

Judicial Branch News

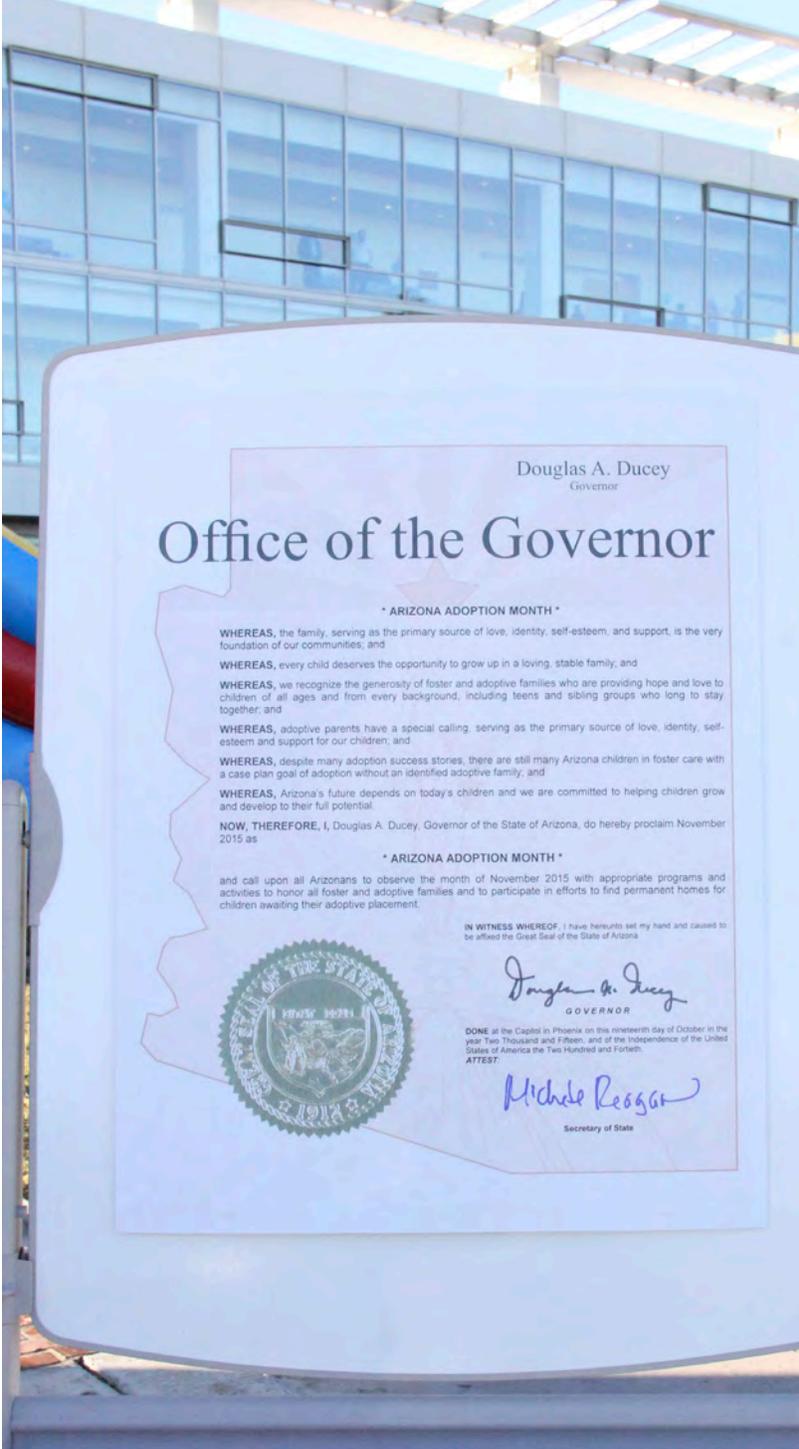
Governor Kicks Off National Adoption Day



November 2015

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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:
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Produced by the Media Relations Department

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Change

I have been to various conferences lately that all seemed to address, in one way or another, the topic of change and the need to embrace change. So, I thought it only fitting to write an article for our newsletter about “change.”

The need to embrace change has been expressed by various persons in various ways. Quotes used at the conferences I recently attended include:

“[P]oliticians – and judges for that matter – should be wary of the assumption that the future will be little more than an extension of things as they are.” - Jeffrey Rose, Roberts v. The Future, NY Times, Aug. 28, 2005.

“You cannot expect to achieve new goals or move beyond your present circumstances unless you are willing to change.” - Les Brown

“Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change.” - Henry S. Commager

Our Judicial Branch has a well-earned national reputation as a Branch of excellence and innovation. One of the reasons we have that reputation is because the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County has historically embraced, rather than resisted, change. We are constantly looking for ways to be more effective and more efficient, or as Wayne Gretzky has said, to “. . . skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been.”

