

# Judicial Branch News

## National Spotlight On Superior Court



## FEATURES

- 4 Judge Michael McVey Announces Retirement
- 5 Judge Rayes Bids Farewell to Longtime Bailiff
- 7 Donations Used to Purchase Scooters
- 8 Employee Anniversaries
- 9 State v Jodi Arias: Photos of Media Coverage

**Front Cover** - News media trucks parked outside the South Court Tower for the State v Jodi Arias trial.

## 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

Myndi Clive  
Karen Arra  
Judge Douglas Rayes  
Debbie Gilliland  
Robin Hoskins  
Laurie Laughlin  
Raymond Billotte  
Candace Atkinson

### Contributing Editors

Presiding Judge Norman Davis  
Tanya Luther  
Kelly Vail  
Johnny Tse  
Vincent Funari



*Produced by the Media Relations Department*

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

# Court Administrator Raymond Billotte



Raymond Billotte

My first few months have given me the opportunity to get to know our court, its norms and values, and the overall culture of how things get done and why. No two organizations, regardless of the business similarities, are the same. More importantly, I've met many of you. I am truly impressed with the devotion and commitment demonstrated daily by our judges, commissioners and employees striving to meet the needs of the people we serve. There is a great spirit of service, one that embodies the true principals of "good government." I have met so many people who come to work not just for the paycheck, but to make a difference. These inspiring experiences, whether at Durango, Northwest,

Southeast, C2C, or at our downtown facilities, have given me tremendous confidence in our organization.

As we look to the future, we know significant challenges lie ahead. Fiscal issues, tied to a sluggish economy and weak growth, will continue to impact our ability to leverage necessary funds for new programs, employee compensation, and IT initiatives. It is also clear that changing public expectations of what we do will force us to look closely at our procedures, processes, programs and services. More accessible, faster, simpler, cheaper, do-it-yourself, are the demands of our society. Courts are not immune from these expectations.

I believe we are uniquely positioned to not only meet these challenges head on, but emerge a stronger, more responsive organization that addresses the needs of our community and workforce. I sought the position of Judicial Branch Administrator because I aspired to work in a highly innovative and forward thinking organization that seeks more effective and efficient methods of providing services to our citizens. And that is what I have found. We have a long history and organizational culture of striving to be the best, no matter the situation. Tough economic forecasts and changing expectations are certainly impediments to that end; but they are not barriers that cannot be overcome. My experience has taught the best and most sustainable organizational changes emanate from within - from a person in leadership with an idea or simply a valued employee who suggests ways to eliminate redundancy, reduce the red tape, or improve citizen satisfaction.

One of the most important responsibilities of my position is to facilitate and enhance the court's ability to sustain and maintain excellence. A broad requirement on its face, its foundation is very simple and lies in the most precious asset of our organization, the people. As we move forward together, I want to tap this valuable resource and increase our inclusiveness. Ultimately, I believe this fosters the atmosphere necessary to produce and institutionalize meaningful improvements to our work and work environment.

In the coming months, I plan to use the Newsletter forum to report to our organization on issues affecting us all – technology, process re-engineering, budget, personnel, operations, and others. I hope you find the articles to be informative and they create a connection between your work and the important vision of our court – "Superior Court will be the leader in delivering justice through innovation and effective programs."

## State v Jodi Arias: Media Coverage



Media trucks line Madison Street just east of the South Court Tower. One of the trucks serves as a portable, on location television studio for InSession.

CBS 48 Hours, Dateline NBC, InSession, Nancy Grace, ABC News and Entertainment Tonight.

Those are just some of the national media outlets covering the State v Jodi Arias.

"This is one of the largest media cases we've had at Superior Court," said Media Relations Director Karen Arra. "We have three rows of local and national reporters tweeting and taking notes with laptops, phones and tablets. Also, the media room in the back of the courtroom is filled to capacity."

InSession TV, the designated pool camera, is broadcasting the trial live gavel-to-gavel, and local media outlets are streaming the trial on their news websites. CBS 48 Hours aired their show last week.

