

January 2012

Judicial Branch News

Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County

January 2012 : Looking Ahead



Equal Justice Under Law

January 2012: Looking Ahead



Norman Davis

The beginning of a New Year brings with it the ability to reflect and evaluate, but, more importantly, the opportunity to look forward and plan for the future. In February, years of planning, creating, meeting and building will culminate in the opening of the South Court Tower (SCT). Our court is known for its innovative spirit and quest for excellence. The new SCT will provide an opportunity to demonstrate efficiencies and convenience to the community in newly re-engineered court processes previously tested and refined over multiple years, enhanced technology to better serve the public and reduce demands on court resources, and collegial judicial chambers to optimize courtroom utilization and improve training and mentoring of judicial officers. With the co-location of other criminal justice agencies in the SCT, the opportunities to promptly and equitably resolve criminal felony cases will be maintained and improved. You should also be aware of the Tower's environmental design excellence having received a "gold" rating.

Court personnel responsible for electronic recording have already relocated to the SCT to conduct on-site courtroom testing. Last minute preparations and testing are still occurring at the SCT, but we are all looking forward to February 14, when Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

will be present to help formally dedicate the building. To eliminate court down time in criminal proceedings, judicial officers will move to the tower over two successive weekends. Commissioners assigned to hear the high volume calendars will move during the weekend of February 18 – 20, and will conduct proceedings immediately on February 21, 2012. Trial judges will move during the weekend of February 25 – 26, and commence normal calendars and jury trials on Monday, February 27.

In addition to commencing operations in the SCT, the court looks forward to the many other events and improvements this year. These include:

- The State of Arizona will celebrate 100 years of statehood on February 14, 2012, with many events and celebrations planned throughout the state on that date. I know that we all take great pride in our heritage and all it means to be an Arizonan.
- Concurrently with the dedication of the SCT, the Maricopa County Justice (MCJ) Museum & Learning Center ("OCH Museum") will open as a result of a collaborative project between the court and the Maricopa County Bar Foundation. With its dual mission of preservation and education, the OCH Museum is designed to educate children and adults about the bedrock principles of the American justice system. Located on the historic Old Courthouse's sixth floor, the OCH Museum will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about Arizona's significant contributions to the criminal justice system (e.g., Miranda rights) through hands-on displays and knowledgeable docents. Information on the Museum can be found online at: www.justicemuseum.org
- During 2012, we will see major advances in court technology. Significant improvements have already been made to the case management iCISng system for the Criminal Initial Appearance Court. We expect to see substantial completion of iCISng enhancements for the entire criminal department in 2012 or early 2013.

FEATURES

- 2 From the Presiding
- 5 Sneak Peek Inside the South Court Tower
- 6 Interpreters: A Daunting Task
- 7 Investiture Ceremonies: Judge Cynthia Bailey and Judge Jay M. Polk
- 8 Photo Highlights
- 9 Employee Anniversaries

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.

Contributing Writers

Vincent Funari
Karen Arra
Jennifer Vidlak
Jennifer Wade
Robin Hoskins
Scott Loos

Contributing Editors

Presiding Judge Norman Davis
Marcus Reinkensmeyer
Carolyn Edlund
Tanya Luther
Kelly Vail

Produced by the Media Relations Department
Media Relations Department
Old Courthouse 4th Floor
125 W. Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85003



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Additional steps forward will be made with advanced video and exhibit display systems in the South Court Tower's electronic courtrooms; the new agile jury system implemented this month designed to markedly improve the juror experience; docket displays and video-guided way finding at the downtown court campus, enabling the public to more easily maneuver through the buildings to a courtroom; and the conclusion of the desktop computer refresh program for court divisions.

