

Judicial Branch News

Law Day 2015



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Cover - Commissioners Veronica Brame (left) and Phemonia Miller (right) were given apple gavels from Teen Court students.

Judicial Branch News

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

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

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Law Day 2015



Judge David Gass visits students from One.n.ten.



Commissioner Wendy Morton speaks to a group of students from Mountain View High School.

On a typical work day, Commissioners Eartha Washington, Phemonia Miller and Veronica Brame are sitting on the Bench explaining the rule of law to litigants in their courtroom.

But on Law Day, the three Commissioners, along with retired attorney Gerald Richard, were holding court at South Mountain High School.

As part of their Law Day presentation, the Commissioners engaged Teen Court students in a highly, interactive panel discussion in a packed school auditorium. They shared their stories from the Bench as well as career tips and motivational stories, encouraging students to follow their dreams.

The Commissioners were part of a larger group of Judicial Officers from Maricopa County Superior Court who visited Valley schools hoping to inspire a new generation of lawyers. This was the first year Judicial Officers from Superior Court traveled to schools for Law Day.

“We decided to reach out and engage young people. We wanted students to get a better understanding of our legal system. I was delighted with the positive response. Literally, each one in my group spoke and asked questions,” Judge David Gass, chair of the Law Day committee, said.

Judge Gass held an informative discussion with students at One.n.ten, an organization that offers community programs for youths and operates an online high school.

Some of the other presentations included:

- Commissioner Julie Ann Mata spoke to kindergarten and pre-k students at Parkway School of Excellence.
- Judge Christopher Coury and Commissioner Richard Hinz spoke to sixth and eighth grade students at St. Theresa’s Catholic School.
- Judge Patricia Starr visited a government honors class at Marcos de Niza High School.
- Commissioner Myra Harris spent the entire day at Basha High School speaking to students ranging from freshmen to seniors.
- Commissioners Miller and Brame also spoke to CJ Jorgensen Elementary School.
- Commissioner Wendy Morton spoke to a group of students at Mountain View High School.

“The more we reach out, the more confidence students can have in us and the more confidence we can have in our future,” Judge Gass said.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed May 1 to be Law Day in the United States. It’s a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that all Americans share.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Carmen Arvizu, Adult Probation Officer
Aubrey Tindle, Adult Probation Officer
Patricia Mesa, Judicial Clerk Lead
Janet Acuna, Adult Probation Officer
Kristina Rogers, Management Analyst
Dotty Reaume, Court Reporter
Denise Vaishville, Court Reporter

10 Years

Korik Anderssohn, Surveillance Officer
Kimberly Connor, Adult Probation Officer
Christine Frey, Adult Probation Officer
Julie Piontkowski, Adult Probation Officer
Aregeler Williams, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Maria Paro, Judicial Clerk Associate
Michael Kemp, Superior Court Judge
Stephen Ramsbacker, Organizational Development Manager
Jessica Dang, Juvenile Detention Officer
Charlotte Romero Sanderson, Judicial Clerk Associate
Lorenzo Candelaria, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Yvonne Mendoza, Judicial Clerk Lead

15 Years

Christian Lopez, Judicial Specialist
J Richard Gama, Superior Court Judge
Iris Ramirez, Judicial Assistant
Michelle Mayer, Adult Probation Officer
Harold Mongovan, Adult Probation Officer
Byung Kim, Warehouse/Inventory Specialist
Tiffany Grissom, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Kimberly Adair, Judicial Clerk Associate
Sandra Kaminsky, Juvenile Detention Officer
Jennifer Montgomery, Juvenile Probation Officer
Anita Samuel, Juvenile Probation Officer
Leslie Samuel, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
Stephanie Samora, Judicial Assistant
Casey Young, Court Conciliator

20 Years

Beverly Maurer, Judicial Clerk Senior
Barbara Bratina, Juvenile Probation Officer
Timothy Schouten, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Samuel Nolasco, Juvenile Probation Officer

25 Years

Brian Herlihy, Adult Probation Officer
Jeffrey Bell, Juvenile Probation Officer
Charles Adeleye, Juvenile Probation Division Manager
Jenny Flores, Juvenile Probation Officer

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

Caption Contest



E-mail the caption to Karen Arra (karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov) or Vincent Funari (funariv@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov). The winning caption will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Please send us any interesting photos you would like captioned in upcoming newsletters.

