The Judicial Branch News

Volume 6, Issue 3

March 2011

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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"

CASA Receives National Award

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program of Maricopa County has been awarded the prestigious National CASA Promising Practices Award for 2011 for its ***Expand CASA Project***.

CASA of Maricopa County's ***Expand CASA Project*** was created in response to the limited resources available for the growing number of children in the dependency system. The goal of the project was to revamp the program's paid and unpaid workforce, allowing more children to be assigned a CASA volunteer. Under the supervision of professional staff, volunteer peer coordinators are trained, coached and mobilized to support new advocates. It also provides new levels of leadership opportunities for seasoned volunteers to help mentor, recruit and teach new volunteers.

"It is how to root and grow the program so that more children can have a Court Appointed Special Advocate," said Laurie Laughlin, Program Director for CASA of Maricopa County.

This innovative concept, fondly referred to by some as the, *CASA pyramid scheme*, was created by CASA of Maricopa County. Its success has spearheaded a national effort. CASA of Maricopa County is one of the first CASA programs in the nation to successfully use this type of supervisory management.

Director Laurie Laughlin, Program Development Specialist Justine Grabowsky and Program Coordinator Sue Hutcheson were invited to teach an ***Expand CASA Project*** workshop during the National CASA Conference held in Chicago.

"Laurie and the entire CASA staff exemplify a commitment to dependent children and the Juvenile Court beyond measure. I applaud and admire their pioneering spirit and the concrete programmatic structure that they have been able to put into place" said Sheila Tickle, Maricopa County Juvenile Court Administrator.

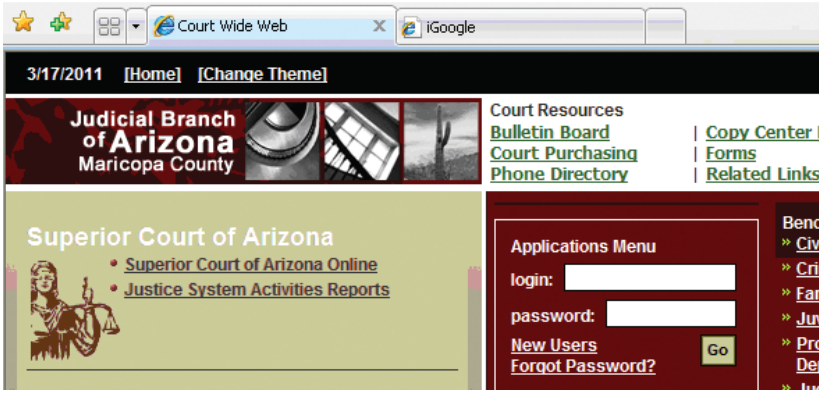
CASA Award - continued on Page 2

News and Notes

The New COJET Supervisor Report

After years of persistence and hard work on our part and patience on yours, we finally have a user-friendly COJET Supervisor Report. This is a quick glance at the status of employees regarding the number of hours completed, including a break out of ethics credit.

This report can be found on the Court Wide Web in the Applications Menu (as shown below). Simply sign in.



Once logged in: you will see either Manager Self Service or Employee Self Service. Choose whichever is appropriate. From that link, you can click on "COJET Report".

For the manager's view, mangers are able to view employees' classes completed or classes the employee is currently enrolled in.

Managers are able to see how each of their employees is progressing toward COJET compliance at any given time throughout the year. No longer do managers have to wait for the training department to send out those cumbersome quarterly reports. The training department stands ready to assist you in not only using this tool but providing quality training.

Submitted by Cindy Reid, Education and Training Director

CASA

Continued From Page 1

National CASA agrees. "We are constantly working to improve efficiency in order to better serve abused and neglected children in need," said Michael Piraino, CEO of the National CASA Association. "CASA of Maricopa County is empowering its volunteers and creating a more productive way to bring needed services to the community. We are pleased to recognize their initiative and dedication to our mission."

Submitted by Justine Grabowski, Program Development Specialist, CASA

Justice Court Pilot to Kick off in July

As part of the implementation of the AzTurboCourt project, a web-based system to allow the public to initiate and file Small Claims and Civil Cases online, the Maricopa County Justice Courts (MCJC) are developing a new Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) to serve as a repository for documents submitted online. The system will enable the courts to accept documents electronically from AzTurboCourt, eliminating inefficient paper documents and physical case files.

Some of the features of the new EDMS system include the ability to generate supporting court documents automatically, making them part of the electronic case record; automatically track cases by predefined schedules and notify staff when dates are due and provide documents and case files electronically to the judge for review.

