

Judicial Branch News

Realtime Reporting

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Cover Photo - Superior Court Judge Susanna Pineda and Court Reporter Antoinette Salazar

Judicial Branch News

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

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Q-and-A: Judge Bradley Astrowsky

Q. Before joining the court, you served as a deputy county attorney in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Describe how your role as a prosecutor prepared you for your judicial career?

A: A prosecutor's role is not one of an advocate for a particular party. My job as a deputy county attorney was to seek justice and not merely to seek convictions. Therefore, I had to make daily objective decisions concerning whether the facts of a particular matter justified criminal prosecution. On some occasions, justice dictated a severe punishment and on others justice dictated a dismissal. As a prosecutor, I went where the facts and the law dictated. A judge must make unbiased decisions based upon the facts and the law without the influence of outside pressures. Certainly, as a prosecutor I had to make many such decisions.



Bradley Astrowsky

Q. Who has been the biggest inspiration in your legal career?

A: I have been fortunate to have many mentors throughout my career who have all provided wonderful advice and guidance. While there are too many to mention, there are a few whom I will reference here. First, Joe Heilman was one of the best trial lawyers and one of the most ethical lawyers that I have ever observed. In addition, Joe always maintained a professional demeanor which I try to emulate. Next, Cindi Nannetti has been a great coach and advocate for me throughout the years. I would be remiss if I did not also note that Rick Romley taught me a great deal about leadership and about doing the right thing regardless of the implications of same. Finally, I want to acknowledge Robert Chavez, a former colleague of mine in private practice, who sadly passed away suddenly a few years ago. Robert provided me with great counsel and advice when I transitioned to civil litigation.

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).

A: Anything in Latin sounds smart, but I prefer the following:

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life." - *Brooke Shields*

"I have opinions of my own, strong opinions, but I don't always agree with them." – *George Bush*

"The word 'genius' isn't applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein." – *Joe Theisman*

"I've never really wanted to go to Japan, simply because I don't like eating fish. And I know that is very popular out there in Africa." - *Britney Spears*

"Judge, Man, whatever." – *Kurt Altman to Hon. Michael Yarnell (Ret.)*

Q. If you had a day to spend with anyone (living or dead, real or fictional), who would it be and what would you do?

A: I would choose to spend the day with my grandmother, Ann Grossman. She was a tremendous part of my childhood, caused me to be a Yankee fan, and I would love the opportunity to tell her about my children and my life as an adult. She would have been thrilled to learn that her grandson became a judge.

Q. Do you own an iPod? If so, what songs are currently in your playlist?

A: My iPod shuffles through my extensive catalogue of Avenged Sevenfold and Sevendust songs.



Attorneys Needed for Courthouse Experience Program

Whether it's introducing kids to a legal career or teaching them about the law so they don't end up on the wrong side of Arizona's judicial system, volunteering to become a court guide in Maricopa County Superior Court's *Courthouse Experience* program has many benefits.

To help children learn about accountability and expose them to the judicial system, Maricopa County Superior Court is gearing up for another season of the *Courthouse Experience*. The program gives Maricopa County students an opportunity to see and understand what really goes on behind closed courtroom doors.

But to reach these children and make a difference in their lives, Superior Court needs the help of volunteer attorneys. The program's success is due greatly to volunteer attorneys who provide valuable time to lead student groups grade 6 through college age on a personal tour of the court. A *Courthouse Experience* often include visits with judicial officers and staff, observations of court proceedings including trials, visits to the jury assembly room, the law library and informative question and answer periods.

Your help is appreciated to make *Courthouse Experience* continue its mission of introducing and educating students about Arizona's judicial system.

Tours are held in the South Court Tower, 175 W. Madison Street in Downtown, Phoenix.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this program, please e-mail courtpio@mail.maricopa.gov.

Realtime Reporting

On June 20 and 21, members of the Court Reporting Department had the privilege of participating in a program known as TRAIN – Taking Realtime Awareness and Innovation Nationwide. TRAIN is a program established by the National Court Reporters Association to help court reporters overcome reluctance to provide realtime services. The program was presented by national realtime experts Sue Terry of Springfield, Ohio, and Ron Cook of Seattle, Washington.

“The TRAIN seminar was inspirational and motivating because I learned so much about the importance and future of realtime reporting here at Maricopa County Superior Court,” said Court Reporter Vanessa Gartner.

Court reporters have been using stenographic machines in courtrooms and attorney conference rooms for more than 100 years, and the profession has an even longer history with pen and paper. Having been around for that long, coupled with the development of other technologies for keeping the court record, some people have perhaps come to see court reporters as obsolete. As technology has continued to make exponential advancements, especially when it comes to computers, court reporters have quietly made some of the same break-through advances in the use of complex software designed specifically for, and sometimes by, court reporters. As a result, realtime court reporting has become the game-changing method for making the official court or deposition record, and it is the desired method by many judges and lawyers, especially in the setting of complex litigation.

