

Judicial Branch News



Judge of the Year:

Hon. A. Craig Blakey II

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Cover - Attorney K. Thomas Slack (left), ABOTA President, with Judge A. Craig Blakey II (right). ABOTA named Judge Blakey its' Judge of the Year.

Judicial Branch News

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

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

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FY2013 Annual Report is Now Online

To read the full report visit: <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/MediaRelationsDepartment/docs/annualrep/FY2013AnnualRpt.pdf>

Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County



Superior and Justice Courts Adult and Juvenile Probation

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2013
July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013

www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov



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Did You Know?

- Case filings have increased across all departments.
- There were 202,628 cases filed in FY2013.
- Over the last five years, the growth rate for courtwide filings is three percent, increasing by approximately 4,900 filings a year.
- Sixty percent of Arizona's population live in Maricopa County
- Civil Court experienced the largest number of case filings (64,743).
- Seventy-one percent of criminal cases were terminated within 180 days; ninety-six percent of civil case were terminated in 18 months and ninety-seven percent of family court cases were terminated within one year.
- At 14 percent, Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia were the top two charged crimes in Maricopa County Superior Court.
- The most hearings were held on Thursday, January 10 (3,536 hearings).

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Fedra Malaquias, Adult Probation Officer
 Margaret Lapierre, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Venisha Craig, Adult Probation Officer
 Casey Reynolds, Office Assistant Specialized

10 Years

Chad Johnson, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Daniel Sitzler, Instructional Developer
 Jaime Sandoval, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
 Annette Anderson-Vick, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Dionna Lopez, Judicial Assistant - Classified
 James Gonzales, Surveillance Officer

15 Years

Erica Reed, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Enith Tellez, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Paula Coe, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
 Charlotte Shrum, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
 James Koeller, Judicial Assistant
 Anne Giron, Juvenile Probation Officer

20 Years

Susan Brnovich, Superior Court Judge

25 Years

Michael Babicky, Court Reporter
 Geraldine Modesti, Case Administrator
 Virginia Sanchez, Judicial Clerk Senior

30 Years

Otis Kirkwood, Juvenile Probation Officer

32 Years

Cindy Ingles, Judicial Assistant - Classified

** Information provided by Debbie Gilliland in the Human Resources Department.*

Important Payroll Update

The end of the year is fast approaching. Please be aware of these important items.

IMPORTANT PAYROLL PROCESSING NOTICE

All timecards must be completed and approved by 9 am on Monday, 12/23/13. The Judicial Branch Payroll Office must complete all payroll processing by the end of the day on Monday, 12/23/13. County Payroll will take the payroll system down at 9:00 am on 12/24/13 - NO EXCEPTIONS – as they must complete their portion by the end of the day on 12/24/13 to ensure that direct deposits/checks are ready for payday on Tuesday, 12/31/13.

Supervisors/Managers – if you will be out of the office from now through the end of the year, Payroll is asking that you submit a Delegation Form as soon as possible so there are no delays in timecard completion and approval for pay period ending 12/22/13.

VACATION ROLL-OVER

The roll-over process will transfer all VACATION time over 240 hours to the employee's SICK balance with an effective date of 12/31/13, HOWEVER, the process will take place this time on 1/8/14. All VACATION time taken for 12/31/13 and before MUST be entered by 1/8/14.

W-2's

The last day to consent to receive your W-2 online is 12/31/13. If you did not consent last year and do not consent to receive it online by 12/31/13, you will receive a paper copy which will be mailed out at the end of January to the address on file in the ADP system.

By Tracy Randall, Payroll/Human Resources

Judge Blakey Named Judge of the Year



Judge A. Craig Blakey II with previous ABOTA award winner Judge Douglas Rayes.

Judge A. Craig Blakey II has been named 2013 Judge of the Year by the Phoenix Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

ABOTA presented the award on December 6th at a dinner in Phoenix. The award recognizes Judge Blakey's "integrity, dedication and professionalism."

Judge Blakey, who is currently assigned to Juvenile Court, previously served on civil, family and criminal court calendars. He earned his Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law in 1979 and his Bachelor of Science in American Studies from Northern Arizona University in 1975.

ABOTA's mission includes promoting the efficient administration of justice and constant improvement of the law.

Arizona Desktop Technician of the Year



Manny Chavez

Court Technology Services employee, Manny Chavez, won this year's Arizona HDI Desktop Technician of the Year.

Chavez received his award on December 6th at a banquet in Phoenix.

Chavez was awarded for being the best of the best in the industry and for his knowledge of industry standards and commitment to excellence in customer service.

Also, CTS' Julian Garcia was nominated for the Help Desk Analyst of the Year. Chavez and Garcia competed against a dozen of their peers from companies around the state such as Wells Fargo, University of Phoenix/Apollo Group and First American Financial.

As the Arizona chapter winner, Chavez will have an opportunity to compete with his peers regionally. If he wins, it would allow him to move on to compete for the title of National HDI Desktop Technician of the Year at the HDI Annual Conference in Orlando, June 2014.

