



## From the Presiding Judge

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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](mailto:karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov).

*"Committed to the Timely, Fair and Impartial Administration of Justice."*



**Barbara Rodriguez Mundell**  
Presiding Judge

**Editors Note:** *This will be Judge Mundell's final column for the Judicial Branch News. On behalf of the entire staff, we wish her well in her retirement.*

Presiding Judge? No, thank you.

That's what I originally told former Presiding Judge Colin Campbell when he asked me to apply to become his successor.

After our brief conversation and serious soul searching, I agreed to sit down with Judge Campbell to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the position. He was completely honest with me, and shared the ups and downs about the job.

Judge Campbell said something to me at the meeting that has stayed with me ever since. He said, "Your legacy as Presiding Judge will be based on events you cannot predict."

Now that I look back on that statement, I realize he was absolutely correct.

Who would have predicted the lawsuit involving Spanish DUI Court? Spanish DUI Court is a highly-effective, post-conviction, probation program conducted in Spanish. However, the County Attorney's Office labeled it as a "race-based" court and attempted to try and eliminate the award-winning program. After years of litigation, the U.S. District Court judge, granted Superior Court's motion to dismiss. The dismissal was upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Spanish DUI falls in line with the federal law requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to assist customers with limited English proficiency access to court services. It was just one of the steps I took during my tenure to help those with limited English proficiency. Another was bringing in an expert on the federal law requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The Court conducted an audit and training for all staff. We also produced the "I Speak" handbook to assist staff in identifying a person's language in order to obtain an interpreter to assist them.

***From the Presiding - Continued On Page Two***

# Message from the Presiding

## *From the Presiding - Continued From Page One*

Our Court took these steps to prevent language from becoming a barrier to the timely, fair and impartial administration of justice.

Listening to the community and serving our court customers was one of my top priorities when I became presiding judge. Through a series of community forums and open access to courts, the Court made great strides in improving the public's perception about law and order, and fairness and justice.

To educate the public, we've made Superior Court operations as transparent as possible. We wanted the public to know how their tax dollars are being spent and the quality of judges on our Bench. Our Courts are open and that means accessibility for the media as well.

So when the media filed a rule petition to change Rule 122, relating to cameras in the courtroom, I was eager to meet with them and work to develop a compromise rule change that was acceptable to the media representatives and approved by the bench of the Superior Court in Maricopa County.

Perhaps the greatest example of how media coverage of court hearings benefits the community is our National Adoption Day event. Each year, through a well-coordinated public relations campaign and increased media coverage, our event continues to grow. The National Adoption Day event in Maricopa County has been the largest in the country for two straight years, boasting the highest number of adoptions.

Not only have we opened up the Court to the traditional media, the Court has also extended invitations to the Hispanic media. Our regular meetings with the Hispanic media have proven to be an effective way of placing important stories and delivering pertinent information about the judiciary to the Hispanic population. Our community outreach and media efforts have proven to be a cost-effective way to educate the public about our Court, especially during tough economic times.

As the budget crisis hit, the Court needed to find ways of making use of every existing resource. The recession had a huge impact on the Court. While we were able to maintain our mandated responsibilities, some programs, like Night and Saturday Court at the Northeast and Juvenile Durango facilities, had to be eliminated to save jobs.

Despite our financial problems, the Court instituted some innovative programs. The recession made us take a long, hard look at how we do business and brainstorm on how we could save money and become more efficient.

One of the results was the Master Calendar system. The project was developed as part of our ongoing effort to resolve cases more efficiently and effectively. The new approach is helping the Court streamline cases and reduce backlog.

We've also better utilized our buildings and space. Superior Court moved five criminal trial judges from the Southeast Regional Court Center to Downtown Phoenix to reduce inmate transportation costs. We also sent five family and civil court judicial officers to the Southeast complex to enhance the Southeast Court's ability to resolve more child support issues, divorces and orders of protection to better serve the residents of the East Valley.

