

Judicial Branch News

Pillar Ceremony Honors County Employees



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Cover Photo - (Left to right)- Presiding Judge Norman Davis, Adult Probation Chief Barbara Broderick and Court Administrator Ray Billotte.



Judicial Branch News

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

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Three Commissioners Sworn-in



On December 7, **Commissioners William Wingard, Erin Otis and Geoffrey Fish** (left to right) celebrated their appointments to the Superior Court Bench with a swearing-in ceremony.



Presiding Judge Norman Davis delivers the oath of office to **Commissioner William Wingard**.



Presiding Judge Norman Davis delivers the oath of office to **Commissioner Geoffrey Fish**.



Commissioner Erin Otis accepts a ceremonial gavel from **MCBA President Jennifer Cranston** during her swearing-in ceremony.



FY2012 Annual Report is Now Online

Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County

Celebrating 100 Years of Statehood



Superior and Justice Courts
Adult and Juvenile Probation

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2012
July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012

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Facts and Figures

2012 Case Filings

Civil: 72,272
Family: 49,888
Criminal: 45,778
Juvenile: 22,157
Probate: 5,653
Mental Health: 6,090
Tax: 1,832

Q-and-A

Which day of the week had the most hearings scheduled in FY12?

Answer: Thursday

In FY12, what was the most frequently charged juvenile offense?

Answer: Shoplifting less than \$1,000

What was the largest number of jurors sent to a courtroom in one day in FY12?

Answer: 275

Commissioner Appointments

Presiding Judge Norman Davis elevated **Commissioners Myra Harris, Thomas Kaipio and Eartha Washington** from Commissioner I to Commissioner II positions. The move will be effective in January.

“Each has previously applied and been recommended to me for advancement by the Commissioner Nomination Committee,” Judge Davis said. “These commissioners have been doing excellent work at the court for years and proven themselves as capable judicial officers.”

Also, Judge Davis has appointed **Justin Beresky** to fill the vacancy created by **Commissioner Sheila Madden** who resigned in November.

According to Judge Davis, Commissioner Beresky is a private practitioner with a broad base of legal experience and a current emphasis on criminal law. He comes highly recommended and will be a real asset to the court.

Interpreters Earn Certification

Recently, **Diana Cambron** and **Renata Yawn** of Court Interpreting and Translation Services (CITS) achieved a Federal Court Interpreter Certification, granted by the Administrative Office of United States Courts. The exam, put in place when the Court Interpreters Act of 1978 (§U.S.C. 1827) was enacted, is the only government-sponsored uniform national exam whose goal is to measure professional judiciary interpreting skills.

Cambron, the Supervisory Translator for CITS, and Yawn, a Staff Interpreter in the Criminal Trial Unit, now join three other CITS interpreters, **Kathleen Penney, Gabriella Lindsey-Hall** and **Scott Robert Loos** and the approximately 3,000 interpreters worldwide who are certified to appear before the United States District Courts.

Judicial Rotation

Effective January 2, judicial rotations will take place to accommodate new leadership assignments at Superior Court. The following judicial officers have accepted new leadership assignments:

Associate Presiding Judge: **Judge Janet Barton**

Criminal Presiding Judge: **Judge Joseph Welty**

Civil Presiding Judge: **Judge John Rea**

Juvenile Presiding Judge: **Judge Colleen McNally**

Presiding Commissioner: **Commissioner Jim Morrow**

“I am continually impressed by and grateful for the caliber and depth of leadership on our bench. My sincere thanks and appreciation to **Judge Eddward Ballinger, Judge Douglas Rayes, Judge Robert Oberbillig** and **Commissioner Richard Nothwehr** for all they have done and for serving so ably during the last few years,” **Presiding Judge Norman Davis** said.

JPD Receives Mental Health Training Grant

Recognizing a Need and Responding

The Juvenile Probation Department was selected as one of 10 sites from a competitive field of 43 applicants to participate in the Juvenile Justice Mental Health Training Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to improve our understanding and response to youth presenting mental health issues within our secure facilities.

According to Joseph J. Coccozza, the Director of the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, Maricopa County’s application was among the strongest they received. JPD demonstrated a commitment to improving staff knowledge in this area and a clear plan for how this training will be institutionalized to maximize the impact.

A new, specialized training curriculum, the *Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice*, will be provided to both local and state-wide staff in 2013 to address the needs of youth presenting mental health issues.

Service Pillars: County Employees Honored

Current and Former Employees Honored at Ceremony

On December 5, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors honored Judicial Branch employees who served 30-plus years of service. Employees had their name placed on the *Service Pillar* on the **Central Court Building Plaza**.

The employees who were honored included:

Superior Court:

Diane Hilty, 37 years
Terri Jackson, 33 years
Judy Bushong, 31 years

Juvenile Probation:

Shawn Robblee, 37 years
John McGuire, 37 years
Sue McLaughlin, 35 years
Karen Ryan, 36 years
John Himmelberger, 33 years
Chris Casillas, 35 years



Left to right: **Presiding Judge Norman Davis, Terri Jackson** (retired) and, her husband, retired Superior Court **Judge Thomas Dunevant III**.



