

# Judicial Branch News

## Judging the Court



### JUDICIAL BRANCH OF MARICOPA COUNTY PUBLIC SURVEY FORM

Please mark an X within the appropriate box, example:  
If an error is made cover the error and mark the correct box, example:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
<b>Section 1: How I was able to use the Court:</b>						
Finding the courthouse was easy.						
The forms I needed were clear and easy to understand.						
It safe in the courthouse.						
makes reasonable efforts to remove language barriers to service.						
court business done in a timely manner.						
to my needs.						
ect.						

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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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## Employee Anniversaries

### 5 Years

Suzanne Mercer, Judicial Clerk Senior  
 Elvia Flores, Work Crew Leader  
 Stacey Bernadette, Security Officer II  
 Gino Zavala, Security Officer II  
 Frank Szabo, Trades Generalist  
 Michelle Chacon, Registered Nurse  
 Christopher Coury, Superior Court Judge

### 10 Years

Armida Hernandez, Surveillance Officer  
 Talia Lair, Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Michelle Zuech, Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Yvette De La Cruz Martinez, Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Pamela Svoboda, Superior Court Judge  
 Michael Bertone, Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Elizabeth Eells, Research and Planning Manager  
 Luz Cabada, Probate Examiner  
 Casey Newcomb, Court Commissioner  
 Oretha Canidate, Juvenile Probation Officer

### 15 Years

Paul Berkshire, Conference Officer  
 Kristin Hoffman, Superior Court Judge  
 Raquel Murillo, Judicial Assistant

### 20 Years

Boyd Frick, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor  
 Sergio Mosqueda, Adult Probation Officer  
 Rodney Rego, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor  
 Anna King, Adult Probation Division Manager

### 25 Years

Angela Hollie, Adult Probation Officer  
 Deborah Morton-Estime, Surveillance Officer  
 Anthony Primak, Adult Probation Officer

### 30 Years

Tara Kramer, Court Reporter

### 31 Years

Geraldine Okun, Judicial Clerk

### 35 Years

Cindy Butler, Court Investigator

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

## Judge Hyatt Retires



Carey Hyatt

Judge Carey Hyatt has announced her retirement from the Maricopa County Superior Court bench effective March 31, 2015.

During her 20-year judicial career with the Maricopa County Superior Court, Judge Hyatt has served in the Family, Criminal and Civil Departments of the Court. She also served in leadership as the Presiding Judge of Family Court and has undertaken numerous

projects designed to improve court processes and the lives of litigants.

“Judge Hyatt cares deeply about the struggles of litigants in our courts, and has been particularly active and passionate in improving Family Drug Court and our many other problem-solving courts over her years with us,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said. “She has always been patient, dignified, impartial and knowledgeable in the courtroom. I have particularly appreciated Judge Hyatt’s strong advocacy for innovation and improvement at the courts coupled with her unique brand of good humor and unwavering optimism. I know we all will miss her and wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.”

In her resignation letter to the Governor, Judge Hyatt wrote:

*I wish to thank my fellow judicial officers, my division staff, and the administrators, staff, and clerks, who have all made my life and job easier and so very rewarding. These dedicated professionals demonstrate excellence in public service every day, and I will miss working with them in this exciting and challenging role. It is with profound gratitude that I resign from the office of Judge of the Superior Court.*

## Sandy Westmoreland Retires



*From left to right - Criminal Court Administrator Bob James, Sandy Westmoreland and Deputy Criminal Court Administrator Dr. Christopher G. Bleuenstein.*

On February 25th, we came together to congratulate our colleague, Sandy Westmoreland, on her retirement and bid her farewell. With almost 22 years of experience with the Court, all in Family Court and Criminal Court Administration, she has impacted many of us. It is our hope she can look back at her career with pride knowing that she helped deliver justice for many people, and was a great colleague for many more.

*Submitted by Dr. Christopher G. Bleuenstein, Ph.D.*

## Ray Billotte Wins Patriot Award



*Raymond Billotte*

The Arizona Office for Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve named Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte as a recipient of a Patriot Award.

During his tenure as judicial branch administrator, Mr. Billotte has made it his mission to support and hire veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“As an administrator, Raymond Billotte has also taken the time to recognize the importance, sacrifice and value inherit in National Guard and Reserve service. During November 2014, he recognized veterans and current service members within the County and Superior Court during a Veteran’s Day breakfast,” said Captain Mahaney of United States Army National Guard.

ESGR’s mission is to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.



## State v. Jodi Arias Penalty Phase

Local and national news reporters covering the Jodi Arias penalty phase re-trial listen to a statement from the Maricopa County Attorney while waiting for the juror press conference in the multi-purpose jury room in the South Court Tower.

## New Judge Q-and-A: Judge Frank Moskowitz



Frank Moskowitz

**Q. Before joining the court, you served in private practice. Describe how that experience prepared you for your judicial career?**

My experience in private practice was that I had to be patient, flexible, creative, and prepared for the unexpected. That experience has prepared me well for my judicial career.