Another innovative cost-saving concept was the redesign of the Regional Court Center (RCC). The new space was built out in the basement of the Central Court Building. Many of its design elements were incorporated into the construction of the court tower. It has not only proven to be an immediate solution to the rapid growth in the number of cases but it has taught us some valuable lessons in case management.

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# Message from the Presiding

## *From the Presiding - Continued From Page Two*

Crime victims were another top priority. We reformed the way our Court serves victims of crimes by creating restitution court. Under A.R.S. § 13-810, the new court holds defendants in civil contempt if realistic plans and honest efforts to pay restitution have not been made. If defendants are not in compliance, they may be held in contempt with the possibility of work release until the debt or a court-ordered portion of the debt is paid.

Restitution Court is being met with positive reviews in the victim community. In fact, Judge Roland Steinle, who has been instrumental in the Court's success, was honored during Victims' Rights Week by the Arizona Attorney General.

The Court received many honors over the past five years. Every award that bears my name is a reflection of your hard work. Together, we earned the James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award from the State Bar of Arizona, The YWCA Racial Justice Award and The Mark Santana Law-Related Education Award from the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education. I was also honored as a Latina Trailblazer by Latino Perspectives Magazine.

Many of you credit me with grace and courage for confronting the various issues we as a court faced over the last five years. But, as you know, obstacles of this magnitude are never overcome alone. I've been very fortunate to be a part of the Superior Court in Maricopa County, which has judges, commissioners and employees who truly believe in service above self. Thank you for all your contributions to the Court.

I was also proud to represent you on the national stage. I was invited to sit among a group of dignitaries to take part in a series of Executive Sessions for State Court Leaders, hosted by the Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the National Center for State Courts. I also was named to the NCSC Board of Directors to serve a three-year term.

But one of the most enjoyable tasks for a Presiding Judge is to participate in an event that honors one of our many dedicated court leaders. I was fortunate to deliver the oath of office to Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer when he became the National Association for Court Management (NACM) president. I was also proud when he received The Warren E. Burger Award and had his name placed on the Maricopa County Pillars outside the Central Court Building.

While these events were memorable moments in my tenure, it was the planning and construction of the criminal court tower that will leave the greatest impact on Maricopa County. It takes a community to plan a criminal court tower. And through a group of planning sessions that's what we did. We listened to input from a variety of court stakeholders including victims, media and the disabled community who shared their expertise in this important planning process.

More than five years ago when Judge Campbell told me my legacy would be based on events that I could not predict, I had no idea that the court tower would be built or that it would be so controversial. Judge Campbell was absolutely correct. My legacy will live on through the new Criminal Court Tower.

"The First Duty of Society is Justice," a memorable phrase authored by one of our Nation's founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton, will greet visitors as they enter the new Criminal Court Tower.

The phrase epitomizes the reason for constructing the tower. This building is not being built just to move more cases; it will be built to provide timely, fair and impartial administration of justice for all.

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## News and Notes

# Governor Appoints Two New Judges

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer announced the appointment of Daniel J. Kiley and Thomas L. LeClaire to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Dan Kiley is an attorney with the law firm Sherman & Howard, LLC, where he practices in the areas of commercial litigation, corporate, municipal and criminal defense law. He worked for the firm Mohr, Hackett, Pederson, Blakley and Randolph from 1997 to 2009 and served as an Assistant Attorney General from 1988 to 1997. He has been admitted to practice law in Arizona since 1988. He graduated from the Arizona State University College of Law in 1988 and received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1985.

“Dan has had an impressive career in public and private practice,” said Governor Brewer. “His wide breadth of legal practice experience makes him well qualified to be a superior court judge.” This appointment was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Cathy Holt.

Tom LeClaire is an attorney with the LeClaire Law Firm. He began practicing law in Colorado in 1981 and spent several years with the United States Navy and the Department of Justice. He has been admitted to practice law in Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Washington, the District of Columbia, as well as numerous tribal courts. He is a recognized expert in Indian law and taught criminal law and procedure at American University. He graduated from Cornell Law School in 1981 and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut in 1978.