Currently, the trial is on break. The defense will begin presenting its case on January 29.

# Judicial Appointments and Retirements

## Judge Michael McVey Announces Retirement



Judge Michael McVey

Judge Michael McVey submitted his letter of resignation to the Governor effective January 28.

“Judge McVey is nearing the end of an illustrious 20-year career on the bench, and during his time with the Superior Court, Judge McVey has served willingly and ably in the civil, family, criminal and juvenile departments of the court,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

He currently serves as the Presiding Judge of the Northeast Regional Court Center.

“A man of the upmost integrity, Judge McVey has been a stellar example of what a judge should be in his activities both in and out of the courtroom for many years. He has continuously mentored other judicial officers and cared deeply how his decisions impacted litigants and the community,” Judge Davis said. “We will miss him greatly, but after retirement, Judge McVey will join the civil division of the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office so that we will still have the pleasure of seeing him from time to time.”

## Suzanne Cohen Appointed to Superior Court Bench



Suzanne Cohen

The Governor appointed former Deputy County Attorney Suzanne Cohen as Judge on the Maricopa County Superior Court bench.

Judge Cohen has been a Deputy Maricopa County Attorney since 2000, a role in which she has prosecuted felony cases such as murder, kidnapping, child abuse and sexual assault. Notably, Judge Cohen has

handled numerous high profile cases, including the “Baseline Killer” case. As a Deputy County Attorney, she served as the Bureau Chief to the General Trial Group and the Family Violence Bureau. In these roles, she supervised numerous attorneys and was responsible for assisting with crime scene investigations and search warrants.

Prior to becoming a Deputy County Attorney, Judge Cohen’s career included work with: the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office in Blythe, California (1998-1999); Aetna (1993-1997 and 1989-1991); and Travelers Insurance (1991-1993). While attending law school, she worked full-time as an insurance underwriter.

Judge Cohen has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1999. She earned her undergraduate degree from Randolph-Macon Women’s College (1989), and graduated near the top of her class from Golden Gate University School of Law (1997).

The Governor’s appointment of Suzanne Cohen was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge John A. Buttrick.



# The Mayor of the Courthouse is Retiring

*By Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes*

*Caption: Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes' staff. (Left to right) Court Reporter Cindy Lineburg, Bailiff Larry Martinez, Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes, Judicial Assistant Mary Farmer and Intern Ben Dorame.*

There is an old saying in theatre - "There are no small parts. Only small actors," meaning your part is only as important as you make it. Larry Martinez took his role as our bailiff and played it to a level far beyond what I knew or thought was possible.

Larry's work was outstanding. Within our division he helped build a team atmosphere, employing his sense of humor, outgoing personality and willingness to help. If someone needed coverage, he provided it and took on any job asked of him. He made suggestions to the courtroom deputies about how to improve security, which they later adopted. His work with jurors was truly remarkable. I received letters and emails from jurors after nearly every trial praising Larry and thanking him for making their experience so rewarding and enjoyable. I even had comments in my JPRs from both jurors and lawyers about the excellent service they received in our division from Larry. In the 10 ½ years we worked together, we had somewhere in the range of 200 jury trials. Larry dealt with at least 10,000 jurors. Never once was there a juror complaint.

Larry's service to the court went far beyond his excellent work as a courtroom bailiff. He volunteered and was called upon to assist in many different undertakings such as teaching at the New Judge Orientation about bailiffs and their responsibilities. He also taught classes to other bailiffs and court staff on a variety of issues. When the Department of Corrections complained about the quality of fingerprints on the sentencing

minute entries, Larry organized a training session for bailiffs and court personnel and trained them how to properly secure finger prints.

Larry served on numerous committees, including committees involved with the construction and operation of the new South Court Tower. He helped with the design of the court wide communications and communications with MCSO. During my tenure as Presiding Criminal Judge, he acted as my liaison with MCSO and I received many compliments from the Sheriff's office about him.

