Court Hosts Human Trafficking Summit

Left to Right - Commissioner Steven Lynch, Judge Alison Bachus, Cindy McCain and Juvenile Department Presiding Judge Colleen McNally.

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On May 5th, the Superior Court in Maricopa County Juvenile Department sponsored a two-day summit to discuss the causes and effects of human trafficking. The purpose of the summit was to develop action plans for coordinated responses between the Juvenile Court, law enforcement, service providers, stakeholders, and the community.

“We know that children in our community have been commercially exploited by adult sex traffickers,” explained Presiding Juvenile Department Judge Colleen McNally. “We see kids in both the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system that need us to improve our responses to the trauma that they have suffered and to use our resources to help guide them to a healthy future. Our community now has awareness and knowledge of the problem. We want this summit to help move us forward to a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of survivors and to help prevent children from being harmed in the future,” Judge McNally said.

Guest speaker Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman facilitated the two day event. Suamhirs is a survivor who has used his experience, professional knowledge and in-depth understanding of this topic to become a nationally renowned anti–trafficking advocate. He travels the country advocating for youth and teaching others how to create a relationship of trust and open communication with children who have been abused and traumatized. Suamhirs has helped jurisdictions around the country develop specialty courts and coordinated responses for this population. He and other anti-trafficking experts talked about creating rapport, imparting trust, and empowering youth to focus on their inner strengths as a way to move forward and become self-sufficient, productive adults.

“I was thrilled at how successful our first-ever Trafficking Summit was. The stakeholders were engaged and enthusiastic, and I hope the Summit serves as the catalyst for increased engagement by our court and community in this important area. I look forward to continuing the important work that began at the Summit,” Judge Alison Bachus said.

The panel discussion featured: Cindy McCain, McCain Institute for International Leadership; Kristen Bracy, ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research; Det. Christi Decoufle, Phoenix Police Department; Savannah Sanders, Sojourner Center; and Leah Rodgers, author and survivor advocate.

“I felt like the Summit was very successful in bringing together a wide array of public agencies, law enforcement and service providers to create individualized action plans as part of a unified approach to battle domestic child sex trafficking in Maricopa County,” Commissioner Steven Lynch said.
Q-and-A: Hon. Jennifer Green

What do you like the most about your current assignment?
Helping children. We are lucky to see children doing really well in unfortunate circumstances in which it would be hard for anyone to succeed. This is always heartwarming.

What advice would you give a new lawyer?
Learn the rules of procedure and follow them. Find a way to help the judge arrive at the right answer. Take reasonable positions and acknowledge when you don’t know the answer to something. Phoenix is a big city, but we have a small legal community - be professional, courteous, ethical, and always maintain your integrity.

What do you think has changed the most in the legal profession since you attended law school?
Technology. Who would’ve thought even 25 years ago that every judge and court employee would have a computer in court and back at their desks?

What is your favorite thing to do when you are not working?
My husband and I are having a blast coaching our son’s t-ball team. One t-baller wears “eye black” like the pros and gets irritated when other kids dig in the dirt. I like him.

What piece of advice would you give your 20 year-old self?
Savor every moment of undergrad because it’s a special time. Take more naps. Enjoy your time with friends. Keep working hard and the rest works itself out.

If you weren’t a judge what would you be?
Either a food critic (except I don’t like bell peppers and onions), a Today Show host, or one of those millennial “Escape the Room” monitors. They must see the funniest things.

Law Day 2017

Former Phoenix Police Captain Carroll Cooley describes the 1963 arrest of Ernesto Miranda to a group of college students who assembled in the Old Courthouse for Law Day.

Foreign Judge Tour

A group of judges from Kazakhstan visited Superior Court. The group toured the Downtown court facilities and participated in a question and answer session with Court leadership.
Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Ginger Gould, Payroll Representative
Melissa Martinez, Help Desk Coordinator - Sr/Ld
Seth Harris, Judicial Clerk Lead
Eric Meaux, Juvenile Court Director
Debra Olsson, Judicial Clerk Associate
Jaren Kirkendoll, Bailiff - Classified
Steven Lee, Judicial Branch Security Sergeant
Russell Merkley, Judicial Branch Security Officer
Kimberly Carroll, Mental Health Director

10 Years

Margaret Benny, Court Commissioner
David Emerson, Judicial Clerk Associate
Linna Guo, Programmer/Analyst - Sr/Ld
Andrea Romano, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Christina Auker-Smith, Juvenile Detention Officer
Carol Dainton, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Nancy Baca, Judicial Assistant - Classified
Benjamin Williams, Judicial Staff Trainer/Coordinator
William Brotherton Jr, Superior Court Judge
Jessica Bradley-Hernandez, Adult Probation Officer
Gary Burgett, Adult Surveillance Officer
Ellen Opitz, Trainer
Diane Cervantes, Juvenile Surveillance Officer

15 Years

Ray Quist, Juvenile Probation Officer
Kristi West, Juvenile Probation Officer
Ray Owes, Adult Probation Officer
Shellie Smith, Court Commissioner
Shawn Haught, Senior Law Researcher

20 Years

Terrence Sims, Juvenile Detention Officer
Judith Chanay, Adult Probation Officer
Arlyn Harris, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Jeff Lauer, Adult Probation Officer
Lisa Levardi, Adult Probation Officer
Jean Scott, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Sean Clifford, Juvenile Detention Officer
Jennifer Kohler, Juvenile Probation Officer
Francis Okoli, Juvenile Surveillance Officer
Leslie Calderon, Juvenile Detention Officer

30 Years

Annette Campbell, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Nancy Leholm, Judicial Clerk Lead
Donna Delia, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Michael Parham, Adult Surveillance Officer

31 Years

Antoinette Salazar, Court Reporter

*Information provided by the Human Resources Department*
Strategic Plan Celebration

On May 5, volunteers in the Judicial Branch’s Strategic Focus Area Projects were recognized and appreciated for their hard work and accomplishments. Projects were chosen through the strategic planning process, based on results from the 2014 Employee Satisfaction Survey. Volunteers were recruited from across Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, and Superior Court. All 21 projects made significant progress, and many are complete.

Judge Adam Driggs Investiture

Photo highlights from Judge Adam Driggs’ investiture ceremony. Before his appointment to the Bench, Judge Driggs served in the Arizona House of Representatives as well as the Arizona State Senate.

Left - Judge Driggs is robed by his wife, Justice of the Peace Leonore Driggs.

Right - Chief Justice Scott Bales of the Arizona Supreme Court delivers the oath of office to Judge Driggs.
Two Long-Time Court Employees Retire

Hugh Gallagher and Karen Arra have submitted their letters of retirement, effective June 2.

Hugh started in 1989 as an Administrator in Probate/Mental Health and Arizona Tax Court. He later became a Deputy Court Administrator involved in Court Security, Jury Services, Interpreter Office, and where most of us know him, leading the Court Facilities Department. He worked on building the regional court centers and several justice court facilities, remodeling the East Court Building, and developing the court master space plan. We are certain to see Hugh each year at the St. Patrick’s Day breakfast event.

Karen was hired in 1989 as a Public Information Officer and became the Media Relations Director in 2010. Under her direction, the Superior Court in Maricopa County was among the first trial courts in the nation to use social media and is second only to the US Supreme Court in Twitter followers. Karen has handled countless local, national, and international media and public records requests.

Presiding Judge Janet Barton presented Hugh Gallagher and Karen Arra certificates for their years of dedicated service.