



## Celebrating and Honoring Probation Employees

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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.

***“Equal Justice Under Law”***



To all the dedicated men and women of our Adult Probation Department,

This brief note of thanks is to commemorate 2011 Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week. Once again, I am reminded of how vital all of you are to the Court’s mission of providing justice in our County. The judges and commissioners of this Court continue to depend on your professionalism and dedication every day. And those who benefit from your supervision depend on you even more.

I understand that this year’s theme is “Creativity in Times of Crisis.” I can’t think of a group of public servants that personify that theme any better than you. The efforts of you and your colleagues have demonstrated to our community that even in fiscally challenging times, the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department adapts, innovates, and continues to excel in its mission. I hope you are as proud as I am to be a part of our justice system, and to be a part of one of the most nationally recognized probation departments in the United States. On behalf of the entire Bench of this Court, I thank you for your service, and hope you enjoy this week of special recognition.

**Sincerely,**

**Douglas Rayes,  
Criminal Department Presiding Judge**

*Photos and News from Probation Week  
Starting on Page 4*

## News and Notes

# Investiture Ceremony

# Employee Relations Administrator Hired



Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch administers the oath of office to Judge Mark H. Brain during his investiture ceremony in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Jamie Harding has been appointed to the position of Judicial Branch Employee Relations Administrator. Prior to her appointment she served as an Assistant Attorney General. She also practiced employment law with the law offices of Gust Rosenfeld, P.C. and Littler Mendelson, P.C. Harding received her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and her law degree from the University of Michigan.

Human Resources Director Phil Hanley said, "As an attorney with more than 7 years of experience in the field of Employment Law, she is uniquely qualified for this new challenge."

She began her new position on July 18th.

# Commissioner Appointed

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed Patricia Ann Starr as a Superior Court Commissioner.

Commissioner Starr is a former Capital Staff Attorney with the Court for the last three years. She also brings more than 15 years of criminal law experience as an Assistant Attorney General and Deputy County Attorney to this position. Commissioner Starr is widely regarded for her expertise in criminal cases, particularly capital cases.

She began her criminal calendar on July 18.

## Supreme Court Committee Appointments

**Here is a list of recent committee appointments made by Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch:**

*Commissioner David Cunanan - Committee on Superior Court*

*Judge Joseph Kreamer - Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee*

*Honorable Michael Jeanes - Child Support Committee*

*Commissioner Stephen J.P. Kupiszewski - Child Support Committee*

*Judge Samuel J Myers - Board of Legal Document Preparers*

*Honorable Michael Jeanes - Commission on Technology*



# Judge Bruce Cohen

The Arizona Supreme Court selected Judge Bruce Cohen as its 2011 Judicial Branch Distinguished Service Award winner in the ***Improving Public Trust and Confidence in the Arizona Courts*** category.

*(Pictured: Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch with Judge Cohen)*

# APD NACo Awards

## MCAPD Programs Receive National Honors

Each year, the National Association of Counties recognizes innovative county government programs with NACo Achievement Awards. The following Adult Probation programs were selected to receive national recognition with a 2011 NACo Achievement Award:

### Improving Community Safety through the Apprehension of Drug-related Offenders

Just two years ago, the Fugitive Apprehension Unit had little opportunity to address outstanding drug-related probation violation warrants because available resources were prioritized to person and property crimes. With the receipt of federal stimulus funding to Combat Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the United States, five surveillance officers were assigned to work the drug-related probation violation warrants. Public safety was increased by apprehending these probationers and disrupting criminal narcotics activity. The officers collaborated with local law enforcement and have exceeded the project's apprehension goals. Congratulations to **Division Director Wes Shipley, Supervisor Mark Bergmann, and Surveillance Officers Gary Burgett, Bob Sitnek, Steven Smith, Justin Scheidecker, and Greg Thiel.**