“Tom’s accomplishments during his nearly three decades of practicing law are impressive and noteworthy,” said Governor Brewer. “He has given many years of service to his country and helped numerous Native American tribes with legal matters over the course of his career. Tom is truly a model of legal excellence and will be an outstanding judge.” This appointment was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Richard Trujillo.

“It is an honor to appoint Dan Kiley and Tom LeClaire to the Maricopa County Superior Court,” said Governor Brewer. “These are two outstanding attorneys who will serve the citizens of Maricopa County well.”

## Meet the New Civil Presiding Judge



*Left to Right - Michelle Baldwin, Kristi Dallman, Judge Robert Oberbillig, Lorraine Muhammad and Fred Dell'Ergo*

**Honorable Robert H. Oberbillig** has been a Superior Court Judge for 11 1/2 years. His assignments have included: Civil, Criminal, Family, Juvenile, and Civil Presiding Judge.

**Michelle Baldwin**, Judicial Assistant, 10 years with the Court and the Honorable Robert H. Oberbillig.

**Kristi Dallmann**, Civil Judicial Staff Trainer/Liaison, 13 ½ years with the Superior Court

**Lorraine Muhammad**, Courtroom Clerk, 21 years with the Superior Court Clerk of the Court, 6 months with the Honorable Robert H. Oberbillig.

**Fred F. Dell' Ergo**, Judicial Specialist/Bailiff, 8 years with the Superior Court.

*Submitted by Michelle Baldwin, Judicial Assistant to Judge Robert Oberbillig*

## News and Notes

### Reid Appointed Manager of Training and Education

Cindy Reid was promoted to the position of Manager of Training and Education. Cindy has worked for the Superior Court since July 2004, starting as a Management Analyst in the Finance Department. Shortly after, she transferred to the Training and Education Department where she has been instrumental in Judicial Education, partnering with internal and external partners for COJET classes and strategic planning for the Judicial Branch.

We are very excited to have Cindy in this role and look forward to the future of the Training and Education Department with her in this new position. Please help me in congratulating Cindy.

*Submitted by Human Resources Director Phil Hanley*

### New Deputy Chiefs Appointed in Probation

Saul Schoon has been appointed to the position of Deputy Chief of Community Supervision.

Saul has worked almost 20 years in the criminal justice field, 15 of those years with Maricopa County Adult Probation.

Therese Wagner will be returning from her position as Division Director of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department to become the new Deputy Chief for Assessment & Development. Therese worked more than 22 years with MCAPD in various positions. She will be assuming this new role on Sept. 3.

Finally, Tom O'Connell has been appointed interim Deputy Chief until Therese can join us in the fall. He will remain the Division Director of Presentence.

Zach Dal Pra will be moving from his current assignment as Deputy Chief for Assessment & Development to become Deputy Chief in charge of Administrative Services.

*Submitted by Probation Chief Barbara Broderick*

### University of Phoenix Honors Robin Hoskins

Superior Court grant writer Robin Hoskins was recognized as a recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award by University of Phoenix during its May 8 commencement at University of Phoenix Stadium.

"We've been privileged to have Robin on our faculty team for the past seven years," said Paul Danuser, director of academic affairs for the University's Phoenix campus. "In addition to teaching students in our bachelor of science in human services program, she plays an instrumental role as the area chair of the program."

Juggling a full-time job at the Superior Court Administration with her academic responsibilities is no small feat because Hoskins oversees mentoring, field experience coordination, and content development of field placement manuals for University of Phoenix.

However, Hoskins, who also enjoys running marathons, jokingly compared working with University of Phoenix students as a similar endorphin rush.

"Yes it takes time and commitment, but nothing is more rewarding than teaching," said Hoskins.

Hoskins is a licensed associate counselor who has worked in the helping profession for 24 years, during which she has held various supervisory roles including project director for a gender responsive program for substance-involved women on adult probation, deputy juvenile court administrator, and program developer for juvenile probation.

