

Judicial Branch News

Reunification Day

WHEREAS, all children need the care, love, security and stability of family unity, including parents, siblings, grandparents, and other extended family members to provide a solid foundation for personal growth, development, and maturity; and
WHEREAS, whenever possible and without sacrificing child safety, keeping Arizona families together is an important goal for our communities, and is the best option for a permanent, safe and loving home for many children in foster care; and
WHEREAS, reunification takes work, commitment, and investment of time and resources by parents, family members, social workers, foster parents, service providers, attorneys, courts, educators, and the community; and
WHEREAS, for many years a number of jurisdictions in the United States have been celebrating the accomplishments of families who have overcome an array of challenges to reunify safely and successfully; and
WHEREAS, Family Reunification Day, June 11th, is an opportunity to recognize families who have successfully overcome the challenges that brought their children into out-of-home care.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 2016 as

ARIZONA FAMILY REUNIFICATION MONTH



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal

at the City of Phoenix on the 11th day of June, 2016.

Douglas A. Ducey
GOVERNOR

BY: *Michelle Rosgar*
ATTORNEY GENERAL

SECRETARY OF STATE



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Coming Soon

Is it Friday Yet?

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Judicial Branch News

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

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Budget Update



Ray Billotte

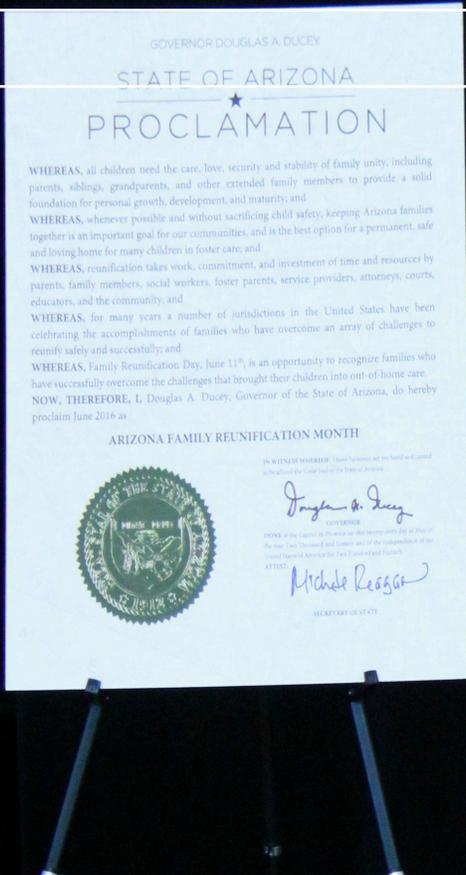
On June 20, 2016, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the FY17 County budget, totaling \$2.356 billion. Included within the adopted budget is \$263,415,196 for the Judicial Branch to support general operations and special projects of the Superior Court, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation.

When submitting the Judicial Branch's FY17 budget request, Presiding Judge Janet Barton set forth four major priorities: compensation, personnel, space and technology. We are pleased to report that all were addressed in the final appropriation. First, as was announced in the June 24, 2016 memo to all employees, the County has approved a retention based pay plan providing for salary increases of up to 2.5% for eligible staff effective July 4, 2016. The Branch also sought additional personnel to address our increased work load in both Juvenile Dependency cases and Adult Probation. The County met these needs by appropriating additional funds for a Commissioner and Judicial Assistant for the Juvenile Department and up to 53 Probation Officers if needed for APD.

The Branch was also able to secure funding through the County's Facilities Management Department to continue our work in refurbishing courtrooms and offices in the East Court Building as well as addressing the expansion of Adult Probation field offices to meet the growing needs of the department. Finally, the County continued to provide technology funding supporting our work with iCISng, IT disaster recovery systems, and our capital replacement plan for FTR equipment in the courtrooms.

We are greatly appreciative of the support demonstrated by the Board of Supervisors, County Manager and Office of Management and Budget. The collaborative, problem solving approach to addressing our financial needs allows the Branch to meet the needs of our community and enhances our ability to uphold our mission that "ensures the public's trust and confidence" and meet our vision of being "committed to excellence and the principles inherent in the rule of law...every person, every day, every time."

Submitted by Ray Billotte
Judicial Branch Administrator



Angela Ducey, Governor Doug Ducey's wife, reads the Arizona Family Reunification Month proclamation.

3rd Annual Reunification Day

In an effort to honor parents who have successfully reunited with their children who were in foster care, Maricopa County hosted its third annual Reunification Day Celebration at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Phoenix on June 11.

Reunification Day celebrated the successes of 13 families who achieved family reunification.