Realtime court reporting is a process whereby each steno keystroke made by a court reporter is transmitted to a computer, translated into English, and immediately displayed on the computer screen, thus allowing for instant access to the written court record by judges, lawyers and litigants. Realtime allows both bench and bar to make quick, effective decisions regarding rulings and trial strategy with the knowledge that they are doing so with the aid of a timely and accurate transcript. Court reporter reluctance to provide this service has often been due to lack of resources and information regarding technology and skill levels required. Thanks to their teaching skill and expertise in the realtime field, Ms. Terry and Mr. Cook were most effective in providing the resources and assurance to department members that they can produce an effective realtime record.

“It was great to go to one spot for two days of COJET credit that applied directly to my profession and focused on doing our job at a higher level and keeping up with the latest technology in the reporting field,” Court Reporter Terry Masciola said.

The transmission of steno keystrokes to computers has traditionally been by cable, but it can now be performed wirelessly, and that method is the cutting edge of what is being done in the field today. With the use of the new South Court Tower presently in place, realtime technology fits perfectly with the high level of service that trial participants have come to expect from Maricopa County Superior Court.

Our Superior Court system has long been a standard bearer for other state courts in the administration of justice, especially in the areas of performance, information, and technology. Maricopa County has always been home to some of the most talented and well-qualified court reporters in the nation. Those in our system have long understood the critical importance of making an accurate written court record and have felt equally serious about the need to keep abreast of the latest technology and information in fulfilling their professional obligations to the court. With the knowledge gained from the two-day TRAIN program, they can now do much more to help ensure our court’s place as a leader nationwide.

**Submitted by Mike Benitez
Court Reporter**



Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes prefers to stand while working at his computer.



The Adult Probation Department has partnered with the Garfield Community Association in developing a community garden at 1022 E Garfield in Phoenix. Adult Probation staff Jack Dillon and Julie Quiroz, working with Garfield community members, helped prepare the garden beds and plant vegetables. Today, cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, basil and corn are growing outside the probation center. Wildflowers border the land, making it an inviting space in the neighborhood. This project is an effort to produce fresh vegetables for the Garfield community members to enjoy and share.

**Submitted by Janet Kasha
Adult Probation**



Judge Joseph Kreamer finishing off paperwork.



July 2012 marks Bailiff Larry Martinez' 10th year with Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes.



Superior Court Intern Vivian Padilla edits video on her laptop. Padilla, a student at Arizona State University, is working in the Media Relations Office this summer.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Cris Perez, Presentence Screener
Beth Cervantes, Adult Probation Officer
Edwin Leonard, Case Administrator
Terri Boss, Adult Probation Officer
Jackalyn Browning, Adult Probation Officer
Lizabeth Cage, Adult Probation Officer
Alison Cook-Davis, Management Analyst
Nicole Freed, Presentence Screener
Audrey O'Donnell, Administrative Assistant
Eric Parriott, Adult Probation Officer
Steven Smith, Surveillance Officer
Gregory Thiel, Surveillance Officer
Marlene Garcia, Judicial Clerk Associate
Willis Shinault, Collector
Carrie Ward, Adult Probation Officer
Reanna McCrae, Judicial Clerk Senior
Keelan Bodow, Court Commissioner
Anastasia Johnson, Judicial Clerk Associate
Angela Garza, Judicial Assistant-Classified
Britani Bosnic, Judicial Assistant
Alexander Goreski, Security Supervisor
James Jobes, Bailiff-Classified
Gilbert Pablo, PC/LAN Tech Support
Andrew Hill, Juvenile Detention Officer
Bernard Kuma, Juvenile Detention Officer
Donna Doleshal, Administrative Assistant
Maria Acosta, General Laborer

10 Years

Zachary Bruns, Adult Probation Officer
Brian Burrer, Adult Probation Officer
Kenneth Meyer, Surveillance Officer
David Cunanan, Superior Court Judge
Norman Lieberman, Security Officer II
Sheila Madden, Court Commissioner
Virginia Richter, Court Commissioner
Margaret Mahoney, Superior Court Judge
Carolyn Passamonte, Court Commissioner
Rita Laird, Judicial Clerk
Denise Sanders, Court Reporter Manager
Angela Maddox, Judicial Clerk Supervisor

15 Years

Pat Ward, Surveillance Officer
Carolyn Sands, Judicial Assistant
Felicia Watson, Judicial Clerk

20 Years

Mack Boatner, Surveillance Officer
Michael Zaremba, Adult Probation Officer
Stanley Fosdick, Adult Probation Officer
Columbia Watson, Judicial Assistant

25 Years

Constance Sinsabaugh, Surveillance Officer
Robert McAnally, Adult Probation Officer
Susan Novitsky, Adult Probation Officer
Laura Steele, Adult Probation Officer

33 Years

Minnie Uribe, Judicial Clerk Supervisor