## CASA News and Notes

### National CASA Conference

Four members of the Superior Court recently returned from presenting at the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Justine Grabowsky, Program Development Specialist and Maggie Sommer, Volunteer Coordinator of Maricopa County CASA, presented a workshop entitled *Recruiting Tactics: Are You Buying, Begging, Bugging or Building?* The workshop was designed to provide CASA staff with insights into the art of recruiting qualified volunteers without an advertising budget, supply tools for programs to create their own recruitment action plan and offer practical techniques for incorporating social media in order for CASA programs to advocate more effectively for children.

“Since coming back from Atlanta, my office has been inundated with requests from other CASA programs for even more recruiting information about ‘how to do more with less’”, said Grabowsky. “I look forward to building a model of sharing low cost recruitment and advertising ideas with CASA programs across the county and the National CASA Association,” she said.

Andy Cicchillo of Court Technology Services, Robert Hahn, CASA Director and Justine Grabowsky were chosen to present a separate workshop entitled *Utilizing Web-based Applications for Improved Volunteer Management and Advocacy*.

“Our focus was on helping other programs begin the shift away from a culture of paper to a culture of automation,” said Hahn. Andy Cicchillo agrees. “We were very excited by the reaction of the people who attended,” said Cicchillo. They were very receptive to this paradigm shift and seem to grasp how this type of change would benefit both their programs and their volunteers in some very concrete ways,” he said.

The two workshops were chosen out of hundreds of proposals submitted by the 1000 CASA programs nationwide.

“It is, of course, an honor to be chosen to present at the conference, but to have two workshops picked from the same county in the same year highlights both our program’s ability to select well-timed training topics and our commitment to present a high quality teaching experience,” said Hahn.

### CASA Website Goes High Tech

CASA of Maricopa County, in partnership with Court Technology Services, recently released a new website <http://www.maricopacasa.org>. The site is dedicated to increasing awareness of the volunteer opportunity for community members with CASA and improving the advocacy experience for existing volunteers.

“This has been a two year collaborative project. The outcome and reception has been amazing,” said CASA Director Robert Hahn.

The former CASA website was completely re-imagined and repurposed, changing the focus from being child-centric to a focus on volunteers.

“By the time someone from the community comes to our website they are already knowledgeable about the plight of abused and neglected children. People come to our website because they want to do something about the issue and our new website makes it very easy for them to get involved,” said CASA Program Development Specialist Justine Grabowsky.

A major component of the new website is the integration of advanced web design to allow potential volunteers to apply online. This eliminates both the need to print out an application and the need to mail or fax it to the CASA office, speeding up the process of becoming a volunteer.

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*Submitted by Robert Hahn and Justine Grabowski*

# CASA Goes High Tech

*Continued from Page 5*

The website has also automated the process of requesting a CASA volunteer for an existing dependency case and provides resources and information for judicial officers, current volunteers and links to community partners.

The most innovative part of the website however lies behind a secure login for both active volunteers and CASA staff.

“CTS did an amazing job and has truly helped us to automate many of our business processes. It is allowing us to eliminate much of the paper we were producing and has dramatically reduced our postage costs,” said Hahn.

Hahn also likes the idea of volunteer advocates taking charge of their cases.

Home Request a CASA Volunteer Contact Login

**MARICOPA COUNTY  
CASA**

**a CASA Volunteer looks like me**

“There are many kids like my CASA teen who need a male role model to share personal experiences and voice concerns to the court. An advocate doesn't have to be an entertainer, athlete or celebrity to send a positive message to a foster child.”

