

Judicial Branch News

National Drug Court Month





Features

- 3 Celebrating National Drug Court Month
- 4 Juvenile Court Wins Award
- 5 DTC Graduation Ceremony
- 6 Employee Anniversaries
- 7 Judge Wins Award for Judicial Excellence
- 8 Family Court iCISng
- 9 Strategic Projects Spotlight

Judicial Branch News

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

Contributing Writers

Debbie Gilliland
 Richard Woods
 Michelle Dunivan
 Denise Bozenski
 Justine Grabowsky

Contributing Editors

Karen Arra
 Vincent Funari
 Kelly Vail
 Mary Byrnes
 Nicole Garcia
 Dennis Carpenter
 Michelle Dunivan
 Mary Vyverman



Produced by the Media Relations Department

Old Courthouse 4th Floor
 125 W. Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85003

Celebrating National Drug Court Month



During National Drug Court Month, a crowd of court employees, service providers, dignitaries and drug court participants, past and present, gathered for the Dependency Treatment Court graduation ceremony.

Government Accountability Office submitted a report to the Congress confirming Drug Courts reduce substance abuse and crime and save money. Nationally, Drug Courts return to the community up to \$27 for every \$1 invested. Drug Courts reduce crime by up to 50%, and the longest study to date shows reductions lasted an astounding 14 years. Moreover, studies show that individuals with more serious drug addiction and longer criminal records benefit the most from Drug Courts. This approach not only diverts individuals from a life of drug abuse and crime, and has proven to reduce use of jail or prison beds and family conflicts associated with domestic violence and child abuse.

Maricopa County Superior Court currently has 13 problem-solving courts that include: Drug Court, DUI Court, DUI Court for Spanish Language and Native American participants, Juvenile Transferred Offender Program (JTOP), Domestic Violence Court, Comprehensive Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, FACT Court, Accountability Court, Enforcement Court, Status Offense Court, Dependency Treatment Court, Crossover Youth Program Model and Homeless Court.

These programs keep our roads safe from drunk drivers, intervene before our youth embark on a debilitating life of drug abuse and crime, give parents the tools they need to stay clean and maintain custody of their children, and ensure our veterans receive the benefits and treatment they have earned. The cornerstone to successful problem-solving courts is collaboration between Judicial Officers, court administration, APD, treatment providers, attorney groups, and other stakeholders, the use of evidence based practices, and fidelity to the therapeutic jurisprudence model of the program being operated. Each program consists of an established target population, program eligibility criteria, progressive program phases, and uses graduated incentives and sanctions.

More than 2,900 Drug Courts nationwide celebrated National Drug Court Month in May. These problem-solving courts reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism while saving money for taxpayers.

In 1992, the first Drug Court was commenced in Arizona by former Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Susan Bolton who passed the mantle to recently retired Superior Court Judge Carey Hyatt. Today, Drug Courts have proven that a combination of accountability and compassion can not only save lives, but save valuable resources and reduce exorbitant criminal justice costs.

More research has been published on the effects of Drug Courts than virtually all other criminal justice programs combined. In 2012, the U.S.

*Submitted by Richard Woods
Deputy Court Administrator*

Juvenile Court Wins Award



Left to right: Diana Muniz, Honorable (Ret.) Carey Hyatt , Commissioner Utiki Spurling Laing, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally, Liliana “Lilly” Molina and Anna Loewen. (Not pictured Carma Umpleby)

The Maricopa County Dependency Treatment Court Team received the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals (AADCP) Annual Innovation Award on April 26th at the Problem Solving Court Conference in Prescott, AZ.

This award recognizes a problem solving court team for excellence in creating an innovative approach that brings tangible creative benefits to their program; rewarding for true excellence in innovation, and recognizing outstanding teamwork to create a program that makes a difference.

The AADCP is an organization whose members include judges, attorneys, probation officers, treatment providers, clinical staff and court administrators, all of whom work in conjunction with Problem Solving Courts across the State of Arizona.

The AADCP seeks to provide training and networking opportunities for all Arizona Problem Solving Courts.

DTC Graduation Ceremony



(Left) Carma Umpleby, Resource Coordinator for Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Centers with Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally.