Larry worked tirelessly to improve the professionalism, image, and pay of the courtroom bailiffs. In 2004 or 2005, as president of the Maricopa County Bailiffs Association, he created a "bailiff's uniform". His intent was to improve the *esprit de corps* of the bailiffs, perk up their appearance and do it at an affordable cost. His uniform consisted of khaki pants and a high quality polo shirt with an emblem he designed that was sewn onto the shirt. I still have a prototype in my closet, but for reasons beyond Larry's control, the endeavor never got off the ground.

Larry's knowledge of the court procedures, resources and personnel was legendary. He was constantly fielding questions from other bailiffs and other court staff about how

*The Mayor of the Courthouse is Retiring - continued on Page 6*

## **CASA Director to Serve on Supreme Court Committee**

The Arizona Supreme Court appointed Director of CASA Laurie Laughlin as chair of the Confidential Intermediary Board. The Confidential Intermediary Board, run through the Certification and Licensing Division of the Arizona Supreme Court, provides a service to help facilitate contact between parties of an adoption or siblings separated as a result of a dependency action. Laughlin will serve a two-year term.

## **CASA Director to Teach at National Conference**

For the fifth year in a row, the CASA of Maricopa County Program has been selected to teach at the National CASA Conference. This year, the conference will be held in Anaheim, California. The CASA of Maricopa County Program has been asked to present a 90-minute workshop titled "Strengthening CASA Voices - Creating Best for Baby Advocate Forums" scheduled on Sunday, April 7. The conference itself runs from April 6 to April 9. More than 1,200 conference participants will attend more than 60 workshops presented by leaders in their fields.

## **Special Projects Manager Hired**



Marc Nechtman

Superior Court hired Marc Nechtman as a Special Projects Manager. Nechtman is helping manage the Court's business technology systems.

Prior to joining Superior Court, Nechtman worked for more than two years for the state of Arizona. He served in the information technology departments for the Department of Health Services and the Department of Education.

"This is my first time working for any court system. I have a lot to learn but I look forward to the challenges," Nechtman said.

Nechtman earned his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Arizona State University.

## **The Mayor of the Courthouse is Retiring - Continued**

to handle situations and resolve problems. Larry had several nicknames, one of which was "The Answer Man."

Larry was popular in the courthouse. Whenever we walked somewhere, I felt as if I was with a celebrity or politician. People throughout the courthouse knew him and wanted to either give him a hug or shake his hand. He was eager to reciprocate and usually threw in a funny comment. He was well known and genuinely well liked. And of all of his nick-names, the one that I liked and best described him is "Mayor of the Courthouse."

Larry is retiring in February. When he is gone, the court will have lost a truly dedicated employee who made a difference. He treated his job, this court, the public, and those who work here with respect and dignity. He will be missed. It has been an honor and privilege to work with him.

## **Museum Open for Tours**



Cy Hainey, the Phoenix Law School student docent for the Maricopa County Justice Museum and Learning Center, provides a tour to Denise Lundin and Eric Ciminski. The Museum opening coincided with the state's centennial celebration in February 2012. The museum offers interactive learning that brings to life the rich legal history of Maricopa County and Arizona and the critical importance of the courts in our democracy. The museum is located on the 6th floor of the historic Old Courthouse at 125 W. Washington in downtown Phoenix. Tours are offered Monday - Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

# Superior Court Receives Planning Grant

The Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library received a LSTA planning grant for an Integrative Legal Learning Center through the Arizona State Library with funding from IMLS.

This final project is to establish an Integrative Legal Learning Center (ILLC) within the Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library (MCSCLL). The goal of this grant project is to plan for the creation of a space for library users to explore resources alongside technologies for teaching, learning and research. Funds will be spent on planning resources, technology/library advisors, printing and travel.

The project seeks to close gaps that exist when maintaining access to justice for all. It targets Self Represented Litigants (SRL), the citizens that MCSCLL librarians assist most often. Almost 90 percent of the Law Library's reference contact (in person, email and telephone) is with the general public.

