The Judicial Branch News

Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2010

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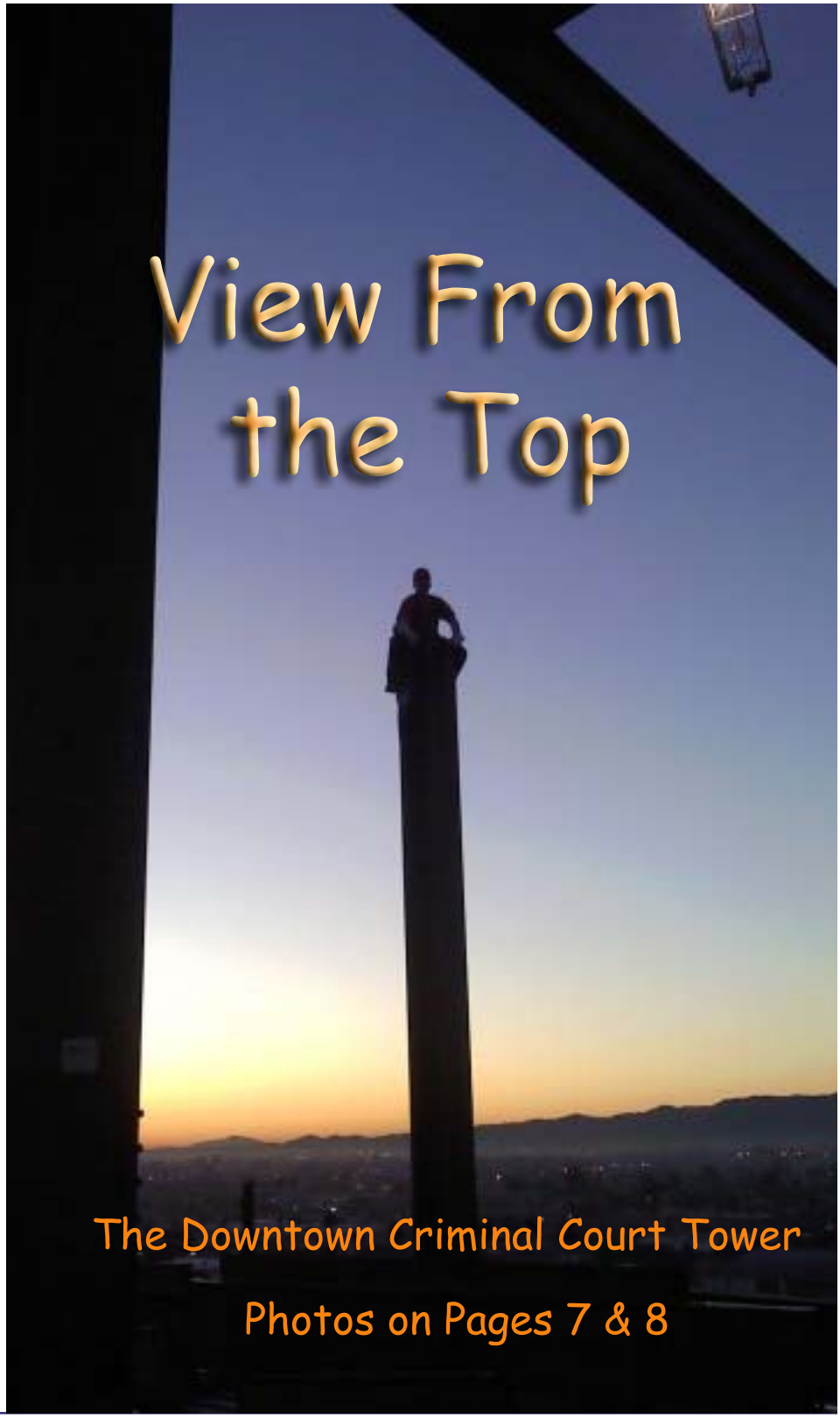
The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations and Community Outreach Department.

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."



Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Tracey Benton - Adult Probation Officer
Austin Brabble - Surveillance Officer
Ricardo Brandon - Adult Probation Officer
Holly Carlson - Adult Probation Officer
Samantha Corder - Adult Probation Officer
Jack Dillon - Surveillance Officer
Morgan Dinovo-Stevenson - Adult Probation Officer
Shirley Fields - Adult Probation Officer
Robin Hargrove - Adult Probation Officer
Michelle Hernandez - Adult Probation Officer
Marisa James - Judicial Clerk Senior
Lillie Jonovich - Juvenile Detention Officer
Christina Keenan - Adult Probation Officer
Robyn Kissler - Adult Probation Officer
Marissa Mallahan - Juvenile Detention Officer
Patricia Merino - Adult Probation Officer
Jason Overmyer - Adult Probation Officer
Eloisa Rodriguez - Adult Probation Officer
Christine Sanchez - Judicial Clerk Senior
Sheree Setzer - Adult Probation Officer
Sherri Tucker - Adult Probation Officer Supv
Eli Tully - Judicial Assistant
Carrie Turek - Adult Probation Officer
Nancy Vejar - Adult Probation Officer
Michael Wollangk - Adult Probation Officer
Aubrey Dowling - Juvenile Probation Officer
Kristen Brown - Court Reporter
Dajana Budimirovic - Surveillance Officer
Julie Chavez - Administrative Assistant
Thomas Dang - Juvenile Detention Officer
Rochelle Dobbins - Court Reporter
Nannette Hummel - Adult Probation Officer
Lillee Vital - Judicial Clerk Associate
Gary Bridget - Human Resources Manager
Bernadine Bahls - General Laborer
Laura Church - Judicial Assistant
Thomas Ahrensmeyer - Security Officer
Donna Arwine - Payroll Representative
Jose Cabral - Juvenile Detention Officer
Rosario Flores - Juvenile Detention Officer
Eva Foster - General Laborer
LaTeshia Jackson - Juvenile Detention Officer

10 Years

Dave Stevens - Chief Technology Officer
Rebecca Borino - Adult Probation Officer
Paula Collins - Deputy Criminal Court Administrator
Christopher Epps - Adult Probation Officer
Jill Gentry - Adult Probation Officer
Jessica Hogg - Adult Probation Officer
Nanette Kenyon - Judicial Assistant
Kristina Maul - Adult Probation Officer
Daysha Nanni - Judicial Assistant

15 Years

Kevin Westover - IT Division Deputy Manager
Virginia Peterson - Judicial Clerk Senior
John Ettari - Program Coordinator

20 Years

Robin Hoskins - Judicial Services Administrator IV
Daniel Hoyme - Adult Probation Officer
Christopher Moore - Surveillance Officer
Wesley Shipley - Adult Probation Officer Supv
Kathleen Tomaiko - Adult Probation Officer

25 Years

Craig Gildersleeve - Operations Support Analyst - Lead
Gloria Washington - Adult Probation Officer

New Judge Q-and-A: David Palmer

Q. Prior to your appointment, you served as a Court Commissioner since 2004. How did that work prepare you for your career as a judge?

My assignments as a Commissioner were all high volume criminal assignments. Family Court is a very high volume (and high emotion) court, so I got a good taste of back to back hearings from morning till night. I hopefully developed some skill in empathetically dealing with people as they go through difficult times, trying to ensure they feel listened to and treated fairly even in that high volume setting.

Q. Shortly after law school, you served as a law clerk for Judge D.L. Greer of the Arizona Court of Appeals. Can you explain how that experience affected your career path as a judicial officer?

That was a good experience. It gave me exposure to many different issues within many areas of law. Judge Greer would often tell me he liked being an appellate court judge, but missed the interaction with the lawyers on a daily basis he enjoyed as a trial court judge. I understand that better now, (at least with most lawyers.)

Q. What's your favorite quote? (This can be something one of your children said to you, what you said to them, a line from poetry or something you wish you hadn't said).

For several years now, I walk out the door to go to work every morning and hear at least one of my children shout in an expression of their supreme confidence in me, "Have a good day Dad, don't get fired."

Those words serve as my internal beacon as I battle to get through each day.

Q. Do you have a favorite movie or television show in the court or legal genre? Please explain.

During one of my law school years, there was a pizza joint next to the BYU campus that served a wicked breakfast buffet and also had cable. Some of my classmates and I would often go there after a morning class to get breakfast and watch a daily installment of Perry Mason reruns, trying to guess the outcome. We lobbied the powers that be at the law school for some credit for that academic exercise. Shockingly, we were not as successful as Perry always was. Still love that show.

