

Judicial Branch News



Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County

Victims Rights Week: U.S. Attorney General Honors APD

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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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Homeless Court



Norman Davis

Homelessness knows no geographic boundaries. Recognizing this, three Phoenix metropolitan area jurisdictions sought a regional approach to concerns related to homelessness.

Modeled after the nationally-recognized Homeless Court in San Diego, California, the Phoenix-area Regional Homeless Court (RHC) was established to resolve outstanding misdemeanor warrants for homeless individuals willing to demonstrate a significant commitment to ending their homeless lifestyle.

The initial Regional Homeless Court was created/organized by judges, attorneys and staff from Phoenix, Tempe and Glendale Municipal Courts and others¹, along with six community-based transition program providers. In 2011, 17 program providers participated.² Dating back to March 2008 (and through mid-2011), Regional Homeless Court has served 328 people, none of whom has returned to the program.³

In 2010, coupling the success of the program with the continuing need to address homelessness, the initial organizers, staff and I – at the invitation of each court’s presiding judge or justice of the peace – began a series of “On the Road” presentations to Maricopa County’s municipal and justice courts. The courts extended the invitation to include prosecutors and defense counsel.

Hoping to expand the model to include all Municipal and Justice Courts in Maricopa County, a team of current participants in the program, along with Judge Rayes, Presiding Criminal Judge, and administrative staff, accompanied me and provided information from various perspectives, including those of the judiciary, the prosecution and the defense. Legislation permitting cross-jurisdictional cooperation to address matters brought to the attention of RHC was crafted to address concerns. With the guidance and assistance of many, the legislation passed and will become law in August.

Building on the successful local model, it is anticipated that the design will follow a similar format⁴:

A defendant with a qualifying misdemeanor offense and no history of violence can be referred to the Regional Homeless Court only by one of the participating program providers after completing a rigorous transitional program. Once the defendant’s case is screened and determined eligible for the Regional Homeless Court, the typical sentence imposed is community service for the amount of time the defendant participated in the transitional program.

Potential candidates will have participated in an approved program and been successful in making positive life changes towards a stable lifestyle. An approved provider agency recommends the candidate to the Regional Homeless Court program. The prosecutor and defense attorney review the case and the candidate’s accomplishments. If an acceptable plea agreement is agreed upon, the candidate’s cases will be scheduled. The candidate will then attend the Regional Homeless Court at the Lodestar Day Resource Center, located at the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix, to resolve all of the eligible cases at once.

At the present time, the Regional Homeless Court is presided over by the Honorable Kevin Kane, Judge of the Phoenix City Court, the Honorable MaryAnne Majestic, Presiding Judge of Tempe Municipal Court, and judges from other participating jurisdictions. It is held the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Success Center (204 S. 12th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona).

I thank all of those who initially envisioned the contributions that a Regional Homeless Court could make to the community, and to all who have signed on since. I look forward to sharing its many success stories!

(Endnotes)

¹ A number of people have been vital to this effort. The below list only includes key individuals. Many others helped and continue to help. Individuals include Hon. Roxanne Song Ong, Hon. Kevin Kane, Will Gonzalez, Chris McBride, Nick Margiotta and Doug Pilcher from the City of Phoenix; Hon. Louraine Arkfeld, Hon. MaryAnne Majestic and Rick Rager from Tempe Municipal Court; Hon. Elizabeth Finn and Cathy Clarich from Glendale Municipal Court, Patience Huntwork from the AOC, Nancy Gerlach and Tammie Staley at the LDRC; Nina Targovnik from Community Legal Services; Madeline Stillwell at Native American Connections and Gary Kula.

² Central Arizona Shelter Services; Community Bridges; Crossroads; HomeBase; Human Services Campus, Success Center; Labor’s Community Service Agency; Lodestar Day Resource Center; Native American Connections; OIC – Arizona; Salvation Army ARC; Save the Family; Tumbleweed Transitional/Independent Living Program; UMOM; US Vets; VA Health Care – Transitional; and VA Health Care – CASSVETS.

³ As shown on the August 16, 2011 RHC docket.

⁴ Excerpted from the Regional Homeless Court websites: www.phoenix.gov/Court/homeless.html; www.lodestarrc.org/Homeless%20Court.html

New and Improved Court Technology

iCISng IA Court Launch

A team of designers and developers from Research and Planning and Court Technology Services launched the first module for the newly designed iCIS in the Initial Appearance Court. The next generation of iCIS or “iCISng” gives a new look and functionality to the way information is collected, processed and disseminated for the Superior Court.



The design team, led by Deputy Court Administrator Diana Hegyi, worked on developing user-friendly and intuitive screens to help simplify the work process.

“The general concept is to have the user be able to see all the information needed to do 90 percent of their daily work all in one screen, and then provide easy ‘one click’ access to the information needed to complete the other one percent,” said Hegyi.