Last Month's Winner

Last month's winner is **Daniel Rodgers** of Adult Probation. Thanks to everyone who submitted a caption!

Stealing is WRONG



Judge Alfred Fenzel performing community service

This public service announcement has been brought to you by the Supply Department

CTS: Refresh Program

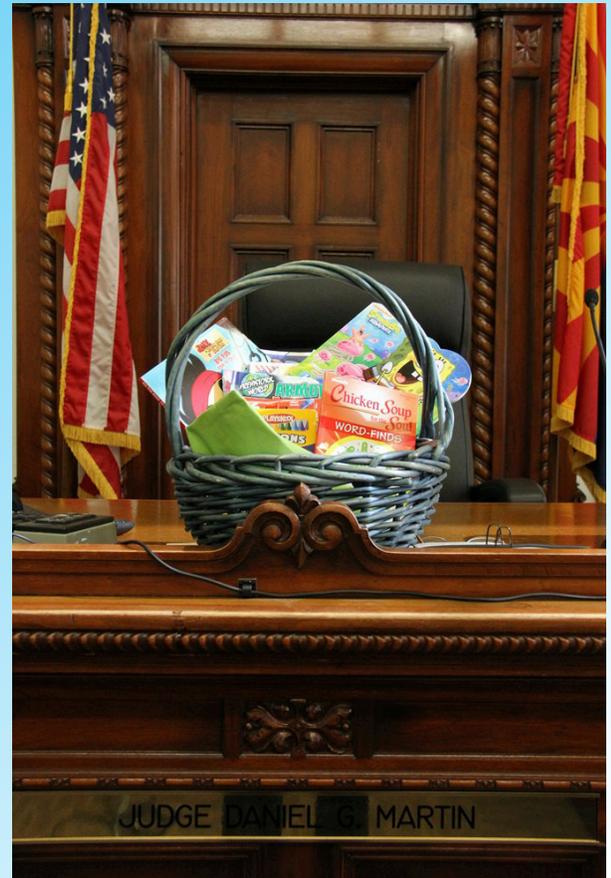
Help has arrived for replacing some of those dated computers throughout the Maricopa County Judicial Branch!

Working with the County's Office of Enterprise Technology (OET), and the county-wide desktop replacement program, Court Technology Services (CTS) will be replacing desktop computers and laptops that are five years of age or older. Beginning in early June, CTS technicians will first replace computers and laptops in the downtown complex and then move to the remaining court sites throughout the county. The project is expected to be completed in a few months and once final, more than 1,200 desktop computers and 130 laptops will be replaced.

CTS realizes that this effort may impact some departments and will do its best to work with you to avoid any inconveniences while these much needed upgrades are completed. If you have any questions or concerns or need additional information about the project, please contact CTS at 602-506-6311 or email CTSTechnicalSupport@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

By Ken Bradley and Raymond Billotte

All About the Kids



To comfort and occupy children who appear in their courtroom, Juvenile Court Judge Daniel Martin and his staff allow children to pick an item from the goodie basket in their courtroom.

Drug Court Wins Innovation Award



Representatives of Maricopa County's Drug Court team.

Maricopa County Superior Court's Drug Court won the 2015 Innovation Award from the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals and was presented with the award at the Problem Solving Court Conference in Prescott last month.

The award recognizes problem solving court teams for excellence in creating an innovative approach that brings tangible, creative benefits to drug court programs.

After a year of research, Drug Court has implemented new guidelines for incentives and sanctions used to change participant behavior.