MCJC will conduct a pilot program beginning in July at the four justice courts located at the Northeast Regional Court Center, including Moon Valley, Desert Ridge, McDowell Mountain and Dreamy Draw Justice Courts. The pilot program will wrap up in late fall, at which point implementation will begin at the remaining 21 justice courts over a 24 month period.

Submitted by Kristina Fretwell, Justice Court Public Information Officer/ Legislative Liaison

Court Briefs

Judge Verdin Appointed to JPR Commission

The Arizona Supreme Court re-appointed Superior Court Judge Maria Verdin to the Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review.

The Commission sets performance standards for judges, decides whether or not a judge meets those standards, and reports its findings to the public.

Judge Verdin will serve on the commission until June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Arnold Announces Retirement

Patricia Arnold

Commissioner Patricia Arnold is planning to retire effective May 31, 2011.

Commissioner Arnold is currently handling a family court calendar and has previously served in both criminal and probate/mental health courts.

New Online Titles in the Law Library

The Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) publishes more than 350 daily, weekly, and monthly news services covering legal, legislative, regulatory, and economic developments that impact the business environment around the nation and the world. BNA has a staff of more than 600 reporters who work mainly in the Washington, D.C. area who provide timely, comprehensive, focused coverage so "BNA customers spend less time on reading and research."

The Law Library subscribes to several of the BNA news services and has recently added two more titles. The first one, *Privacy & Security Law Report*, will help you keep up with federal privacy law, including HIPAA, Fair Credit Reporting Act, and the USA Patriot Act along with many more topics and emerging issues.

Each issue has a topic index, a state index, an international index and a table of cases. Some of the more recent reports that have appeared in the *Privacy & Security Law Report* include: "Employee Use of Public Wireless Networks May Jeopardize Data Security, Breach Laws;" "Pitfalls Abound for Employers Lacking Electronic Information Retention Policies;" and "State Attorneys General Fill Important Gap in Data Security Enforcement, Experts Say."

The second new BNA title is *Workplace Law Report*. *The Workplace Law Report* is another weekly news letter that reports significant rulings affecting employee rights, health and safety; pensions and benefits, discrimination and labor laws. This news service also tracks federal laws as they relate to FLSA and FMLA.

You may subscribe to any of the BNA titles by sending an email to sarmstrong@scll.maricopa.gov. If you would like to look at any of the BNA newsletters but prefer not to be placed on a mailing list, you can view them at http://lawlibrary.maricopa.gov/screens/webaccessman.html.

Submitted by Susan Armstrong, Law Library

Limited Scope Representation

Superior Court Helps with Affordable Legal Representation

The Maricopa County Superior Court is making it easier and more affordable for litigants needing limited scope representation.

Recognizing the tough economic climate and the cost of maintaining an attorney for an extended period of time, Superior Court's Self Service Center is assembling a roster of Phoenix area attorneys who are offering limited legal services to litigants. Attorneys on the roster charge litigants by the hour and only for the services they need.

Limited scope representation allows litigants to work as a team with their attorney. Litigants handle certain tasks but will turn to attorneys for advice and direction and help with complex tasks like document preparation and limited representation in court.

"This change is a great benefit to the court, the local bar and the public. It allows our litigants access to more possibilities for legal representation while allowing our local bar greater opportunity for business development in difficult economic times," said Law Library Administrator Jennifer Murray.

Although fees for attorneys on the roster vary from attorney to attorney; litigants, who contact attorneys through the attorney roster, typically receive a slightly reduced rate.

Any attorney admitted to the State Bar of Arizona and, in good standing, can participate in the program. Superior Court has waived the in-person orientation; however, all attorneys must be aware of the ethical rules and obligations of limited scope representation.

The public attorney roster link as well as the registration link for attorneys seeking to apply to the attorney roster is available at: http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/FamilyCourt/Rosters/index.asp

Once the application is approved, attorneys may set up an account and make any needed updates to their entry online. If you have any questions about the attorney roster, please contact Jennifer Murray at murrayj006@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov or 602-506-3464.

Self Service Center Re-Design

The Self-Service Center (SSC) has two important updates about their forms and website:

Redesign of SSC Alphabetical List
The SSC is redesigning its website. The first phase of this redesign is to overhaul the alphabetical list of forms located at the following site:
http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/Self-ServiceCenter/Forms/alphaList.asp

Our department will be streamlining this list and packaging it as a list of frequently used forms instead. It will no longer be an exhaustive alphabetical list. Due to the ever increasing volume of forms that we offer in the SSC, an alphabetical list has become unwieldy.