“It is very important for us to be able to work with the users, to understand their processes and then be able to enhance their experience with the new system,” said Robert Hahn, a member of the design team.

The new system also reduces the amount of paper generated by the court. By providing more information electronically, and making use of scanning and imaging technology, the court is able to use less paper to transmit information.

The programming team from CTS, headed by John Barrett and including Steve Ballance, Leticia Butner, Britto Augustine and Ramani Krishna have worked tirelessly to meet deadlines. During implementation the programmers and design team were often available around-the-clock with many remaining in the court throughout the night.

The system also allows for a faster exchange of information and better tracking of data and processes.

“We are now able to capture better data about the work we are doing,” said Hegyi. “This will be very helpful for us in enhancing the mission of the court.”

New and Improved Website



Superior Court’s website has gotten a face lift. On Friday, May 21, the newly designed and improved website was released to the public.

“The design incorporates a more interactive and dynamic interface for users. Also, navigation has been improved making it easier to find information and to get answers easily,” said Presiding Judge Norman Davis.

Programmers Chris Holly and Darrel Troxel of CTS worked with several different committees on the prototypes for the site. Cindy Reid, Jennifer Murray, Karen Arra, Karen Westover and Commissioner Wendy Morton were instrumental in the new design.

Social Media Presentation

On May 4, Judge Janet Barton was a guest speaker at the Nevada State Judicial Leadership Summit held in Las Vegas.

Judge Barton presented a workshop entitled “Technology, Social Media and the Impact on the Courts.” The workshop discussed the growing use of social media by courts, court personnel, media, jurors, litigants, attorneys and court attendees.

“It was an honor to be asked to speak to the Nevada judges and I applaud their willingness to consider the impact of social media in today’s society and the positive ways courts can use social media and also the problems associated with its use in court,” said Judge Barton.

Veterans Court Celebrates One-Year Anniversary



Fifteen months after launching Veterans Court, Superior Court hosted a celebration to mark the program's progress.

The Veterans Court celebration was held on April 16th in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix. The program included testimonials, presentations and a Q-and-A session with an esteemed panel.

Superior Court established Veterans Court to help veterans complete their probation through alcohol, drug and mental health counseling. The program promotes sobriety, recovery and stability.

"The Court is honored and proud to have a problem-solving court that assists the men and women of our armed forces who gave so much to protect our country," Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes said. "Veterans Court helps veterans get their lives back; while, protecting the community."

Attorney General Recognizes APD

Attorney General Eric Holder recognized the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department's Financial Compliance Program with the Crime Victims Financial Restoration Award at the 2012 Victims' Service Awards Ceremony, a prelude to the nation's observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-28, 2012.

The Maricopa County Adult Probation Department's Financial Compliance Program (FINCOM) is a comprehensive, integrated, and innovative practice that significantly increased the amount of restitution collected and paid to victims of crime. FINCOM teaches probation officers how to help probationers make restitution to their victims by assessing their payment ability and developing payment plans.

In 2011, FINCOM collected more than \$10.86 million in restitution, a dramatic increase from the \$4.78 million during the program's first year of service. The Crime Victims Financial Restoration Award recognizes individuals, programs, organizations, or teams which have developed innovative ways of funding services for crime victims, or for securing financial restoration for crime victims.

Judge Norman Davis Honored by State Bar

Superior Court Presiding Judge Norman Davis was selected as the 2012 recipient of the Justice Michael D. Ryan Award for Judicial Excellence.

The award is given to judicial officers who demonstrate high ideals, exemplary personal character and judicial competence.

The award will be presented to Judge Davis during the State Bar of Arizona Annual Luncheon on June 22 at the Biltmore Resort in Phoenix.

Geoffrey Fish Selected as a Court Commissioner

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed Geoffrey Fish as a Superior Court Commissioner. Commissioner Fish has been in private practice the last 10 years, and he brings prior experience from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office to the bench.

"I have received an unusually high number of recommendations from judicial officers and attorneys urging his appointment who all stress his fair-minded nature, his great ability to resolve problems, and equal treatment of others," Judge Davis said.

Communities and the Court



The Juvenile Court Community Outreach team continues their work to bridge the gap between the court and the South Mountain Community. Michael Valdez and Jacki Pearson (above) attended a Health and Resource Fair at Davis Elementary School. Valdez and Pearson provided parents and youth information on resources available to them through the Juvenile Court.

Robin Hoskins

Problem Solving Court & Grant Coordinator

Governor Appoints Former Commissioner

The Governor appointed David Cunanan as a Judge on the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench.



David Cunanan

Judge Cunanan served as a Maricopa County Superior Court Commissioner since 2002. Previously, he practiced law with Cunanan & McGuire, LLC (1995-2002); served as Pro Tem Prosecutor for the City of Scottsdale (1995-2002); and worked for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (1992-1995).

