

Judicial Branch News



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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.

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Expanding Judicial Education & Community Outreach



Norman Davis
Presiding Judge

Court employees come to work each day with an attitude and desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. This attitude is one of the primary reasons why the Maricopa County Superior Court has a national reputation for excellence and innovation. Sadly, the community at large is largely unaware of what great work occurs at our Court, and many may give little thought to how important a fair and impartial court system is to our constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms. It was the genius of our Founding Fathers that established a republic where no branch of government has unbridled power or ability to abridge the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

The Court has recently begun a coordinated initiative designed to better educate the public about the courts, why they are important, how they function, and how best to navigate them. We at the court are the guardians of law and justice in our community, and if we don't step forward to correctly inform the public of our mission and operation, then who will? We hope that every employee of the court feels that what they do every day is more than just a job,

and contributes to the larger mission of bringing fair and impartial justice to the community, devoid of undue distractions, corrupting influences, or ulterior motives. More importantly, I hope that each of you is actively involved in educating and informing your family, friends and acquaintances of what you have seen and know to be true about our Court.

To this end, we have begun an initiative to develop a coordinated curriculum to inform and educate all Court employees about the important aspects of the court system—some may be clear to you, others may refresh prior learning, and some may be concepts you haven't considered in depth before. We hope through this process that everyone at the Court understands the key role each of us serves in our broader community to accurately inform others. Secondly, we are asking each of you to act on that knowledge and impart thoughtful, informed information about the courts to those we all serve.

I have recently reformatted the Court's Judicial Education & Training Committee, headed by Judge Chris Whitten, and asked the Committee to establish an educational plan and curriculum for internal education and public outreach to provide accurate information to the public about the Court. I am gratified by the significant response from our bench in volunteering to serve on this Committee and in other supporting roles.

Initially, the focus of the Committee will join forces with the Court's Training & Education Department to develop relevant COJET courses, the Media & Public Relations Department to produce coordinated electronic presentations, and the newly-developing Law Library Resource Center to coordinate information and offerings provided to self-represented litigants that is consistent with information provided to court employees and the public at large.

Please give some thought to how you can make a difference in our community by sharing the valuable knowledge, education, and training about the Third Branch of Government with the public that you have acquired through your time with the Court. Through this process you can make a lasting contribution to building a nationally recognized court of excellence, and educate others on why what you do is relevant and so very valuable to our freedoms and constitutionally guaranteed rights.

By Presiding Judge Norman Davis

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Noemi Villar, Court Interpreter

10 Years

Jamie Navarette, Judicial Clerk Lead
 Kristina Aparicio, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Cindy Cole, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Marie Eversole, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Ramon Rascon, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Sally Duncan, Superior Court Judge
 Alma Rojo, Judicial Financial Clerk
 Deborah Rollins, Program Coordinator
 Anna Bearden, Adult Probation Officer
 Cynthia Byrne, Adult Probation Officer
 Kimberley Casey, Adult Probation Officer
 Allison Derrig, Adult Probation Officer
 Deborah Epperson-Johnson, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Greg Faulhaber, Adult Probation Officer
 Paul Griego, Adult Probation Officer
 Peter Jacaruso, Adult Probation Officer
 Maria Land, Adult Probation Officer
 Amy Primak, Adult Probation Officer
 Linda Rampersaud-Dore, Adult Probation Officer
 Terri Saunders, Adult Probation Officer
 Suzanne Shirleson, Adult Probation Officer
 Jason Walker, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Angel Williams, Adult Probation Officer
 Kenneth Zimmerman, Adult Probation Officer
 Chantay Banikarim, Medical Director Detention
 Dean Fink, Superior Court Judge
 Jody Gearhart, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Peggy Krevitt, Judicial Assistant
 Carlos Arce, Judicial Clerk Senior
 Catherine Green, Surveillance Officer
 Kimberly Mackert, Administrative Assistant
 Janet Quiroz, Court Interpreter

15 Years

Francina Kinsel, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Scott Thiel, Juvenile Probation Officer
 James Rodgers, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Susan Corwin, Judicial Financial Clerk
 Jacob Soelle, Adult Probation Officer
 Debra Bevins, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Rachael Cabello, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Jeffrey Smith, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Serena Vidana, Judicial Clerk Senior
 Brian Bednar, Adult Probation Officer
 Vikki Burdine, Adult Probation Officer
 Jacquelyn Christenson, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Allison Enriquez, Adult Probation Officer
 Melissa Filas, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Melissa Grace, Adult Probation Officer
 Heidi Heniger, Adult Probation Officer
 Shoni Hodges, Adult Probation Officer
 Jennifer Oltman, Adult Probation Officer
 Michele Saldana, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Rhonda Wilson, Adult Probation Officer

Swearing-In Ceremonies

On May 30, friends, family and colleagues celebrated the appointments of Commissioners Richard Hinz, Michael Mandell and David Seyer to the Superior Court Bench. Associate Presiding Judge Janet Barton administered the oath of office.



