*



*Clerk of the Court filing counter in OCH is decorated for the Holidays.*



*Left - The halls of the fourth floor of the Old Courthouse are decked out this Holiday season.*

*Seasons Greetings!*