- Continued emphasis and enhancement to community outreach and public education will continue this year with expansion of social media and training through better use of technology. The court has already established a non-traditional media presence that includes the creation of a court YouTube channel, as well as Facebook and Twitter updates to better inform and educate the public on access to the courts and help demystify complicated court procedures. Work is currently under way to build-out a modest media room to permit onsite editing, to redesign the court's website with a modern look and navigation capabilities including improved access to court forms and information; and to expand the court's library of in-house training videos.
- The court continues to focus on its connection to the community, and will continue cooperative efforts with its community partners. These include Regional Homeless Court, which will expand countywide the concept initiated by a municipal court consortium if the legislature enacts pending, enabling legislation (SB1152); initiation of a Probate Court emergency hotline; continuing collaboration with our criminal justice partners through McJustice, development of new and innovative projects in cooperation with the Integrated Criminal Justice Management Justice System (iCJIS); enhancement of Operation Stand Down and the Veterans Court under the leadership of **Judge Douglas Rayes** and the criminal bench; and continued piloting and development of the Juvenile Court's Cradle to Crayons (C2C) project for dependency cases by **Judge Eddward Ballinger** and the juvenile bench.
- Planning is currently underway to remodel the top four floors of the East Court Building (ECB) for improved public safety and efficiency over the next two years into a more modern and efficient Civil Court tower. The court is also working actively with the County and justice courts to develop the Southwest Regional Court Center to house justice courts in the southwest valley at 105th Avenue and Van Buren in Avondale. This site will not initially include superior court divisions but is large enough for such expansion in the future. Further space planning will also progress to accommodate the "Cradle to Crayons (C2C)" program for Juvenile Court.

We look forward to seeing these and other improvements in court operations this year. I sincerely thank all of you for your contributions and commitment to continuing the Court's tradition of excellence in the court.

Norman J. Davis
Presiding Judge

Sneak Peak Inside the Tower





Interpreters: A Daunting Task

For six months, the fivesome of **Noemi Villar, Gabriella Lindsey-Hall, Renata Yawn, Maite Lopez and Kathleen Penney** (pictured left to right) acted as Spanish-English interpreters for prosecution witnesses, victims and victims' next of kin for the six-month trial in the State of Arizona vs. Mark Goudeau.

The trial, held before **Criminal Presiding Judge Warren Granville**, was a capital case. The defendant, Mark Goudeau, was charged with 72 counts, including eight first degree murder counts.

"The Goudeau trial, with its many counts, victims and witnesses, presented a daunting task to the Superior

Court's Interpreting and Translation Services office. Its length (over six months), the range of offenses against its defendant, and its complexity as a capital murder trial required five Spanish interpreters to attend and interpret nearly every day, sometimes just for a victim's next of kin, sometimes for a victim or a fact witness on the stand," said **Scott Loos**, Court Interpreter and Staff Developer. "The interpreters worked as a team, taking turns at the microphone based on the nature of the testimony to be interpreted (lay vs. expert), the emotional nature of the testimony and the technical legal issues to be argued. Scheduling was often done weeks in advance to ensure both their attendance and the continuity of their interpreting for the listeners' sake. Their participation in this trial was also balanced with their own regular case assignments; for all of this, we thank them for a job well done."

Investiture Ceremonies



Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch administers the oath of office to **Judge Cynthia Bailey** 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 Jay M. Polk** during his investiture ceremony in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Engaging Parents of South Mountain

The South Mountain zip codes 85040, 41, and 42, generate some of the highest numbers of Maricopa County referrals to the Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation Department, with a disproportionate number being youth of color. To effectively address this issue, there is a great need to connect with and engage the community. The level of family support and involvement in the lives of youth involved in the juvenile justice system is directly correlated to successful outcomes.



Michael Valdez Jr.

Thanks to a Department of Justice grant, Juvenile Court Administration, Juvenile Probation, and Maricopa County Justice Planning and Information Systems have established a pilot program in the South Mountain area designated to reduce disproportionate minority contact and disparate outcomes for youth of color who are at risk to become, or are involved, in the juvenile justice system.