During the graduation ceremony, Commissioner Utiki Spurling highlights the success of Dependency Treatment Court.

Parents who graduate from Dependency Treatment Court are one step closer to getting their kids out of foster care and reunifying their family.

During National Drug Court Month, Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Center honored the graduates for their sobriety with a celebration on May 25th at the Durango Juvenile Court Building.

“Parents who overcome substance abuse and addiction and embrace a recovery lifestyle are being celebrated at our first public graduation ceremony. These parents have demonstrated their commitment to their recovery and to their families. Their life stories are inspirational and full of hope. They couldn’t do it without the support of counselors, treatment providers, child safety specialists, dependency treatment court specialists, attorneys, judges and family members,” said Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Colleen McNally. “This is a time for the court community to celebrate their success and to express appreciation to Governor Ducey, the Department of Child Safety, the Arizona State Legislature, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Chief Justice Scott Bales, and Presiding Judge Janet Barton for supporting and prioritizing court supervised drug treatment. Drug treatment courts work!”

Research has proven that parents who achieve and maintain sobriety are more likely to reunify with their children. Since the DTC was established in 2012, about 95 percent of parents who graduate from the program are reunified with their children. On the other hand, the reunification rate for parents who don’t complete the program is 47 percent and 33 percent for those parents who are not enrolled in the program.

Dependency Treatment Court helps parents overcome their past and move forward with a sober, healthy lifestyle. The Court’s goal is for parents to be able to successfully care for their children so that the family can be reunified. The program involves frequent hearings before a judge who works to help motivate and provide accountability to parents as they work toward and maintain sobriety.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Lauren Guida, Adult Probation Officer
 Robert Pedraza, PC/LAN Technician
 Kenyatta Price, Judicial Clerk
 Anela Cejvanovic, Presentence Screener
 Wendy Morton, Court Commissioner
 Lindsey Arendt, Counselor
 Chantel Hammar, Presentence Screener
 Brisa Sanchez, Judicial Clerk Senior
 April Demarbiex, Adult Probation Officer
 Daniel Fox, Adult Probation Officer
 Nicole Mesquita, Adult Probation Officer
 Cristina Quintana, Collector
 Cole McAnly, Juvenile Detention Officer Supervisor
 Danielle Viola, Superior Court Judge
 Debra Jesse, Judicial Clerk Senior

10 Years

Jaime Delgado, Surveillance Officer
 Maria Phillips, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Nathan Pittman, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Michelle Martinez, Presentence Screener
 Maria Javier, Judicial Clerk Senior
 Joshua McKibben, Case Administrator
 Ramiro Suastegui, Adult Probation Officer
 Regina Burns, Court Recording Monitor
 Beverly Dupree, Finance/Business Analyst
 Darrel Troxel, Programmer/Analyst - Sr/Ld
 Loritza Gonzales, Judicial Clerk Senior
 Sheila Leon, Judicial Clerk Senior

15 Years

Herbert Smith, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Cari Harrison, Superior Court Judge
 Erika Blanco, Surveillance Officer
 Janice Nez, Adult Probation Officer
 Kendra Archuleta, Adult Probation Officer
 Kimberly Bennett, Adult Probation Officer
 Valerie Burrer, Adult Probation Officer
 Jade Crawford, Adult Probation Officer
 Luis Hartly, Adult Probation Officer
 Amy Hood-Schwindt, Adult Probation Officer
 Gerrick Hyde, Adult Probation Officer
 Sheila Jones, Adult Probation Officer
 Cynthia Ortiz, Adult Probation Officer
 Jodie Rogan, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Oveta Sullivan, Collector

20 Years

Jeanne Duncan, Adult Probation Officer
 Maria Milburn, Adult Probation Officer
 Robin Gastelum, Adult Probation Officer
 Adelita Nunez, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 K. Darlene Benard, Judicial Assistant

25 Years

Patricia Carey, Surveillance Officer
 Robert Demers, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Frederick Wilhalme, Adult Probation Officer

30 Years

Antoinette Salazar, Court Reporter
 Kathryn Lyman, Adult Probation Officer

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

Commissioner Wendy Morton's Artwork

On May 6th, Family Court Administration hosted an open house for Judicial Officers, administrators and staff to witness the unveiling of the artwork in the Family Court lobby on the third floor of the Central Court Building. The artwork was created and donated by Commissioner Wendy Morton. This improvement project was an idea submitted by Yesenia Ibarra to the Line Turner Committee. Paula Dieker, committee member, helped bring it to fruition.