Q. Do you own an IPOD and what kind of music is on your playlists?

Yes. Both kinds; country AND western.

Court Security Numbers

In 2009, Court Security:

- Confiscated **79,567** prohibited items. 60, 928 of these were knives or edged weapons and 6 (six) were undisclosed firearms. (If my recollection is correct, this is approximately 13,000 more weapons than last year.)
- Screened **5,903,207** people.

Submitted by Karen Westover
Court Security

News and Notes

Adult Probation Celebrates Diversity

This year's Diversity event at Encanto Park was another great success, with more than 200 employees in attendance.

The event featured foods from various cultures; Native American, Polish, Hawaiian, Soul Food, Irish, Mexican and Italian. All the booths provided an array of foods as well as history and facts about the cultures they were representing. American favorites such as hot dogs and hamburgers were also provided. A big thanks to Juvenile Director & Grill Master Frank Groenewold, Channing Williams and Cathy Johnson for their assistance this year and every year since the event started.

As in the past, the Diversity Council coordinates this event. The event was fully funded by the Diversity Council members and all of their fund raising events. The Council Board members were the leads and worked above and beyond to make this a fun event. The Board members are; Derrick Platt, Jenna Fitzgerald, Pamela Lim, Pam Ash and Heather Benally. Gloria Washington, a former Diversity Council Board member, also played a vital role in coordinating this year's event.

For the second year in a row, entertainment was provided by Adult Probation's Manny Barron, who brought his own equipment and worked as a DJ for the entire event. He is one very talented guy!

New Juvenile Probation Finance Team Member

Berta Aldrich joined the Superior Court Juvenile Probation Finance team as the new Juvenile Finance Supervisor of Treatment Services.

Berta has been with the County since December 1988. Her background is in statistical compilation, statistical auditing and analysis. At the Library District, she was the Budget Office Lead and handled AP, AR, Grant accounting, Fixed Assets and Book Ordering. At the Clerk of Superior Court, she developed an automated payroll timesheet application and managed Title IV-D Grant compilation. As a Family Court Administrator, she was part of the Implementation team for the Differentiated Caseflow Management project. Subsequently, she managed the case flow managers and clerical staff. While with Family Court, she was part of the team that won a NACO award for their Default File Review Project.

At Adult Probation, she compiled and audited all the monthly statistics from the probation officers, and developed the electronic statistical reporting currently used by the department to report out population, success rates and performance measures. She was part of the team that developed the Special Incidents Reports that also received a NACO award this last year.

Adult Probation Celebrates Diversity - Continued

Amazing how many dancers there are in both the Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments! We also had Adult Probation's Terry Lee, who headed up the games. The three-legged race was by far the most amusing event of the day! There were drawings and other games that kept everyone happy.

Finally, the Asian Employee Network made its debut for this year's event. A newly created employee Network in Maricopa County, the Asian Employee Network hopes to offer Asian cuisine at next year's event. Maricopa County Diversity Director, George Garcia, stopped by to join in on the fun as well.

Submitted by Jacquelyn Novak
Adult Probation

News and Notes

Lunch and Learn

As a result of Employee Satisfaction Survey Focus Groups asking for more opportunities to communicate with leadership, Superior Court is hosting a "Brown Bag and Chat" sessions where you can hear the latest in Court developments, ask questions, and share your feedback.

Marcus Reinkensmeyer will begin the series on January 27th at 12:15pm in the Cordova Conference Room.

Other sites and times will follow:

Durango — February 18
SEF—March 17
Northeast—April 15
Northwest—May 17

Supreme Court Board Appointees

Arizona Supreme Court Justice Rebecca White Berch appointed Judge Edward W. Bassett and Patricia Seguin as members of the Board of Certified Reporters. They will serve a five-year term from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014.

Justice Berch also appointed Juvenile Court Administrator Sheila Tickle to serve as a member of the five-person Confidential Intermediary Board. Tickle will serve a three-year term.

Hegyi Appointed Director of Research

Diana Hegyi has been appointed Director of Research and Planning for the Superior Court. Serving in this restructured position, Hegyi will oversee statistical reporting, strategic planning, grants development, Managing for Results and CourTools.