### Probation Reentry Initiative: Transitioning Offenders from Prison to the Community

From the very beginning, members of the Prison Reentry Unit believed that their program had the wrong name – the offenders were not reentering prison, they were reentering the community. Hence, the Probation Reentry Initiative reflects their focus –assisting offenders with their transition back into the community. The Probation Reentry Initiative established a new supervision model and involves close collaborations with the Arizona Department of Corrections and community-based service providers. The program has been very successful at engaging offenders and helping them establish stability in the community. Absconding and recidivism have both been reduced. Congratulations to **Division Director Jenifer Meiley, Supervisor Sherry Johnston, Probation Officers Beth Streeter, Jeff Lauer, Karen Spitler, Wayne Barrett, Stephanie Prince, McKenzie Holt-Synk, Scott Mortensen, and Surveillance Officers Chad Towe, Korik Anderssohn, David Silvas, Tamara McBride, Wynkesha McKnight, Laura Radcliffe, and Geneva Rodriguez.**

### Restitution Court: A Victim-centered Approach to Restitution Collection

Despite Adult Probation's comprehensive financial compliance program, there have been some probationers with the ability to pay restitution who just would not pay. Chronic delinquencies persisted even with the best efforts of probation officers and collectors. Restitution Court was created to hold the worst of the worst non-payers of restitution accountable. The Honorable Roland Steinle spearheaded the project for the Superior Court and has worked closely with Adult Probation to bring the non-payers into Court for civil contempt hearings. This innovative approach to restitution enforcement provides a welcome alternative to probation revocation proceedings. The Judge determines if the probationer is in contempt for nonpayment and may impose jail time for failure to pay the delinquency. Restitution Court has successfully collected hundreds of thousands of dollars for victims from probationers who otherwise just would not pay their restitution. The program has been expanded to include additional court calendars in Maricopa County and has been replicated in other counties. This program is a champion for victims. Congratulations to the **Honorable Roland Steinle, Division Director Michael Cimino, Supervisors Stephen Hartley and Kendra Neal, and the collectors and officers who have made this program effective.**

Submitted by Cathy Wyse  
Adult Probation

# Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week

## Juvenile Probation Hosts Recognition Day

The Juvenile Probation Office hosted a Recognition/Training Day as part of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 20th –24th at the Sheriffs Training Academy. On July 20, Presiding Judge Norman Davis, Associate/Juvenile Presiding Judge Eddward Ballinger, Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch and Juvenile Probation Chief Vincent Iaria spoke to probation employees and thanked them for a job well done.



## New Officers Hired

Fifteen new probation officers and two new surveillance officers have joined Maricopa County Adult Probation. These officers completed seven weeks of training and are ready to jump into their new assignments. The new officers are assigned to a wide variety of assignments ranging from Intensive Probation sex offender units to GPS monitoring for Drug Court.

*Submitted by James Sine  
Adult Probation*

## News and Notes

### A Sweet Appreciation for Criminal Court Staff



More than 100 Criminal Court Administration employees were honored for their hard work with 90 pounds of candy.

Criminal Department Administrators, Bob James, Chris Bleuenstein, and Paula Collins wanted to say thank you to staff in a unique way by providing a vast variety of sweet treats.

“We wanted to try something completely different than the standard potluck or pizza party and came up with the idea of a Candy Bar,” Collins said.

On Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, criminal court staff was able to stop by the CCB 2<sup>nd</sup> floor training room and pack up a container to go with their favorite candies. By the end of the afternoon, almost all of the candy was gone, which consisted of chocolates, taffys, jellies, gummies, hard candies, fruits & nuts, sours, lollipops, licorice, gum and sugar-free candy.

Superior Court Administrator Phil Knox was on hand to greet the staff and thank them for their great work.

*Submitted by Paula Collins  
Criminal Court Administration*

### In Memoriam: Charles Merritt McAlister

Charles Merritt McAlister, a former psychologist for Conciliation Services, passed away at the age of 66.

McAlister worked for Superior Court for 25 years. After his retirement in 2010, he spent several days a week as a volunteer at the Arizona Science Center.