Richard Hinz



Michael Mandell



David Seyer

Judge Douglas Rayes Retires



Judge Douglas Rayes hosted a retirement celebration in his courtroom to say farewell to his friends and colleagues at Superior Court.

Judge Rayes, who was appointed to the Federal District Court Bench, served 14 years as a Superior Court Judge, presiding over criminal, civil and family court calendars. He also served three years as the Criminal Presiding Judge.

Employee Graduates

Criminal Court Administration Judicial Assistant, Dennis Burchfield, graduated with Distinction from Estrella Community College with his Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice and General Studies on May 9th. Criminal Court Administration is very proud of Dennis for his accomplishment and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Submitted by Paula Collins

Judge Gass Receives Award



David Gass

The State Bar of Arizona named Judge David B. Gass as the recipient of its 2014 Justice Michael D. Ryan Award for Judicial Excellence.

The award recognizes a judicial officer who has demonstrated a dedication and commitment to improving the justice system and the quality of justice in Arizona.

Judge Gass received the award for consistently demonstrating the type of personal integrity and respect for others, a hallmark of the award's namesake Justice Ryan. Also, he has served in a leadership role on the executive committee of the Arizona Judges' Association; worked on the Phoenix Ethics Review Ad Hoc Task Force and assisted with the Arizona Town Hall program.

William White Retires



Members of the jury office celebrate William J. White's retirement. White served 32 years with Maricopa County.

Maricopa County Honors Reunified Families

To honor parents who have successfully reunited with their children, Governor Jan Brewer declared June 7th, 2014 as Reunification Day. To celebrate the achievements of these families, Maricopa County hosted its first Reunification Day Celebration at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Phoenix.

From October 2012 through September 2013, 5,252 children exited the foster care system due to being reunified with their families. More than half of the 15,000 Arizona children currently in foster care have a case plan goal of family reunification.

On June 7th, ten families who successfully achieved family reunification were honored with lunch and a commemorative program. The families were personally nominated and selected to participate in this special event, and were presented with a "Hero Certificate" by Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally. Other invited attendees included judges, attorneys, community service providers, and child welfare advocates who have also played an important role in helping families reunify.

"All children need a safe, stable home where they receive the care, love, and nurturing that they need to grow to be healthy, happy and productive adults," said Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally. "Reunification Day is a day to honor families who have successfully overcome the challenges that brought their children into foster care."



Employee Anniversaries - Continued

20 Years

Pamela Remus, Court Reporter
Sandra Westmoreland, Judicial Clerk
Lance Nickell, Master Range Officer

25 Years

Rose Marin, Judicial Clerk Senior
Kathryn O'Brien, Juvenile Probation Officer
Jamie Collins, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor

30 Years

Debra Austin, Operations Support Analyst
Richene McKaig, Judicial Staff Trainer/Coordinator

* Information provided by Debbie Gilliland in the Human Resources Department.



County Recognizes Employees who Served 30 Years

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors honored employees for their dedicated service by placing their name on the Service Pillar on the Central Court Building Plaza. The Service Pillar honors those employees who have retired with 30 or more years of service to Maricopa County. (Not Pictured: Juli De Young, Myrle J. Satnan and Ken Bond)



Arlene Lamp, Superior Court, 34 years of service



Kim Jenkins, Juvenile Probation Department, 40 years of service



Deborah Johnson, Superior Court, 30 years of service



Robin Russell, Court Technology Services, 31 years of service



Gary Mackin, Juvenile Probation Department, 33 years of service



Dick Kennedy, Juvenile Probation Department, 34 years of service

County Recognizes Employees who Served 30 Years



**Ted Sanchez, Juvenile Probation Department,
31 years of service**



Sharlie Sanders, Superior Court, 34 years of service



**Grace Arriaga, Juvenile Probation Department,
31 years of service**



Patrick Charles Nedved, Adult Probation, 31 years of service

Longtime Judicial Assistant is Retiring



Jan Landmeier

Jan Landmeier is retiring after 35 years of dedicated service to Maricopa County.