It is our desire for excellence and innovation and our willingness to acknowledge the future, rather than remain mired in the past, that led to the: (1) adoption of evidence-based practices by the Judicial Branch; (2) use of e-warrants; (3) creation of iCISng; (4) revamping of our Law Library and Self-Service Center; (5) implementation of the master calendar in criminal; (6) Cradle to Crayons program in juvenile; and (7) use of mediations in probate, just to name a few.

Significantly, many of the changes adopted by this court and subsequently recognized nationally, were the brainchild of a single person. In other words, it is the individuals that work for and in the Judicial Branch who suggest, develop and implement the change that earns this Branch its national accolades. Although we have thus far done an excellent job in embracing change, we can't rest on our laurels or assume that “change” is someone else's job. So I encourage each of you to embrace change as part of your job -- think outside the box, invent a better mousetrap, strive to come up with ways we can better serve users of the Judicial Branch, whether they be probationers, represented litigants, self-represented litigants, victims, attorneys, or our own employees. For those of you somewhat resistant to change, feel free to start slow by perhaps throwing away your Dictaphone (yes I know some of you still use them) and using *Dragon Speak Naturally* software instead (or better yet, learn how to type!!) Let go of your desire to do things the way you've always done it and follow evidence-based practices and release recommendations whenever and wherever possible. In short, whether you embrace change or resist it, challenge yourself to identify ways you can work more effectively and efficiently and then effectuate that change.

I was going to end with something along the lines of “Change, try it, you'll like it.” However, I knew that some of you would be quick to point out that “try it, you'll like it” is from an Alka Seltzer ad where the gentleman who followed that advice ended up with severe indigestion. So, I decided to end with these phrases instead:

“Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.” - Dwight D. Eisenhower

“When you are through changing, you are through.” -Bruce Barton (no relation)

“The only difference between a rut and a grave is their dimensions.” - Ellen Glasgow

I can't wait to hear your ideas for change.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Benjamin Beckhart, Adult Probation Officer
 Kylie Mollet, Adult Probation Officer
 Paul Munoz, Juvenile Detention Officer
 David Szymanski, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Duncan Tilley, Juvenile Detention Officer Supv
 Nathan Weems, Juvenile Detention Officer Supv
 Merrilee Powell, Registered Nurse
 Paul Carolan, Accountant
 Christina Coria, Adult Probation Officer
 Gabriel Penunuri, Adult Probation Officer
 Bianca Sanchez, Judicial Clerk Senior

10 Years

Brady Hammer, Surveillance Officer
 Maria Korb, Court Interpreter
 Jerry Xu, Programmer/Analyst - Sr/Ld
 Maria Maldonado, General Laborer
 Sandra Feijoo-Negron, Court Interpreter
 Sandra Mena, Judicial Staff Trainer/Coordinator

15 Years

Barbara Broderick, Chief Adult Probation Officer
 Maria Reynolds, Adult Probation Officer
 Heather McFarland, Judicial Specialist
 Gabriel Velasco, Adult Probation Officer
 Kasuma Gossett, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Richard Napoli, Web Designer/Developer

20 Years

Jenifer Meiley, Adult Probation Division Manager
 Rona Easterday, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Jessica Doney, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Daniele Grasser, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Curtis McConnell, Accountant
 Peter Reinstein, Superior Court Judge

25 Years

Margarita Dominguez, Adult Probation Officer
 Tracy Medrano, Adult Probation Officer
 Karen Arra, Media Relations Director

30 Years

Derrick Knott, Adult Probation Officer

33 Years

Cathy Santos, Management Analyst

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

APD Officer Recognized



Fred Wilhalme with Supervisor Jessica Ethington

David's Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing incarceration and promoting treatment for individuals with mental illness and addictions, recently honored Adult Probation Officer Fred Wilhalme with a 2015 Crisis Response Officer of Distinction Award. Officer Wilhalme supervises a specialized caseload of probationers with serious mental illness.

Submitted by Cathy Wyse

Marsha Eritano Retires



Family, friends and coworkers from Superior Court Finance and Juvenile Probation Departments gathered to celebrate Marsha Eritano's retirement after 13 years of service. She will be missed for her wonderful work ethic, lightheartedness and awesome sugarless cakes.

Civil Judges Help Resolve Juvenile Cases

On January 4, 2016, civil judges will begin hearing juvenile court severance trials to help expedite and provide children a permanent solution to their cases.

The number of dependency and severance cases filed in the juvenile court has increased dramatically in recent years. From 2010 to 2015, dependency filings have increased by 83 percent and, in the same time frame, the number of juveniles under the court's jurisdiction for dependency has increased 105 percent.