“All children need a safe, stable home where they receive 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. These families have demonstrated their strength and resilience and have been successful in demonstrating that they can provide safe and stable homes for their children.”

From July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, two-thousand-and-fifty-seven children (2,057) in the foster care system have been reunified with their families. Currently more than 60 percent of the 13,200 children in foster care in Maricopa County have a case plan goal of family reunification.

“Reunification takes work, commitment and the investment of time and resources by parents, caseworkers, foster parents, service providers, advocates and the courts,” said Judge McNally. “This family reunification celebration honors the families, but it also recognizes the community commitment in Maricopa County to supporting families in making changes needed to keep them safe and together.”

Special thanks to many of the Maricopa County Superior Court Reunification Day partners, which include: the Arizona Office of the Attorney General, Maricopa County Office of the Legal Advocate, Maricopa County Office of the Legal Defender, Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate, the Department of Child Safety, CASA of Maricopa County, Casey Family Programs, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona and Voices for CASA Children.

Maricopa County is just one of many communities across the country hosting a Reunification Day Celebration during the month of June.

Pillars of Honor Ceremony

On June 6, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors honored Judicial Branch employees who served 30-plus years of service. Employees had their name placed on the Service Pillar on the Central Court Building Plaza.



BJ Geske, Adult Probation Department, Service Pillar



Debi MacBlain Wall, Superior Court, Service Pillar

Judge Accepts Award



Museum of Tolerance



Judge Crane McClennen is the 2016 recipient of the Michael D. Ryan Award for Judicial Excellence. He received the award, June 8th, at the Public Lawyers Section yearly meeting. Eight of the 16 winners since 2000 have been former or current judges on the Superior Court Bench.

Superior Court Judges and Probate/Mental Health Court Administrator Elaina Cano visited the Museum of Tolerance. Established in 1993, the Museum of Tolerance is a multimedia museum in Los Angeles designed to examine racism and prejudice around the world.

Judge Wins Award



On June 16th, the State Bar of Arizona awarded Judge Bruce Cohen the Lifetime Achievement Award for Family Law.

Judge Cohen received the award at the State Bar Convention. He was one of four recipients. Past recipients included retired Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Mark Armstrong, University of Arizona Law Professor Barbara Atwood and retired Pima County Superior Court Judge Karen Adam.

Meet the Sergeants

Each month, Superior Court will highlight, by Department, Sergeants working for Court Security. This month focused on two Sergeants working in Adult Probation.

Adam Dziduch

Hometown – Scranton, PA
Current Assignment – Adult Probation Department East Valley
Previous Experience: Adam has served the Department since December 2012. Previously, he served seven years in the US Army at multiple locations, including two tours of combat in Iraq.

Steve Lee

Hometown: McKinney, TX
Current Assignment: Adult Probation West Valley
Previous Experience: Prior to joining the department in May of 2012, he served eight years in the US Air Force in multiple locations with two combat deployments, followed by five years with the Peoria Police Department.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Casey Herrera, Adult Probation Officer
Alicia Kaufman, Adult Probation Officer
Mary Mares, Case Administrator
Kyle Miller, Adult Probation Officer
Abdulsalam Noah, Adult Probation Officer

10 Years

Brian Thompson, Adult Probation Officer
Dene Bimber, Adult Probation Officer
Mauro Munoz, Adult Probation Officer
Benedict Maston, Judicial Branch Security Officer
Monica Cabrera, Judicial Clerk Senior
Christopher Cuddington, Adult Probation Officer
Thomas Covington, Juvenile Detention Officer
Christy Sennette, Detention Food Services Shift Supervisor
Cynthia Monson, Juvenile Detention Officer
Vincent Funari, Communications Officer/Govt Liaison
Mark Harris, Trainer

15 Years

Kathryn Cantrell, Juvenile Probation Officer
Karna Tommeraasen, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
Peter Kiefer, Justice System Administrator
Lori Reinhardt, Court Reporter
Casey Heussner, Juvenile Probation Officer
Beatrice Horoho, Juvenile Detention Officer
Susan Leong, Judicial Assistant
Carolyn Little, Judicial Clerk Associate

20 Years

Bradley Habros, Judicial Clerk Lead
Kelly Seppanen, Surveillance Officer
Bertha Sanchez, Juvenile Probation Officer
Mary Taube, Judicial Assistant

32 Years

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

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

Judge Says Farewell



Judge Kristin Hoffman

Judge Kristin Hoffman announced her retirement from the bench effective August 31.

Judge Hoffman joined Superior Court as a Commissioner in February of 2001. She served as a Commissioner for more than four years before becoming a Judge.