Landmeier, who began her career as a judicial clerk, worked 21 years as a judicial assistant for Superior Court Judge Thomas O'Toole (ret.). With Judge O'Toole, Landmeier worked Criminal, Civil, Juvenile and Family Court calendars, including two terms as Criminal Presiding Judge.

"I've enjoyed my time working for various judges and commissioners. They were all great. But with Judge O'Toole, my first judge, it was an education. He was an educator and a judicial officer."

When she retires, Landmeier plans on taking a trip to Alaska. She has also left the door open to possibly returning to work in a part-time role.

The Gateway to Legal Research is Now on Your Desktop

Do you sometimes find it difficult to remember where to find the legal research information you need? Access to legal research is now conveniently available to you on your desktop via an icon labeled "Legal Research." Opening this icon will provide one-stop access for many of your electronic legal research needs.

The Legal Research icon can be found on the desktops of judicial officers and judicial branch staff computers. The icon will take you to the Law Library Resource Center's Intranet webpage where you can access a number of different resources to find and research legal information. The Intranet webpage can only be accessed from your court computer and is not accessible on computers outside the court.

Links to WestlawNext and Westlaw Patron Access will get you into the Westlaw database so you can search for cases, statutes, court rules, and various treatises online. With WestlawNext, you have the capability of emailing the results of your searches to yourself or you can choose to download and print your findings. But what if you need something that isn't on Westlaw? You can also access HeinOnline.

HeinOnline provides access to a number of full-text Law Journal articles, but also enables users to search previous editions of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), the US Code, the Restatements of the Law, various prior Arizona statutes and session laws to name just a few of the many historical resources available in this database. The Legal Research icon also provides a link to the Online Research Databases page and all the other databases that are available from that page. Note that HeinOnline and some of the other databases (but not Westlaw) on the Law Library Resource Center's Online Research Databases page are accessible from computers outside the court if you have a valid Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library card.

The Arizona Court Resources section of the Law Library Resource Center's Intranet webpage has a direct link to the Arizona Rules of Court. From this link you can find all the state court rules whether you are dealing with civil, criminal, family, probate, or juvenile cases. If you are wondering about recent rule changes, you can find a direct link to the Arizona Court Rules Forum as well as to the Arizona Judicial Branch's recent rule amendments page. Additionally, the Arizona Court Resources section has a link to Wendell which is the Arizona Judicial Reference site that contains valuable information for judges and their staff.

If you are interested in particular areas of the law, you will find a Current Awareness section on our Intranet webpage which has links to different BNA news publications on such areas as criminal law, employment discrimination, and family law. These resources help keep practitioners up to date on some of the latest happenings in their areas of legal interest.

What if you still aren't finding what you are looking for? Then contact the Law Library Resource Center staff! There are two links on the Intranet webpage for contacting staff. One is labeled "Research Request Form" and the other is "Email Staff." Clicking either link will provide a way for you to contact our staff and email us your questions. We can search for legal information and may also be able to download and email resources to help answer your legal information questions. You can, of course, also come to the Law Library Resource Center in person or contact us by phone.

So next time you are looking at the Legal Research icon on your desktop, open up the icon and explore the legal research possibilities available at your fingertips!

Submitted by Lori Rader, Law Library Resource Center



Left to right - Chief Probation Officer Eric Meaux, Antwone Fisher and Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally.

Kids at Hope: A Culture of Caring

Rick Miller, founder and president of Kids at Hope and Antwone Fisher, screenwriter and national board member whose life was made into a major motion picture starring Denzel Washington, toured the Juvenile Durango Detention facility to meet with kids in detention.

The Kids at Hope philosophy and culture aligns with the current work of our officers and the juvenile court. The training resources provided by Kids at Hope, supports and elevates our existing belief and commitment demonstrated by our Department and the Court. By further weaving this philosophy into our daily practice with youth, we can create a community-wide framework to guide our work based on some basic understandings of youth development and what youth need to be successful.

The unconditional understanding of BELIEVING, CONNECTING, and creating opportunities for youth to see their FUTURE differently may seem fundamental, but truly believing and checking in with ourselves both in our professional and private lives relative to how we support and guide our youth is essential, if we want all youth to succeed.

Antwone Fisher ended his visit with the reminder that all youth have the ability to write the next chapter in their lives and that chapter does not have to be defined by where they are right now.



Rick Miller, President of Kids At Hope, addresses juveniles in detention.