Submitted by Cathy Wyse

The Gault Decision Revisited



Juvenile Presiding Judge Colleen McNally, Gila County Presiding Judge Peter Cahill and Administrative Office of the Courts Deputy Director Mike Baumstark discuss the presentation given on May 13 at Juvenile Court by Judge Cahill and Lisa Pferdeort regarding the Gerald Gault case. The Gault case, which started here in Arizona, set the stage for the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that changed juvenile justice in America forever. On August 6, 2014, about 50 years after the case began, Judge Peter Cahill issued a final order in the case saying “in conformity with the mandate of the United States Supreme Court and in accord with what is right and just, the June 15, 1964 Adjudication of Delinquency and Order of Commitment are hereby vacated.”

Judge Frank Moskowitz



Justice Rebecca White Berch delivers the oath of office to Judge Frank Moskowitz (left) during his investiture ceremony at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Judge Moskowitz, who was appointed to the Bench in December, presides over a Family Court calendar at the Northwest Regional Center.

Dignitaries Tour the Tower



Representatives of the judiciary from the Republic of Moldova tour criminal operations in the South Court Tower. Phoenix was their last stop after visiting courts in Maryland and Courtroom 21 at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

Submitted by Peter Kiefer

Judge Ryan-Touhill



Justice Robert Brutinel administers the oath of office to Judge Jennifer Ryan-Touhill during her investiture ceremony at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Judge Aceto Retires

Judge Mark F. Aceto submitted his letter of retirement to the Governor, effective June 30.

During the last 20 years, Judge Aceto has served in Family, Juvenile, Civil and Criminal Court. He has also served in court leadership and provided exemplary service as the Civil Presiding Judge during a time of severely restricted court budgets and large civil case filings.

“Mark has a stellar reputation as a knowledgeable, caring and consistent jurist with the respect of the entire legal community. He and I were appointed at the same time and it has been a pleasure to have him as my mentor and friend for the last 20 years,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Judge Aceto was also the recipient of the 2014 Judge of the Year Award by the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Judge Porter Retires

Judge Gerald Porter submitted his letter of retirement from the bench to the Governor, effective June 30.

After serving as the Scottsdale Justice of the Peace for two years, Judge Porter came to the Superior Court as a Court Commissioner in 2003.

During his time on the bench, Judge Porter served in the Criminal, Civil, Probate and Family Court Departments. He also currently serves in leadership as the Northeast Regional Presiding Judge.

“He consistently has displayed an ability to focus on the important dispositive issues in a case and encourage prompt and fair resolutions to cases over which he presides. Our thanks to Jerry for his contributions to the Court and our very best wishes in the next chapter of his life,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Happy Retirement!



Judges Linda and Robert Miles host a retirement party to say farewell to their friends and colleagues at Superior Court.

Judge Hicks Retires



Bethany Hicks

Judge Bethany G. Hicks submitted her retirement letter to the Governor, effective June 30.

During her many years with the Court, Judge Hicks served in the Criminal, Juvenile, Family and Civil departments of the Court. She also served in leadership as the Presiding Judge of Family Court, and she was appointed for a three-year term on the Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee.

“In addition to presiding over a large number of diverse legal matters, Judge Hicks has consistently displayed a professional and caring demeanor in all matters she handles,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said. “Beth is also known by her colleagues and coworkers as a mentor and having a perpetually positive outlook that energizes those around her. We will all miss Judge Hicks and wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.”

Commissioner Retires

Commissioner Benjamin Vatz announced his retirement, effective May 31.

Commissioner Vatz has served the Court and community for the last 14 years.

“Ben has a reputation for listening intently to all litigants, thoroughly reviewing all of the evidence, documents and arguments presented to him, and ruling consistently in accordance with legal requirements,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

He served rotations on the Initial Appearance and Not Guilty Arraignment calendars as well as Civil, Probate and Mental Health assignments. For the last five years, he has presided over a Civil calendar.

“We are grateful for his service with the Court and wish him the very best in conquering the new challenges and opportunities presented to him,” Judge Davis said.