Launch of Fillable Forms
The SSC is also preparing a long-term project to migrate from our forms being available in both pdf and Word on our website to being available in only pdf fillable format. Once in pdf fillable format, the forms will no longer be editable as they were in Word.

Submitted by Jennifer Murray
Public Access to Court Services and Law Library Administrator

Court News

2011 NACo Nominations

Superior Court submitted nine applications for 2011 NACo Achievement Awards.

The annual Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government programs. Each application is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received. Awards are given in 21 different categories including children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, and many more.

ADULT PROBATION

Restitution Court: A Victim-Centered Approach to Restitution Collection - Judge Roland Steinle developed a unique approach known as the Restitution Enforcement Court. The target population are defendants with a significant delinquency in restitution payments. Instead of appearing before the Court for probation violation, defendants are brought to the Court through an Order to Show Cause Petition. If the Court finds the defendant willfully refused to pay, the Court finds the defendant in contempt and orders the defendant incarcerated and sets a purge amount. The program has been highly effective in obtaining restitution payments. Since September of 2008, Restitution Enforcement Court has seen 221 individuals for nonpayment and collected $356,534 in delinquent restitution payments.

Improving Community Safety through the Apprehension of Drug-Related Offenders - The Southwest Border Grant allowed the Adult Probation Department to enhance community safety by locating and arresting drug offenders, and at the same time, allowed for the retention of five Surveillance Officer positions that would have been otherwise lost. Additionally, this project has resulted in the arrest of over 1,400 drug-related absconders.

Probation Re-entry Initiative: Transitioning Offenders from Prison to the Community - the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department (MCAPD) formed a specialized unit to provide reentry needs assessment, pre-release discharge planning, and immediate interventions to smooth the transition between prison and probation. After just one year, the program has dramatically improved the reentry process and demonstrated noteworthy reductions in recidivism.

CITS

Remote Interpreter Program - It allows the Court Interpretation and Translation Services Department to provide an interpreter to parties with limited or no English-speaking abilities to over 25 courtrooms throughout Maricopa County in all areas of the law from a remote location. The implementation of this program has increased the interpreters' productivity and has provided a means to satisfy the demands of the public and the court while improving the utilization of resources.

JUVENILE COURT ADMINISTRATION

Restoration Program - This program has been developed to help juveniles obtain a conceptual and comprehensive understanding of the process and procedures that comprise the juvenile court system. The Restoration Program was designed and implemented to educate and restore juveniles in the Maricopa County Juvenile Court system to the level of competency that is necessary to confront their charges, assist counsel, understand their actions and consequences, and to fully participate in the justice system.

Community Services Unit - A product of the Children's Coalition, is comprised of services conveniently co-located at the Juvenile Court. The CSU includes representatives from child welfare, behavioral health, volunteer lawyers and law students, mediators, court guides, court operations and early intervention staff.

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NACo Nominations - Continued From Page 5

The partnerships with government, education, and community stakeholders, located at the Juvenile Court, can address barriers to the delivery of services and creates a "one stop shop" approach to enhanced system interface and timely delivery of service.

Juvenile Court Guide Program - Juvenile Court Guides have worked tirelessly in providing guidance to members of the public who appear at court. The guides are the "first point of contact" for the public who have come to the court with questions in regard to juvenile guardianship and need help with paperwork. The ability of the guide to simply review the documents for accuracy and completeness is an invaluable service. The assistance of the guides has improved the setting of these hearings, resulted in fewer continuances and has streamlined an otherwise fragmented process.

CTS

Backlog FARE - Has improved compliance with court ordered financial obligations due to the Justice Courts. The project tackled the need for better compliance to financial judicial orders by putting in place proactive collection and payment modules, within an automated system, in an attempt to collect more fines. Prior to Backlog FARE's implementation, the Justice Courts averaged approximately $300,000 per month in collections. Since the implementation of FARE, the Justice Courts are realizing an average of $500,000 to $600,000 per month.

Continuity of Care - Court Technology Services (CTS) developed an application called *Continuity of Care* that adheres to Rule 11. The Continuity of Care application helps ensure seriously mentally ill individuals are appropriately handled and facilitates the evaluation of SMI patients' treatment. These actions are completed by sharing, condensing, and presenting the application information in useful ways to service providers and the Court.

This year's award recipients will be announced in the upcoming months.

Probate Department Presents Accounting 1,2,3

The Probate Department and Public Fiduciary recently presented the class "Accounting 1, 2, 3's" to help family members serving as conservators. Each year the Court requires that conservators file an annual accounting that details the financial transactions made on behalf of the protected person. Conservators must keep careful records of income and expenses throughout the year. The accounting requirement can be very daunting to newly appointed family member conservators. In addition to collecting and saving financial documents, they must become familiar with accounting procedures and terminology such as "real property," "inventory," and "appraisement."