As a Commissioner, she spent approximately three years in Family Court and the remaining 20 months in the Regional Court Center.

In September of 2005, Judge Hoffman was appointed as a Judge by Governor Janet Napolitano. As a Judge, she presided over Civil, Criminal, Family and Juvenile Court calendars.

“Kristin was an exemplary Commissioner and Judge. For those of us who had the good fortune to work with Kristin on assignments, we know that she was always ready, willing and able to help out by either providing emergency coverage or taking over calendars when a judge had an emergency or was sick and couldn’t make it in. She was a “no complaints” kind of judge who just handled whatever came her way and then moved on to the next project. She was always there to lend an ear when you needed to bounce something off another judge or just needed to vent. Because of her calm, levelheadedness and strong case management skills, she excelled on every assignment she was on,” Presiding Judge Janet Barton said.

Commissioner Retires



Presiding Judge Janet Barton says farewell to Commissioner Jay Davis.

Superior Court Commissioner Jay Davis announced his retirement effective June 30.

Commissioner Davis has been on the Bench for 16 years. He has served in Criminal, Civil and, most recently, as the Civil, Family, Probate Commissioner at Northwest. Prior to being hired as a Commissioner, he was a Judge Advocate for the United States Air Force for 21 years and an attorney with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office for eight years.

“Jay has been an outstanding Commissioner while on our bench. His dedication and the professionalism with which he treats those who come before him will be sorely missed,” Presiding Judge Janet Barton said.

Photo Highlights from Reunification Day



Strategic Projects Spotlight

Two strategic projects already making great progress toward their goals are the active shooter training and protocol workgroup, and the project to reinstate bilingual pay. While these projects are diverse in almost every aspect, one commonality is supporting the Judicial Branch vision to exude excellence for *every person, every time, every day*.

Active Shooter Protocol

The active shooter protocol workgroup is still in the planning phase, but they have made significant strides toward identifying goals they will pursue this year, including 1) an active shooter protocol; 2) a short video on what to do in an active shooter situation; 3) a revamped and up-to-date active shooter training class; and 4) preparations for at least one active shooter drill, all *within one year*. In the two short months this group has been in existence they have already researched existing active shooter protocols and resources, worked with the Judicial Branch Security Director, Sean Gibbs, and begun drafting various versions of documentation to provide to judicial branch employees.

Karen Westover, the group's chair, is passionate about the project and the work being conducted, as well as the team she is working with to bring this to fruition. Ms. Westover emphasizes that "safety of employees and others is of utmost importance. This project responds to this need. The more we prepare and learn the better off we will all be if such an event occurs." Furthermore, the work that is being accomplished in the prolific group is rewarding, as they are learning from each other and are inspired by the commitment to other's safety. Most importantly, the active shooter protocol team's goals strive to help every Judicial Branch employee excel because as Ms. Westover says "to provide this kind of service, employees must be confident and secure in their surroundings. This will then allow them to focus on every person, every time, every day."

Bilingual pay

In Strategic Focus Area #3 - "Competent and Engaged Workforce"- one project identified is the reinstatement of bilingual pay. While this is listed under strategic projects, much of the work was previously completed by the Employee Satisfaction Committee on Bilingual Pay. That committee provided a report of recommendations last May.

Prior to the budget crisis in 2009, Superior Court, Adult Probation, and Juvenile Probation eligible employees received \$.50 or \$1.00 an hour differential for bilingual services. In 2009, Superior Court ceased paying bilingual pay to eligible employees. Adult and Juvenile Probation continued to provide bilingual pay to eligible employees but decreased the amount received to \$.25 and \$.50 an hour. The ESS Committee recommended that the differential be reinstated to the levels paid pre-June 2009. As a first step towards implementation, it is hoped that the Judicial Branch can identify the necessary dollars during this upcoming fiscal year (2016-2017) to reinstate bilingual pay for Superior Court at the level currently being paid by both Probation departments. Next fiscal year, funding will be requested to bring all three departments up to the previous differential levels of \$.50 or \$1.00 per hour.

Providing bilingual services is important to our community, and supports our charge to provide access to justice. The Judicial Branch Values place special importance on fairness, respect, and integrity, which are all exemplified by providing bilingual services to our customers. To fulfill the Judicial Branch Vision to provide excellence to "every person, every day, every time," we must be able to communicate with non-English speakers—and we appreciate the work and skill of those who are able to facilitate that communication.

Check back next month for updates on other strategic planning projects.

Submitted by Michelle Dunivan
Research and Planning Services Unit Manager