Left to right: **Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Eric Meaux, Karen Ryan, John McGuire, Chris Casillas, Sue McLaughlin, Frank Groenewold** and **Presiding Judge Norman Davis**



Judy Bushong

5 Years

Lisa Hernandez, Conference Officer
Susanna Yanez, Judicial Assistant
Linda Morgan, Judicial Clerk Associate
Jerry Bernstein, Court Commissioner
David Gonzalez, Adult Probation Officer
Karen Howard, Judicial Clerk Associate
Stephanie Blackwell, Case Mgmt
Administrator
Daniel Burgess, Judicial Clerk Lead
Donald Laws, Comm Sys Optr
Jacquelyn Novak, Adult Probation Officer
Sara Wood, Adult Probation Officer
Laura Klug, Registered Nurse
Ursula Settles, Juvenile Detention Officer
Cristen Euzarraga, Judicial Clerk
JoAnne Alcantar, Judicial Clerk Associate
Kenita Yazzie, Bailiff-Classified

25 Years

Samuel Catlett, Presentence Screener

30 Years

Frank Groenewold, Juv Court Asst Director

32 Years

Juli Deyoung, Judicial Clerk Supervisor

10 Years

Kapri Kennard, Juvenile Probation Officer
Jason Nunez, Juvenile Probation Officer
Dorotha Stephens, Judicial Clerk Senior
Lisa Stapleton, Adult Probation Officer
Roderic Slatton, Juvenile Detention Officer

15 Years

Jason Crouch, Surveillance Officer
Jason Ross, Adult Probation Officer
Matthew Heussner, Juvenile Probation Officer
Gregory Paduganan, Judicial Assistant
Tivurcio Arenivaz, Juvenile Detention Officer
Phyllis Sampson, Juvenile Detention Officer

Have You Heard About iCISng?

The iCISng (the “ng” is for Next Generation) is a multi-year project that will upgrade iCIS, the court’s electronic case management system. The new system will modernize business processes and workflow and move the court away from a paper-driven workplace. Imagine electronic workbaskets instead of an inbox on a Judge’s desk; a system where data automatically populates screens instead of having to be manually entered and a system that provides relevant information on a single screen. These are some of the concepts behind the development of iCISng.

The first installment of iCISng was deployed in IA Court in May 2012. It is primarily used by the IA Commissioners, IA staff and the Pre-Trial Services Agency. The County Attorney and the Sheriff also use iCISng to obtain defendant information. The new case management screens are designed to quickly provide pertinent information for the judicial officer and staff.

Using iCISng, Pretrial Services now conducts all of its work in an electronic work queue. It researches criminal history and interviews defendants to provide important information so the Judicial Officer can make appropriate release decisions. The information provided by Pretrial Services is received instantly by the judicial officer. IA Court and Pretrial Services no longer use paper except the release order that is given to the defendant as a hard copy.

Deploying iCISng in IA Court and Pretrial Services Agency required a great deal of collaboration between the software developers and commissioners, staff, managers and officers. Since deployment, the groups have worked diligently and successfully to learn the new system and business processes.

All court departments will move to iCISng during the next several years. Criminal is the first department to receive the new case management system and will be followed by Probate, Civil, Family and Juvenile.

Check back next month for your iCISng monthly update!

ASU Offers Classes for Divorcing Parents

Arizona State University researchers have developed a parenting-after-divorce program that has been found to substantially reduce behavior problems, mental health disorders and substance abuse among children whose parents have divorced. The program in Pima and Maricopa counties has 147 parents already participating. ASU hopes to have about 1,000 parents participate over the next two years.

Over a million children experience the divorce of their parents each year, said Irwin Sandler and Sharlene Wolchik, psychology professors who are co-directors of this research at ASU’s Arizona Prevention Research Center. While most children adapt well following divorce, they are at increased risk for a range of problems including mental health problems, substance abuse and poor school achievement.

Working since 1992, the two developed the New Beginnings Program, a parenting-after-divorce skill building program that teaches positive parenting skills that can help parents build strong families following divorce.

They found that divorcing parents who take the program have children who experience fewer serious behavior and emotional problems, higher grades, higher self-esteem, less drug and alcohol use and less early sexual activity. Their research showed that the improvements in children’s behavior were due to the parenting skills taught in the program.

The program is part of an evaluation funded by the National Institutes of Health and is presented in collaboration with family courts and social service agencies. The program is free of charge, in return for parents participating in an evaluation of the program.

To be eligible, parents must be divorced or separated from a spouse or domestic partner during the past two years, have children between the ages of 3 and 18, have a minimal level of regular contact with the children and not be remarried. Parents who are interested in participating can call toll-free 855-531-0851 or visit <http://nbpdivorce.org>.