Comm. David Cunanan delivers his presentation to the class.

The Court partnered with the Public Fiduciary to design this course for non professional conservators. Often family members step forward to serve as conservators and have no background in Probate Law or Accounting. "Accounting 1,2,3's" reviews the basic elements of completing an inventory and first annual accounting. Faculty members use a hypothetical case and Self Service Center forms and walk the audience through the process, step by step.

The class represents the Court's aim to serve the community and offer assistance to family member conservators who are struggling to understand the challenging process of completing an accounting. The Probate Department and Public Fiduciary will offer the course again on May 11, 2011, and plan to create on online version for the Court's web site.

Submitted by Elizabeth Evans, Probate and Mental Health Court Administrator

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Deborah Salomone Court Investigator
Stephanie Kraus Judicial Clerk
Julian Garcia Judicial Clerk Associate
Lisa Santillo Judicial Clerk Senior
Sarah Embury Juvenile Probation Officer
Leslie Gutierrez Juvenile Probation Officer
Melissa Ohman Juvenile Probation Officer
Christian Popovici Adult Probation Officer
Hermelinda Castillo General Laborer
Dora Haney Judicial Clerk
Christopher Acree Judicial Clerk Associate
Janet Rossi Judicial Clerk Associate
Ramona Rodriguez Judicial Clerk Senior
Lorena Guajardo Juvenile Detention Officer
Richard Baca Adult Probation Officer
Wanda Bauer Court Reporter
Cecilia Tovar Judicial Clerk
Raeann Maille Judicial Clerk Associate
Anna Hopewell Judicial Clerk Lead
Rene Baker Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Donald Miller Juvenile Detention Officer
Dawn McCullar Adult Probation Officer
Karen Morales Judicial Clerk Associate
Mary Glassburn Judicial Clerk Associate
Gail Imes Judicial Clerk Lead
Mikisha Steel Human Resources Specialist

10 Years

Christina Coller Adult Probation Officer
Kimberleigh Riddle Judicial Clerk Associate
Marylynn LeMoine Court Reporter
Kevin Chatman Security Officer II
Diane Alessi Senior Law Researcher
Linda Gray Judicial Assistant
James Cooley Judicial Clerk Associate
John Smith Counselor
Consepcion Ortiz General Laborer
Theresa Topf-Fife Judicial Clerk Associate
Vicky Williams Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv
Raymond Camacho Juvenile Detention Officer
Carlene Connor Juvenile Probation Officer

15 Years

Diane Bishop Juvenile Probation Officer
Rita Okoli Help Desk Coordinator - Sr/Ld
Juanita Gutierrez Accountant
Mark Steever Adult Probation Officer
Lynn Gustafson Judicial Financial Clerk
Cheryl Starky Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Nelson Moore Management Analyst

20 Years

Melissa Gabel Judicial Assistant
Sharon McCammond Human Resources Specialist
Jeanette Verchimak Executive Assistant
Kathleen Penney Court Interpreter

25 Years

John O'Connor Adult Probation Officer
Claude Renfro Adult Probation Officer
Khameelah Shabazz Adult Probation Officer
John Wertsching Adult Probation Officer Supv

30 Years

Sharlie Sanders Judicial Assistant
Cindy Butler Court Investigator
Arlene Lamp Judicial Assistant
Sue McLaughlin Juvenile Probation Officer

Courtside

In Memoriam: Ernie Heitmuller

Ernie Heitmuller passed away at the age of 62.

Ernie has served the Jury Office as an administrator since starting with the Court in 2002.

He played a critical role in his service to the Court – determining the precise number of summoned jurors required for 43 Maricopa County Courts, overseeing Superior Court juror operations and staff as Deputy Director, and working with stakeholder agencies and courts on behalf of the Jury Office. Ernie was instrumental as well in partnering with principals on the planning of future jury operations in the new Court Tower.

Those who worked with or were fortunate just to know Ernie remember his strong sense of fairness, his caring for the work that he did and for the staff that bestowed their highest respect and, of course, his wonderful dry humor.

The Spider Crane is helping with steel construction on the Central Court Building Escalator Project.

On February 10, 2011, 100 APD students (along with approximately 750 of their family members, court personnel, and honored guests) attended the 23rd APD GED Graduation Ceremony held at the University Public School, Phoenix's auditorium.

Submitted by Lindell Rhodes
Adult Probation