HDI is the world's largest IT service and technical support membership association and the industry's premier certification and training authority.



Left to right: Brett Kitani, Manny Chavez, Julian Garcia and Katherine Chamoun.

By Katherine Chamoun, Court Technology Services

Arizona Family Support Council Awards



Judge Carey Hyatt

The Arizona Family Support Council is a statewide organization dedicated to the dissemination of information about child support. Each year the AFSC holds a conference for those interested in child support issues. The conference serves as a forum where clerks, attorneys, judicial officers, DES workers, paralegals and those interested in child support hear speakers and meet to discuss child support topics. The AFSC also honors individuals who have distinguished themselves by their commitment to improving child support in Arizona.

This year, the AFSC selected the Honorable Carey Hyatt as the recipient of the Judicial Officer of the Year award. She was unanimously selected by the AFSC Board for making a significant impact on child support cases by using innovative or unique methods to efficiently and fairly adjudicate child support cases. For those who are not familiar with Judge Hyatt's work, she was the presiding judge of the Maricopa County Family Court Department and served on the Family Court bench for more than five years. As presiding family court judge, Judge Hyatt was responsible for the success of the accountability court program. Accountability Court assists with the enforcement of child support and spousal maintenance orders. It is a problem solving court geared to help families where the obligor has failed to meet payment requirements multiple times. The court helps the parties work out payment arrangements for past arrears but includes the possibility of severe sanctions should an obligor continue to ignore court orders. Accountability court requires parents and spouses who have a history of ignoring court orders to show up for periodic proceedings until the entire amount owed is paid.



Owen Gardner

The AFSC also honored Owen Gardner for his contributions with the 2013 Clerk of the Year award. Mr. Gardner works at the Southeast Courthouse as both the IV-D and customer service supervisor. He is known for his attention to detail as well as his ability to assist in inter-agency problem solving. In recommending Mr. Gardner for the award, the Arizona Attorney General's Office wrote about his work as a liaison between the Attorney General's Office and the Court in the "Come to Court" events held at the Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast facilities. Mr. Gardner coordinated the event with the Jury Commission office, secured the use of the jury assembly room for the event and handled communications with court security and the Clerk of Court so there would be sufficient staff to handle the many parents who came to court to discuss their arrears and payment options.

In addition to honoring Judge Hyatt and Owen Gardner, the AFSC selected Janet Sell, Esq. for the President's Award; Paula Cottita, Esq. as the Attorney of the Year; Melanie Martinez for the Line Staff Worker of the Year; and paid tribute to Don Vert, in memoriam, for his lifetime dedication. The AFSC congratulates all of the honorees and thanks them all for their commitment to Arizona's children.

By Commissioner Myra Harris

You're Invited: Judicial Branch Town Hall Meetings

Thank you to all who participated in our department meetings. We have successfully identified the three things we think we do well and the three things we could improve on as an organization. Now it's time to hear from Judicial Branch Administrator Ray Billotte. He will be coming around to meet and discuss the results of the survey and department meetings. Moving forward, he will discuss the Executive Team's plan.

You may notice that Adult Probation will not be joining the town halls. They have been holding town halls with Chief Barbara Broderick at all of their locations, and are hard at work on the feedback received. To supplement those efforts, Ray has also been spending some time attending various APD manager meetings.

Please join Ray at one of the Town Hall meetings listed below:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| • Monday, January 6 | 1-3pm | Durango |
| • Monday, January 13 | 10-Noon | DTJC |
| • Tuesday, January 14 | Noon-1:30pm | NW Jury Room |
| • Monday, January 27 | 11:30-1pm | NE Multi-Purpose Rm |
| • Tuesday, January 28 | Noon-1:30pm | SEF Jury Room |

We know we need to schedule more dates at all locations - keep an eye out for an email with more dates!!

By Cindy Reid, Education and Training

Judicial Branch Employees Hit the Ice

On their lunch hour, a group of court employees went ice skating at Downtown CityScape.



Garfield Turkey Feast



On November 21, Adult Probation Department hosted its 18th Annual Garfield Turkey Feast.

This year, 650 Thanksgiving dinners were served to the residents of the surrounding Garfield neighborhood. The event included music, activities and gifts and candy for children.

More than 70 APD staff volunteered by helping with serving food, crowd control and clean-up. Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte, Deputy Court Administrator Phillip Knox and Judge David Gass also lent their helping hands and support.

A special thanks to the City of Phoenix, Magic Smiles Dental Care, Phoenix Law School, Phoenix Urban League, Hope Lives, and Crisis Preparation and Recovery, which sent representatives to give out information to community members in an effort to reach out to the public. Safeway, St. Vincent DePaul, St. Mary's Food Bank, and U-MOM all contributed to the preparation of the feast.

by Janet Kasha, Adult Probation

COJET UPDATE

Congratulations to Judicial Branch employees for achieving 100 percent COJET Compliance for 2013!

Seasons Greetings



Photos of Marshal's Office Graduation Ceremony