As a Court Commissioner, he handled a variety of proceedings – including those involving probate; initial appearances; aggravated DUI; pretrial conferences; special assignment; and criminal court. Notably impressive, Judge Cunanan also was assigned to oversee administrative projects to help manage and improve judicial processes – a role not commonly assigned to commissioners.

Judge Cunanan has been praised for his legal work. He received the FBI Bank Fraud Task Force Award of Recognition (2004), as well as several Awards of Appreciation from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (1995), FBI Speaker Series (2000) and the City of Phoenix (2001). In 2011, he was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court's Committee on the Superior Court, a group responsible for working to improve the quality of justice and efficiency of court operations in Arizona. He was also the first commissioner to be elected President of the Arizona Judges Association.

He earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina (1989). He graduated from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (1992) and has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1992.

Photo Highlights

Around the Courthouse



A view of a jury room in the South Court Tower.



New Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Eric Meaux.



Criminal Presiding Judge Douglas Rayes and Administrator Karen Westover present Criminal Court Administrator Bob James a shadow box of South Court Tower items. James was a key contributor to the construction and planning phases of the Tower.



In Session, formerly CourtTV, was covering a criminal trial before Judge Joseph Kreamer. They were providing live gavel-to-gavel coverage to a national audience.

Security Graduation



Superior Court's latest class of Marshals.

APD Goes to Boot Camp



Left to Right: APO Bobbie Stumper, Supervisor Tiffany Grissom and APO Beth Cervantes

To better understand their probationers enrolled in Veterans Court, Adult Probation Officers Bobbie Stumper and Beth Cervantes and Supervisor Tiffany Grissom participated in a two-day military immersion training.

For 31 straight hours, the trio participated in a boot-camp-style adventure to give them a first-hand look at what life is like as a member of the military.

“This unique two-day event gave us the chance to get up close and personal with the military and the service members who serve our country everyday,” Grissom said. “It helped increase our understanding of military culture and equipped us and our organization to better provide support to service members, veterans and their families.”

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Claudia Betancourt, Adult Probation Officer
Jessica Bradley-Hernandez, Adult Probation Officer
Gary Burgett, Surveillance Officer
Donald Chludzinski, Adult Probation Officer
Israel Fierros, Case Administrator
Ellen Opitz, Trainer
Roberta Stumper, Adult Probation Officer
Andrea Romano, Adult Probation Officer
Kelly Sussex, Collector
Carol Dainton, Judicial Clerk Senior
Matthew Micheal, Judicial Clerk Senior
Ricardo Barcelo, Finance Manager
William Brotherton Jr., Superior Court Judge
Mary Edgar, Court Reporter
Nancy Baca, Judicial Assistant-Classified
Virginia Duran, Judicial Clerk Associate
Stephen March, Collector
Kaytlin Mendoza, Judicial Assistant
Benjamin Williams, Judicial Assistant
Margaret Benny, Court Commissioner
David Emerson, Judicial Clerk Associate
Linna Guo, Programmer/Analyst - Sr/Ld
Samuel Thumma, Superior Court Judge
Diane Cervantes, Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv
Kristina Ricketts, General Laborer
Christina Auker-Smith, Juvenile Detention Officer

15 Years

Bruce Isit, Counselor
Arthur Patchen, Counselor
Judith Chanay, Adult Probation Officer
Arlyn Harris, Adult Probation Officer Supv
Jeffrey Lauer, Adult Probation Officer
Lisa Levardi, Adult Probation Officer
William Scherwenka, Adult Probation Officer
Jean Scott, Adult Probation Officer Supv
Carin Koenig, Judicial Clerk Associate
Audrey Feldman, Court Interpreter
Phillip Knox, Court Admin Gen Juris Cts
Leslie Calderon, Juvenile Detention Officer
Sean Clifford, Juvenile Detention Officer
Janifer Kohler, Juvenile Probation Officer
Francis Okoli, Surveillance Officer
Terrence Sims, Juvenile Probation Officer

10 Years

Raymond Owes II, Adult Probation Officer
Marcia Cassel, Human Resources Associate
Shawn Haught, Law Researcher
Shellie Smith, Court Commissioner
Ray Quist, Juvenile Probation Officer
Kristi West, Juvenile Probation Officer

25 Years

Michael Parham, Surveillance Officer
Donna Delia-Owen, Adult Probation Officer Supv
Nancy Leholm, Judicial Clerk Lead
Priscilla Sanchez-Campbell, Regional Court Manager

Farewell Marcus!



Marcus Reinkensmeyer with long-time staff members Kerry Vogel (left) and Lilia Linn (right).



Yvette Martinez of Juvenile Court made Marcus Reinkensmeyer two cakes for his retirement party.



Enjoying one of his many cakes!



Marcus Reinkensmeyer with his wife Anita.