“Charles grew up in the house across the alley from my family’s home in Globe. He was a great role model for the kids growing in our neighborhood,” said Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes. “It was comforting for me to learn that he worked at Conciliation Services when I first took the bench. He helped a lot of people through some very stressful times. His mark is significant and more than most who were impacted by his services will ever realize.”

McAlister was born in Globe, AZ on August 20, 1944. Charles died July 13, 2011. He is survived by two brothers; Gates of Goodyear, AZ and Max of Ontario, CA as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Justice Court’s Steven Ramsbacher (right) shakes hands with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas during Ramsbacher’s graduation ceremony in Washington D.C. Ramsbacher earned a Fellowship from the Institute for Court Management.

# Employee Anniversaries

## 5 Years

**Mary Campanaro** Adult Probation Officer  
**Stephen Harvey** Adult Probation Officer  
**Cedric Johnson** Adult Probation Officer  
**Debra Ausman** Bailiff  
**Ben Lee** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Amanda Keilty** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Mysti Berteau** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Kevin Sheridan** Adult Probation Officer  
**Willie Johnson** Case Mgmt Administrator  
**Angelina Diaz** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Krystal Terrazas** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Louis Cole** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Adam Munoz** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Heidi Boliek** Registered Nurse  
**Veronica Rosas** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Sheila Chavez** Case Administrator  
**Amy Ralston-Bieke** Counselor  
**Rebecca Trevino** Judicial Clerk  
**Adrijana Vojvodic** Judicial Clerk  
**Elizabeth Delarosa** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Robert Estrada** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Christine Hansen** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Paul Hurtado** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Constance Hawthorne** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Greg Allen** PC/LAN Tech Support  
**Marina Lantsman-Waugh** Psychologist

## 20 Years

**Constance Hoffman** Judicial Clerk Senior  
**Jeremy Edmonds** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Sheryl Lawson** Juvenile Probation Officer

## 10 Years

**Irene Wardell** Judicial Clerk Associate  
**Martha Fairman** Law Librarian  
**Vanessa Gartner** Court Reporter  
**Shawn Wheeler** Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
**Joel Grooms** Security Officer II  
**Roberta Aldrich** Administrative Supervisor  
**Michelle Bahe** Adult Probation Officer  
**Matthew Michalak** Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv  
**Jason Lanning** Juvenile Detention Officer  
**Jeffery Hallberg** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Trisha White** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Vickie Wylie** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Robin Manning** Office Assistant Specialized  
**Joseph Poepe** PC/LAN Tech Support  
**Jessica Shoffner** Surveillance Officer  
**Susanne Asztalos** Bailiff-Classified  
**Maxine VanDerBilt** Judicial Specialist

## 15 Years

**Faye White** Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
**Kimberly Guadagnino** Case Administrator  
**Lynzie Euchner** Surveillance Officer  
**Carmen Matthews** Judicial Clerk Senior  
**Dolores Chavez** Security Officer II  
**Teresa McDonald** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Pamela Schultz** Juvenile Probation Officer  
**Thomas Shinkle** Security Officer I

## 25 Years

**Shirley Yost** Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
**Julie George-Klein** Adult Probation Officer Supv  
**Gary Tassi** Adult Probation Officer  
**Robert Blankemeier** Juvenile Probation Officer

## 30 Years

**Minnie Uribe** Judicial Clerk Supervisor

# Courtside Photos



*A group of court reporters visited the South Court Tower earlier this month.*



*Presiding Judge Norman Davis presents Jessica Funkhouser with a plaque at her retirement party. Funkhouser retired after more than 30 years as a public servant.*



*Court Administrators field questions from employees during the Employee Satisfaction Survey on-site open house held at Table One inside Change of Venue.*



*Left to right - The Honorable Helen Purcell, Maricopa County Recorder, Jessica Funkhouser, Maricopa County Elections Director Karen Osborne, Judge Lisa Flores and Linda Weedon from the Elections Department. Funkhouser, Osborne and Judge Flores are all former State of Arizona Elections Directors.*