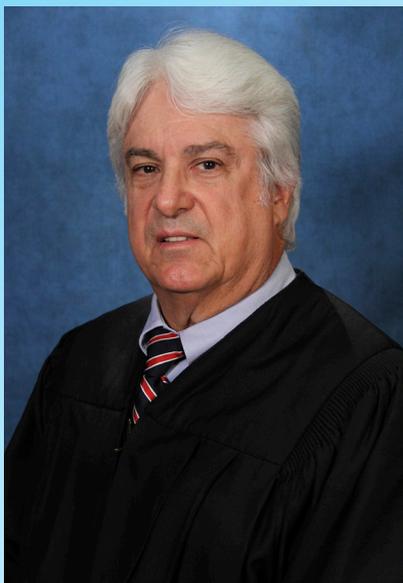


Left to right - Family Court Presiding Judge Paul McMurdie, Family Court Administrator Cheri Clark, Commissioner Wendy Morton, Paula Dieker and Yesenia Ibarra.



Commissioner Wendy Morton uses her talents to express her Arizona pride.

Judge Wins Award for Judicial Excellence



Hon. Crane McClennen

Judge Crane McClennen is the 2016 recipient of the Michael D. Ryan Award for Judicial Excellence.

He will receive the award June 8th at the Public Lawyers Section yearly meeting. Eight of the 16 winners since 2000 have been former or current judges on the Superior Court Bench.

The Justice Michael D. Ryan Award for Judicial Excellence, presented by the State Bar of Arizona's Public Lawyers Section, was established in 1999 to honor a judicial officer who demonstrates dedication and commitment to improving the justice system. Nominees are required to possess high ideals, personal character and judicial competence. In addition, nominees are further distinguished by: participation in projects focused on improving the quality of justice or the justice system; demonstrating innovation in the performance of their duties; and/or demonstrating an ability to effectively handle complex or unusual trials or appeals.

New Security Trainer



Jamison Murphy

Jamison Murphy, an employee with the Judicial Branch Security Department since July of 2015, was promoted to the position of Judicial Branch Security Trainer. Prior to his promotion, he was assigned to the Adult Probation Region where he acted as a rover, covering posts for other officers.

Before joining the Judicial Branch Security Department, Murphy served in the United States Marine Corps from 1993 to 1997. After his honorable discharge, he entered a well-diversified career in law enforcement, corrections and security in the hotel industry. Murphy offers a wealth of knowledge within the department based on his previous knowledge and experience.

Submitted by Captain Mario Martinez

CASA



CASA of Maricopa County kicked off National Child Abuse Prevention Month by partnering with Voices for CASA Children (V4CC) and the Jason Hall Team to provide information about the great work CASA volunteers do on behalf of abused and neglected children at their 2nd Annual V4CC Bike Ride. Motorcycle riders from across the county participated in the event to raise awareness about the needs of more than 13,000 children in the foster care system in Maricopa County.

Submitted by Justine Grabowsky

Family Court iCISng



Court Technology Services trains Judge Suzanne Cohen and her staff on the new Family Court iCISng application. Judge Cohen and Judge Geoffrey Fish, who will train next month, have been selected as pilot judges for the training.

New Grants Coordinator



Mary Vyverman

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County hired Mary Vyverman as the new Grants Program Coordinator. Mary brings to the position a background in court and probation-related services with her last 10 years of experience being in contract administration at the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department of Child Safety, respectively.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Creighton University and obtained her Master's Degree in Administration – Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

Strategic Projects Spotlight



The Citizen's Academy Committee and others get acquainted at the Strategic Projects Kickoff event.

Strategic Planning and Implementation doesn't sound very fun, but Judicial Branch volunteers turned that around last month at the Strategic Projects Kickoff event. More than 100 volunteers, committee chairs, judicial sponsors and court leadership gathered to start work on 21 Strategic Projects. The energy was palpable as participants from every level of the judiciary started working on priority projects.