**Mark**  
*Local Business Owner and Radio Host*

**prospective advocates**  
[find volunteer information, FAQ, apply](#)

**community**  
[quick facts and community partner information](#)

**for judicial officers**  
[Judge's page, resource center, contact CASA](#)

**want to:**  
Touch a life?  
Strengthen a community?  
Make a difference?  
Lead the way?  
Change the world for the better?  
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Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**  
President Obama Calls  
on Americans to Serve  
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**2010 CASA Annual  
Conference  
Notes**

Maricopa County CASA is a member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association and the Arizona CASA Program

“The ability of volunteers to have access to all their case information in one location has revolutionized our business practice. We used to have to mail them documents and email them of changes to hearings and events. Volunteers can just log into the website and see this information themselves and submit court reports from one easily accessed location. The website even sends alerts when something has been modified, like when a hearing has been moved or the time has been changed,” Hahn said.

“This paradigm shift has allowed us to focus on our volunteers and not on processing paper” said Grabowsky.

CASA coordinator Maggie Sommer agrees. “I’m not spending all my time trying to print and fax reports or motions, or researching case information. Volunteers can see all their documents and everything that is happening on their cases themselves, so I can focus on being a resource and a coordinator. It has really improved my volunteer management,” said Sommer.

“The CASA project has been great fun not only from a design aspect, but also as a model for moving from paper to automation,” said Andy Cicchillo of CTS. “I think this project has some great applications for other areas in the court.”

*Submitted by Robert Hahn and Justine Grabowski*

# May Employee Anniversaries

## 5 Years

Kelly Dean - Judicial Assistant  
 Charlotte Romero Sanderson - Judicial Clerk Assoc  
 Nancy Hojnacki - Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Lorenzo Candelaria - Judicial Clerk Lead  
 Yvonne Mendoza - Judicial Clerk Senior  
 Jessica Dang - Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Rynne Wood - Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Kimberly Connor - Adult Probation Officer  
 Christine Frey - Adult Probation Officer  
 Julie Pionkowski - Adult Probation Officer  
 Shaun Robar - Adult Probation Officer  
 Aregeler Williams - Adult Probation Officer  
 Maria Paro - Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Stephen Ramsbacker - Management Analyst  
 Korik Anderssohn - Surveillance Officer  
 Elida Marcela Testai - Court Interpreter  
 Sondra Acedo - Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
 Renee Harris - Judicial Clerk Supervisor

## 10 Years

Tiffany Grissom - Adult Probation Officer Supv  
 Casey Young - Court Conciliator  
 Stephanie Samora - Judicial Assistant  
 Kimberly Adair - Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Sandra Kaminsky - Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Leslie Samuel - Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv  
 Anita Samuel - Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Jennifer Urban - Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Byung Kim - Materials Handling Worker  
 Michelle Mayer - Adult Probation Officer  
 Harold Mongovan - Adult Probation Officer  
 Marisella Rodriguez - Adult Probation Officer  
 Iris Pais - Judicial Specialist  
 Melinda Solis - Judicial Clerk Senior  
 Carolraye Glasgow - Judicial Clerk Supervisor  
 Christian Lopez - Judicial Specialist

## 15 Years

Samuel Nolasco - Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Timothy Schouten - Adult Probation Supv  
 Patricia Junkin - Judicial Clerk Associate  
 Barbara Bratina - Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Beverly Maurer - Judicial Clerk Senior

## 20 Years

Jenny Flores - Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Socorro Turek - Judicial Clerk  
 Charles Adeleye - Juvenile Probation Div Managr  
 Jeffrey Bell - Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Brian Herlihy - Adult Probation Officer  
 \* **Jennifer Hammond Tassara**  
**Court Interpreter - Celebrated 20**  
**years in January**

## Group Honors Judge Burke



*Edward Burke*

Judge Edward Burke was awarded the Judicial Integrity Award by the Arizona Trial Lawyers Association.

The Judicial Integrity Award is presented to a Judge who displays an excellent grasp of civil law, displays outstanding courtroom demeanor and demonstrates respect and fairness to all litigants.

According to the group's executive committee, the group who nominated him for the award, Judge Burke truly embodies the concept that "Justice is Blind." Over the years, Judge Burke has taken on some of the most complex cases and he's overseen them in a fair and just manner.

He was presented the award on May 25. Retired Superior Court Judge Anna Baca is a past recipient of the award.