This multi-year end project will benefit the community by having access to a well planned professionally maintained environment that incorporates new technology and ensures free or low cost access to legal resources in a variety of formats.

The grant planning committee's charge is to plan the design of an innovative space that integrates resources with learning; a user friendly space that will take the Law Library into the next decade. In the final stage of project implementation, it is anticipated that the Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library ILLC will be a best practice model for other libraries across the nation.

What MCSCLL needs from you? Answer one simple question: if you could develop an integrative online learning center for your customers what is the ONE thing you would want it to have? Please email your answers to Susan Armstrong at [sarmstrong@sccl.maricopa.gov](mailto:sarmstrong@sccl.maricopa.gov) ASAP.

By Myndi Clive, Law Library

# Donations Used to Purchase Scooters



*Two new scooters parked in the Jury Assembly Room.*

On January 4, two electric scooters were delivered to the Jury Assembly Room for jurors to use during the first day of jury selection.

"The walk from the South Court Tower to other courtrooms can be rather difficult for some of our jurors," said Jury Administrator Candace Atkinson.

The scooters were purchased with jury donations funds.

A special thanks to FMD staff who helped coordinate the delivery and assemble the scooters.

By Candace Atkinson, Jury Administrator

## 5 Years

**Adam Moran**, Surveillance Officer  
**Dulcelinda Ramirez**, Adult Probation Officer  
**Freddie Briggs**, Security Officer II  
**Ernest Barrett**, Adult Probation Officer  
**Sahara Bergstrom**, Lead Comm Systems Operator  
**Veronica Gunnison**, Adult Probation Officer  
**Vickie Jones**, Comm Sys Optr  
**Tyrone Mayer**, Adult Probation Officer  
**Don Moll**, Court Reporter  
**Margaret Sommer**, Program Coordinator  
**Michael McIntyre**, Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
**Bernadette Camacho**, Judicial Assistant-Classified  
**Jeffrey Rueter**, Court Commissioner

## 20 Years

**Cornie Goemaat**, Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Patricia Pierce**, Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Joyce Randle**, Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
**Scott Spisak**, Juvenile Probation Officer  
**David Jacobs**, Justice System Manager  
**Matthew Mahaffy**, Court Conciliator

## 25 Years

**Mary Daniels**, Adult Probation Officer Supv  
**Helene Paustian**, Court Reporter

## 10 Years

**Traci Stutsman**, Court Reporter  
**Stacy Farmer**, Trainer  
**Kathleen Mead**, Court Commissioner

## 15 Years

**Ernest Broadway**, Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv  
**Kenneth Lavery**, Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Elizabeth Goulden**, Adult Probation Officer Supv  
**Cynthia Gaitan**, Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Addy Atances**, Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Tonya Olson**, Juvenile Probation Officer  
**James Aaron**, Security Officer II  
**John Akers**, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
**Tammy Allen May**, Adult Probation Officer Supv  
**Andrea Stiles**, Adult Probation Officer  
**Elizabeth Streeter**, Adult Probation Officer  
**Danielle Griswold**, Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Craig Harris**, Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv  
**Deanna Houston**, Juvenile Probation Officer

## iCISng Update

The Initial Appearance (IA) Court installment of iCISng has already made an impact for many court employees.

The Court interviewed a sample of more than 20 employees, consisting of Commissioners, managers, supervisors and staff, to get their feedback on the first installment of iCISng.

“Overall, the feedback was very positive. The information we received will be very beneficial in improving future iCISng installments,” said Diana Hegyi, Director of Research and Planning. “From the sample we interviewed most employees felt that the access of information and the ability to view booking photos has increased their job performance and made their jobs easier.”

According to one Manager, iCISng has already had a positive effect. The access to additional information allows probation officers to produce more valid reports. A Commissioner found that iCISng allows him to make better decisions because he now has better access to criminal history information that was not previously available.

“We appreciate employees taking the time to be interviewed regarding iCISng,” Hegyi said. “The Court will continue seeking employee feedback as iCISng development progresses.”

# State v Jodi Arias: Media Coverage