Jacqueline Pearson

To facilitate community and family engagement, the grant funds two positions; a Community Outreach Specialist, **Michael Valdez**, and a Family Support Partner, **Jacki Pearson**, whose responsibilities include messaging regarding the importance of parental engagement and availability of community resources; serving as liaisons between the Juvenile Court and the community and providing in-home direct family support and training for youth and families residing in the targeted zip code area.

By Robin Hoskins, Grant Coordinator

Juvenile Court Recognizes Trio



Juvenile Court recognized attorneys **Janet Story** (left) and **Kathryn Pidgeon** (center) and **Deputy Juvenile Court Administrator Jackie Traher** for their National Adoption Day contributions.



Recently, Initial Appearance Court Commissioners received training on ICISng. The above photo was in the CTS training room in the Downtown Justice Center.



A group of judges and some of their spouses participated in a hike in Flagstaff, AZ. First Row - **Retired Judge Fred Newton** and **Director of Research and Planning Diana Hegyi**. Second Row - **Judge Roland Steinle**, **Commissioner Richard Albrecht**, **Judge Hugh Hegyi**, **Denise Lunden**, **Judge Robert Oberbillig**, **Suzanne Oberbillig**, **Sherry Davis** and **Presiding Judge Norman Davis**.



Staff Development and Training wants to thank everyone at Superior Court for another year of 100 Percent COJET Compliance and would like to remind employees to play the Centennial Trivia game on the Court Wide Web.

Education and Training staff: Top - **Sandy Velasquez**, **Stacy Farmer**, and **Karen Rushing**. Bottom- **Matt Fertig**, **Cindy Reid**, and **Grayce Mayhew**.



Commissioner Richard Albrecht (left) and **Presiding Civil Court Judge Robert Oberbillig** (right) participated in the PF Chang Rock 'n' Roll Marathon on January 15, 2012 in Phoenix.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Dale Morley Adult Probation Officer
Lori Rader Law Librarian
Susan Regan Legal Assistant
Yvette Martinez Presentence Screener
Lana Blackham Security Officer II
Gary Gorraiz Security Officer II
Susan Willison Security Officer II
Daniel Hernandez Surveillance Officer
Ericka Mathis General Laborer
William Grimes Presentence Screener
Sandra Cumming Adult Probation Officer
Estaben Edwards Adult Probation Officer
Selia Murillo Collector
Cristina Chavez-Alvarado Conference Officer
Gary Lopez Counselor
James Newlin Court Interpreter
Frances Cabrera Judicial Assistant-Classified
Araceli Ambert Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Omar Mayen Juvenile Detention Officer
Jaqua Davis Management Analyst
Janie Terry Grant/Contract Administrator
Clayton Hunt Adult Probation Officer
Molly Bustos Judicial Assistant-Classified
Renee Hernandez Judicial Clerk Associate
Carina Ingram Juvenile Detention Officer
James Ingram Juvenile Detention Officer
Gregory Fryson Juvenile Probation Officer
Aliza Rain Law Library Assistant
Linda Hernandez Judicial Clerk Lead

10 Years

Deanna Sanchez Comm Sys Optr
Mitzi Ruiz Juvenile Probation Officer
Jennifer Maines Juvenile Probation Officer
Treva Colwell Court Reporter
Monica Reyes Judicial Clerk Senior
Lisa Rosenfeld Juvenile Probation Officer
Christopher Rufo Management Analyst
Scott Herrmann Psychologist
John Marshall Self Service Center Legal Coordinator
Andrew Gongora Surveillance Officer

15 Years

Kristi Dallman Judicial Staff Trainer/Coord
Susan Imperial Bailiff
Scott Hoffman Judicial Clerk Senior
Patricia Duran Judicial Clerk Lead
Scott Coniam Court Reporter

20 Years

Kimberly Law-Woods Juvenile Probation Officer
Joan Kircher Adult Probation Officer
Auldric Pantin Adult Probation Officer
Meri Romero Adult Probation Officer