# Adult Probation News

## Group Honors Adult Probation



*From left to right they are: Bill Pebler, Kristi Wimmer, Dan Rodgers, Dan Sitzler, and Lindell Rhodes*

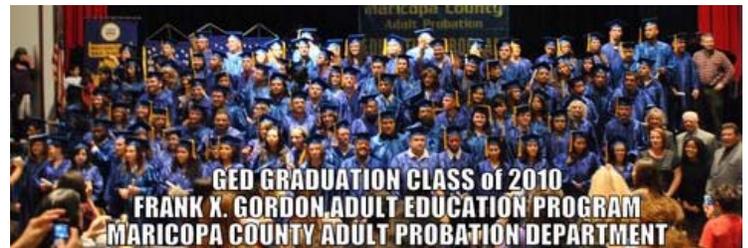
From April 21 to 23, the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) held their annual conference in Tempe. The organization promotes and provides professional development opportunities for adult educators and is on the cutting edge of research-based successful adult education tactics. At the Conference, Maricopa County Adult Probation's (MCAPD's) Education Program and three of its staff won awards. MCAPD's Education Program was recognized for exceeding all the Arizona State Performance goals. Bill Pebler, Dan Sitzler and Kristi Wimmer were also recognized for their participation in the 2009 Teachers Investigating Adult Numeracy (TIAN). TIAN is a professional development initiative that teaches research-based mathematic principals to instructors of adults. Research-based TIAN is a way for our teachers to effectively show the probationers how to solve math

problems in the classroom, at home and on the job. The teachers and education support staff in the Education Program have more than 250 combined years of experience educating adults. They take an innovative approach in presenting Basic Education, GED and ESOL classes. The program has once again been honored for its initiative and proving that clients can be successful in a comprehensive, academically oriented curriculum, irrespective of their criminal background.

*Submitted by Lindell W. Rhodes, Adult Probation*

## GED Graduation Ceremony

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, with the encouragement of Judges, Commissioners and Probation Officers, and the combined hard work of the students, teachers, tutors, and volunteers, 135 students walked across the stage at the University Public School, Phoenix's auditorium during MCAPD's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual GED Graduation Ceremony. Approximately 1100 of the student's family members, court personnel, and honored guests attended the graduation ceremony.



The professional organization, ALTRUSA provided refreshments and scholarship donations. ALTRUSA is a philanthropic organization with literacy as their focus. Their generous donations allowed us to present three scholarships. These scholarships allow deserving students to enroll in community college, vo-tec programs and other continuing education courses.

Speakers at the ceremony included two of our very own GED student/clients. They told stories of studying and toiling to improve their lives through education. They had many diverse life experiences and challenges during their educational quest, but they succeeded. They spoke to their family, fellow students and teachers about the journey. The keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony was attorney David C. Tierney.

*Submitted by Lindell W. Rhodes, Adult Probation*

# Courtside

## Photo Highlights



A group of administrators and Judges climb aboard a construction elevator on the south side of the Criminal Court Tower.



SueLynn Morgan, president of the National Court Reporters Association, visited the Superior Court. Left to right - Court Reporter Supervisor Denise Sanders Pellerito, SueLynn Morgan and Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer.



Judge Christopher A. Coury is robed by his wife and children during his investiture ceremony.

## Excellence in Training Award



Dr. Scott Herrmann was presented with The Excellence in Training Award. This award was presented to Dr. Herrmann at the State-wide Training Coordinators' Workshop. Dr. Scott Herrmann is the psychologist director of the Superior Court of Arizona's Personnel Psychological Services Unit. He has donated his expertise, insight, and time on multiple subjects. Specific topics, pertaining to our most recent and difficult economic challenges, "Managing Stress and Tension in Challenging Times and Stress Management for Managers and Supervisors: After the Layoffs," and "Suicide Prevention, Verbal De-Escalation and Crisis Management: Essential Tools," have been a huge success with Judicial Branch staff, reflecting the embodiment of trainer excellence.

*Submitted By: Stacy Farmer & Beverly Dupree*