Court Wins ACA Award

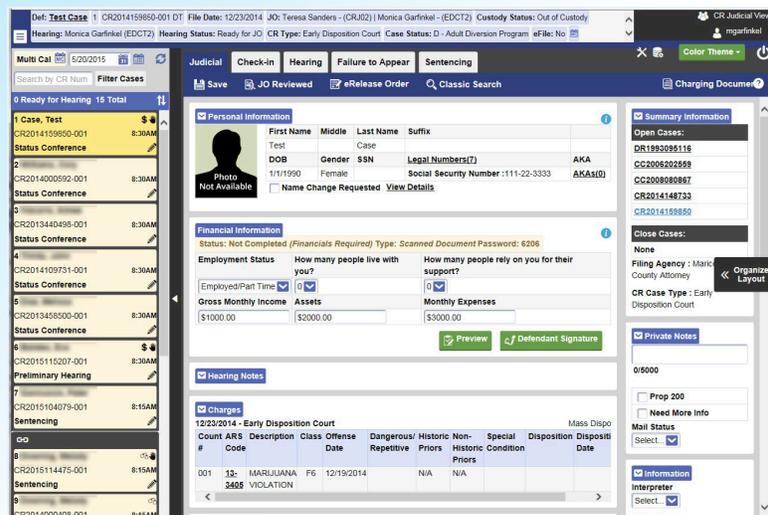


At the 2015 Arizona Court Association Spring Conference, the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County received the ACA Award of Excellence for the design, development and implementation of iCISng’s eRelease Order application. *Pictured left to right: Andrew Webster, programmer with Sogeti, Commissioner Richard Nothwehr, Johnny Tse, and ACA President Lucinda Amarillas.*

iCISng Team to Roll Out New Look

The iCISng team is very excited about the upcoming changes to the look of iCIS! After more than six months of full time work, the Court’s user interface expert has created an entirely new look for NG. These changes will give iCIS a more consistent look as we move from screen to screen as well as screens that are designed to draw your attention to the most important pieces of data. The new iCISng interface eliminates the image-heavy three-dimensional look of the past in favor of a more modern “flat” user interface design. The interface eliminates clutter and allows our users to see more information on the screen while improving the performance and responsiveness of the system. The interface is also designed to be more usable with touch displays and, possibly in the future, with mobile devices. We think that you’ll be pleased with this effort.

Starting Tuesday, May 26 through Thursday, May 28th, we will be showing off our new look in Jury Room D in the South Court Tower. Our sessions will start at noon and we will end around until 1:30 pm. Please stop by if you would like to see the new screens in advance to us rolling the changes out to production in early June.



A screen shot of iCISng’s new look.

Submitted by the iCISng Team

Copy Center Employees: Job(s) Well Done



Olga Diaz



Richard Varela



Norma Ochoa

They may not have super powers or be magical, but these three Superior Court genies have the power to grant you what you need and desire, when you need it! Ask (them) and ye shall receive!

When was the last time you went to a tailor or dry cleaner and they told you, "I steamed or pressed your clothes just a little more so that YOUR appearance can be sharp!" Or, "I upgraded you from one thing to another so YOU could perform better." Even better, and I quote, is, "I used Hammermill 24lb paper with 98 bright to make the color really stand out! It looks good!" These words are the exact words of one of our Copy Center employees who took it upon themselves to go above and beyond the call of duty to make ME look good.

I am very appreciative of these special people and cannot think of a time when any one of them hasn't come to my rescue, managed to squeeze something in for me on their already full plate or helped me meet a deadline, all the while holding a good conversation in between jobs when we're all busy. I'm sure they talk to dozens or maybe hundreds of people a day, whether in conversation or passing, but I, for one, enjoy our mini talks. They always make me feel like I have their full undivided attention. Like I matter. Like I'm a V.I.P. And this last job they did for me last week took that feeling to the next level and elevated their image, persona, and my respect for them.

So, I would ask everyone who has any kind of interaction with these great folks, Richard (Rich), Norma, and Olga, to stop and smell the roses... of paper and print jobs. Take the time to say thank you to the Copy Center Staff who handle work orders for all three court buildings and do it swiftly, expertly and professionally, without delay or hassle. I know without them, a lot of my work duties or special jobs would not be possible. Their initiative and selfless service is TRULY APPRECIATED!!!

*By Marco Garcia
Bailiff to Judge Rosa Mroz*