She formerly served as the Director of Conciliation Services for the Superior Court in Pinal County. Many of you will remember Diana from her previous exemplary service in our court's Conciliation Services Department, Family Court and Court Administration.

Guard and Military Reservists Must Register With Judicial Branch Human Resources

Employees of the Judicial Branch (Superior Court, Adult and Juvenile Probation) who are currently members of the National Guard or a Military Reserve Unit are reminded they must notify Judicial Branch Human Resources of their military affiliation.

There are several very good reasons for notifying Judicial Branch Human Resources of your military affiliation. First, all National Guard and Reservist are entitled to military leave accruals. Per Superior Court policy P-304M, Military Leave for Judicial Branch Employees, absences from work to perform military duties can be covered by paid military leave for up to 30 (thirty) working days in two calendar years. Military Leave is a separate bank of accrued leave made available to military members by state law.

Secondly, upon military call up, you are entitled to retain or cancel all or part of your employee benefits. Likewise, you are entitled to immediately re-activate cancelled benefits upon return. Coordination with HR ensures minimal disruption to your employee benefits during any period of military service.

Finally, under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA), if you are deployed, your job will be protected for a cumulative total of five years of military service. There are a few exceptions to this law that may extend this job protection even longer. Human Resources will track time served during military deployments to ensure you are afforded job and benefit protections under USERRA.

There are several other reasons to identify your membership in the Arizona National Guard or Reserves, all of which will allow you to better transition between employee and service member with ease.

If you have any questions about your military service, please call me at (602) 506-8568 or HR Manager Jennifer Vidlak-Nothnagel at (602) 506-6774. Thank you for your service to our country.

Submitted by Gary M. Bridget
Human Resources

Administrator Provides Court Assistance in Beirut

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is currently managing a three year *USAID* project to streamline the **Beirut Execution Court** that processes the collection of debts and contracts. This special assignment was a two week unpaid "leave of absence" from the Maricopa Superior Court for Peter Kiefer, our Regional Judicial Court Administrator. This past December, Peter traveled to Beirut, Lebanon, to provide technical assistance to that Court regarding customer service, court ethics, and case backlog reduction.

Outstanding and mysterious, shady and giving, Beirut is a city which provides and conceals simultaneously. Beirut is also a melting pot of many cultures and shelters an incredible variety of languages, nationalities and religions. In this environment, it is an impressive array of different ways of living that seems to co-exist that makes this extraordinary town so distinctive and exciting to work in.

Beirut is also a diverse city on the rise after years of civil strife both internally and from outside its borders. One can have coffee at Starbucks® (see photo at right) and yet can hear the "adhan" or "Muslim call to prayer". Though many Lebanese speak English, the most common tongue heard is French. The French language was established here when France governed the nation just after World War I.

Due to its French influence, Lebanon bases its legal system on a variation of the Napoleonic Code (a revised version of Roman law or Civil Law). Another unique aspect of the Lebanese political system is *confessionalism,* which requires individuals from the various Muslim and Eastern Orthodox Catholic sects to share power in all government agencies, including the courts.

A significant challenge for the Court is using a single consistent number for all case files. This seemingly simple concept was the source of considerable struggle, since most cases receive a case number at the start (when a request is filed) then receive another number when the judge renders a decision. Multiple decisions for multiple parties' means most cases receive multiple decision numbers in addition to the original case number assigned at the beginning.

At the end of the first week, the NCSC team organized a day long seminar and PowerPoint presentation (in English and Arabic) on customer service and court ethics. Topics included the acceptance of "wasta" or extra money for performing various court activities. The seminar, delving into a number of ethics issues, was well received and generated considerable discussion. The judges plan to use the seminar, along with the Ethics PowerPoint presentation, as a springboard for future work on court ethics policies.

The photo to the right shows some of the judicial and administrative staff Peter worked with during his assignment. (From left to right) Presiding Judge Rana Oueidat, NCSC Court Administration expert, Krystal Thompson, and Lebanese court specialist, May Hammoud.

According to Peter Kiefer, it was an honor to share some of the lessons learned here at the Maricopa County Superior Court with the fellow Lebanese court professionals.

Submitted by Tanya Luther
Court Services Coordinator

View from the Top