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

No one person in particular, but all the mentors and colleagues I have had along the way at ASU Law School, O'Connor, Cavanagh, Smock & Weinberger, Berk & Moskowitz, and now the Superior Court.

**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).**

"Perfect is the enemy of good." - Voltaire

**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?**

I would spend the day with the family members, colleagues and friends that I have lost over the years. Not sure what all we would do, but I would be so proud to show them around my courtroom.

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

My playlist includes a wide variety of songs and bands from Green Day to Eric Church to Michael Jackson. You can all stop laughing now . . . .

## Community Restitution Program's Plarn Project



*A sleeping mat made of plastic yarn.*

The Adult Probation Department Community Restitution Program (CRP) is collecting and recycling plastic grocery bags to make sleeping mats for homeless individuals.

Probationers assigned to the Plarn (plastic yarn) Project have already collected more than 5,000 bags, producing approximately 60 mats.

The Plarn project, started by Stephanie Donaldson and Connie Sinsabaugh of the Adult Probation Department, is geared toward probationers with disabilities, who often have a hard time completing their community restitution hours.

Community Restitution staff pick up plastic bags from sites about once a month. After the plastic grocery bags are collected, probationers sort them into groups of 50 bags. A bag of 50 is then given to a probationer to cut and connect together to form a ball of plarn. One ball of plarn is worth five (5) hours of community service. The plarn is then donated to a CRP agency where it will be crocheted into mats for homeless individuals to sleep on.

Other agencies, such as Waste Management, have donated 20 cardboard trash bins to the department, which provide general collection sites for the bags at various offices. In addition, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has introduced the program to the staff at Central Intake/Fourth Avenue Jail.

The Plarn Project benefits the environment, probationers and APD and operates at no cost to taxpayers.

*Submitted by Shari Anderson-Head*

# The New Business Services Division

A new Business Services Division has been created within Superior Court. This new division of Court Administration will be responsible for improving the prioritization of Information Technology (IT) requests. The Business Services Division will ensure that requests are handled in organized and uniformed matter.

The Division will be staffed by business analysts whose primary function will be to act as liaisons between the various Superior Court department personnel and Court Technology Services (CTS). An analyst will be assigned to review each request. They will shepherd the request through the reviewing process until completion. The assigned analyst will communicate with those needing assistance while monitoring the status of their request. Deputy Court Administrator Diana Hegyi will direct the Business Services Division.

In the coming weeks, business analysts will be meeting with supervisors and staff to discuss how information technology requests will be made, and give specific models of how the Business Services Division will handle them. Meanwhile, requests to CTS will function as normal and all current projects will continue.

*Submitted by Todd Herrera-Ridenhour*

# Commercial Court Pilot Program

The Arizona Supreme Court launched a pilot program, creating a new Superior Court venue for commercial disputes. The three-year program will begin in July and take place in Maricopa County.

The Supreme Court signed an Administrative Order establishing an 18 member Business Court Advisory Committee to study the unique needs of businesses engaged in commercial civil litigation.

“This court recognizes that disputes between companies or involving the internal governance of businesses often raise issues that require specialized knowledge and that implicate potentially expensive discovery. By appointing experienced judges and establishing processes shaped for commercial civil litigation, we hope to show that these disputes can be resolved more efficiently and economically,” Chief Justice Scott Bales explained.

The advisory committee cited several reasons that a Commercial Court would be beneficial to Arizona, including:

- To make Arizona a more favorable forum for resolving business disputes;
- To improve the business community’s access to justice;
- To expeditiously resolve business cases and reduce litigation costs;
- To improve the quality of justice; and
- To gain the business community’s support for the State of Arizona’s dispute resolution system.

The three Superior Court Judges named to the pilot program are Judges Dawn Bergin, Roger Brodman and Christopher Whitten.

# Photo Highlights: St. Patrick's Day Potluck



## Dignitaries Visit the Court



Recently, the Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich, his Chief Deputy, and the Attorney General of Sonora, Mexico took a tour of the South Court Tower and observed a criminal trial.

## Judging the Court



Court customers fill out surveys in the lobby of the Central Court Building in Downtown Phoenix.

## Dina and Debi Retire



Left to right- Phil Knox, Dina Cavazos, Ken Crenshaw and Debi Wall. Dina Cavazos and Debi Wall retired from Superior Court with more than 30 years of service. The court presented each of them with a service plaque at their retirement party in the South Court Tower.

Citizens of Maricopa County are getting the opportunity to give feedback to the Court.

On March 25, in Superior Court buildings throughout Maricopa County, the Court administered a public survey to better understand and improve its services to the public. The survey asks customers to rate the Court on accessibility and how they are were treated in terms of fairness, dignity and respect.

The public survey is one of the 10 performance measures established by National Center of State Courts to evaluate trial courts. The program, known as CourtTools, enables courts to collect and present evidence of their success in meeting the needs and expectations of customers. Basic indicators of court performance are a necessary component of accountability in the administration of justice and effective governance of the third branch.

For several years, Maricopa County Superior Court has conducted this survey with the generous assistance of court volunteers.

*Submitted by Johnny Tse*