Strategic Projects have been developed during the last 18 months through the strategic planning process, which demonstrated a needed focus in five areas: access to justice and delivery of services; procedural fairness, effective case management and efficient operations; competent and engaged workforce; branch infrastructure; and governance and accountability. Ray Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator, was quick to point out that these 21 projects are only a portion of the projects the Judicial Leadership wants to accomplish and there will be plenty more projects for next year. For now, these projects are capitalizing on the hard work of existing committees, as well as garnering excitement for new committees that have been developed to fulfill the Strategic Projects objectives. Additionally, each project has at least one judicial sponsor, demonstrating support for these projects at every level of the judiciary.

These projects are intended to support the Judicial Branch's new mission, vision and values over the next 12 months. During the kickoff meeting, Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey, a nationally recognized consultant for strategic planning, emphasized the caliber of projects the Judicial Branch is tackling this year, as well as the unparalleled participation. This combination of high expectations and widespread support position these teams for excellence.

Chairs and participants alike were inspired by the events of the Strategic kickoff meeting. Tamara Ogden, participating on the Citizen's Academy project commented: "I was very excited to get to meet my strategic projects team! It is a great feeling to see so many people committed to improving the court community for everyone." Mirroring Ogden's sentiments, Citizen's Academy Chair Dennis Carpenter stated, "I was really surprised to see the huge turnout of Judicial Branch employees volunteering to serve on the different committees. That kind of employee engagement is great to see, and will really make a difference in achieving our strategic goals."

Continued on page 10

MISSION:

"The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County is dedicated to providing a safe, fair and impartial forum for resolving disputes, enhancing access to our services, and providing innovative, evidence based programs that improve the safety of our community and ensure the public's trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch."

VISION:

"The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County is committed to excellence and the principles inherent in the rule of law every person, every day, every time."

VALUES:

- Fairness
- Respect
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Safety

Strategic Projects Spotlight - Continued



First Project: Hire a Security Director

One objective under the branch infrastructure strategic focus area is to “Assess and continuously improve the safety and security at judicial branch locations.” With the hiring of Sean Gibbs as Security Director, the first project has been accomplished! The Strategic Project Chair responsible for completion of this project, Phil Knox explains:

Judicial Branch employees have repeatedly commented in satisfaction surveys that having a safe and secure work environment is important to their well-being. The Branch’s 2016 Strategic Projects responds to this by establishing goals and objectives addressing the safety needs of our employees and of those who visit our buildings every day. These efforts include continuously improving safety and security and enhancing emergency preparedness. Much of this focus starts with leadership and the leadership knowledge in the topics of: disaster/emergency planning, active shooter protocols, and building safety audits. The search for that leadership was accomplished with the recent hiring of a talented Security Director, Sean Gibbs.

With 22 years of experience in the United States Air Force, Mr. Gibbs is committed to those goals and more:

As I become familiar with the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the Judicial Branch, I’m extremely excited to have an opportunity to contribute to the overall success of the 2016 Strategic Plan. The Security Department plays a critical role ensuring there’s a safe environment across our community which contributes to public trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch of Arizona.

My initial goals for the Judicial Branch Security Department are to prepare an elite, effective security force through comprehensive and collaborative training, employ state-of-the-art technologies, and build enduring partnerships with all our security counterparts across the state. In addition, develop a strategic plan to ensure we’re aligned with the 2016 Judicial Branch Strategic Projects.

I look forward to the challenges ahead knowing that the amazing professionals of the Security Department are ready to exceed those challenges.

Mr. Gibbs is even preparing a new motto for the Security team: “Secure, Protect, and Deter through pursuit of excellence and exceptional customer service.”

The first accomplished Strategic Project sets a high bar for the remaining 20 projects. Check in next month to see how the Employee Reward and Recognition and Bilingual Pay Strategic Projects are progressing and meeting the high standards for which Judicial Branch employees are known.



The Signage Committee begins work on the team charter at the Strategic Projects Kickoff event.

Submitted by Michelle Dunivan