Presiding Judge Janet Barton said, "The goal of the Superior Court is to conduct the trials in these cases when they are ready for trial, so as to ensure that permanency occurs for the children and their families as soon as possible. Ensuring the safety of these children is our number one priority."

On a rotation basis, 19 civil judges will each block one week to hear severance trials at the Downtown Complex and the Southeast and Northeast facilities. Initially, the trials will be held only in the afternoons but will hopefully expand to all day trials in the not too distant future.

"In the last five years, the dependency filings and subsequent severance proceedings have doubled. The juvenile bench has been working hard to keep up and adapt to the workload, but we simply don't have enough court time to hold severance trials in a timely manner. We really appreciate Judge Barton for making this a priority for the bench. We are grateful to the civil judges for providing additional court time to resolve the legal decisions necessary for kids to have permanent and stable homes," Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Colleen McNally said.

This program came about as a result of a collaborative effort on the part of Superior Court Judges, Commissioners, Court Administration, Clerk of the Court and several agencies including leadership from the Attorney General's office, Office of Legal Defender, Office of Public Advocate, Office of Legal Advocate and Office of Public Defense Services.

Judicial Engagement Conclave

Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Colleen McNally, Judicial Branch Administrator Ray Billotte and Juvenile Court Administrator Sheila Tickle attended the 2015 Judicial Engagement Conclave in Seattle, Washington on October 28-30.

The conference, sponsored by the Casey Family Program Foundation, was convened to help strengthen the national judicial community by providing an opportunity for court teams to meet and exchange results and define areas for future implementation and intra-state expansion.

Plenary and breakout sessions focused on using data and measuring success, the need for leadership across jurisdictional boundaries, integrated goal setting, obstacles to permanency and many other substantive issues facing courts and child welfare agencies. Judge McNally and Arizona Department of Child Safety Director Greg McKay co-presented a segment on "Shared Leadership and Collaboration." Judge McNally and Director McKay shared their experiences and thoughts on leading child welfare system transformation in partnership between the Judicial Branch and the child welfare system.

"The forum provided a terrific opportunity to focus on methods to improve our local dependency system," noted Ray Billotte. "I am confident that the momentum gained at the conference will carry over into our local planning efforts ultimately increasing our ability to provide safe, caring and permanent homes for the children in our dependency system."

In addition to Maricopa County, court and child welfare leaders from Michigan, Colorado, Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Texas and Wisconsin, as well as tribal court leaders from California and Michigan participated in the two-day conference.

Interpreter Certification



Monica Licea-Castro, a staff Spanish interpreter with CITS since 2014, has been granted certification by the Administrative Office of United States Courts, generally seen as the highest-level professional credential in the field.

Swearing-in Ceremonies

Photo highlights of Commissioners Nicolas Hoskins, Kevin Wein and Paula Williams' swearing-in ceremonies. The event took place on October 26 in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.



Commissioner Nicolas Hoskins

New Probate Commissioner



Commissioner Aryeh Schwartz began his Probate Court assignment on November 2 in the Old Courthouse.

Commissioner Schwartz, who has approximately 17 years of private practice experience, has worked as an attorney at Schwartz Law Firm, PLLC; Cheifetz Iannitelli Marcolini, PC; Engelman Berger, PC and Wilenchik & Bartness, PC.

Comm. Aryeh Schwartz

He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the Arizona State University College of Law in 1997, and his Bachelor of Arts, *Cum Laude*, from the University of Arizona Honors College in 1994.



Commissioner Kevin Wein



Commissioner Paula Williams

General Counsel Hired



Dennis Carpenter

Dennis Carpenter was recently appointed as the Court's Senior Counsel. Dennis is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. For the last 14 years, Dennis has worked at either the Maricopa County Attorney's Office or the Arizona Office of the Attorney General. As a Deputy County Attorney in the Civil Division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Dennis represented and defended Maricopa County in both state and federal courts in a variety of litigation, including prisoner rights, constitutional claims, medical malpractice claims, election litigation,

and personal injury lawsuits. He also represented and provided legal advice to the County Board of Supervisors, County Hospital, and Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management.

During his years at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Dennis worked initially as legal counsel to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, then as an Assistant Attorney General for the Employment Law Section, and most recently as the Chief Counsel of the Employment Law Section. As a result of his work in and leadership of the Employment Law Section, Dennis has worked with and represented over 100 state agencies, including the Superior Courts in this State, on a myriad of legal issues. Prior to his state of Arizona employment, he served five years of active duty as an Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG) Officer.

In his position with the Court, Dennis will oversee the various attorneys who presently work for the court and the Public Information Office. In addition, Dennis will serve as the Court's legal counsel and be part of the Court's Executive Leadership Team. Dennis will be located on the 4th Floor of the Old Courthouse.

Veterans Day Celebration



The Maricopa County Honor Guard posts the colors at the 2015 Maricopa County Veterans Day Ceremony at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

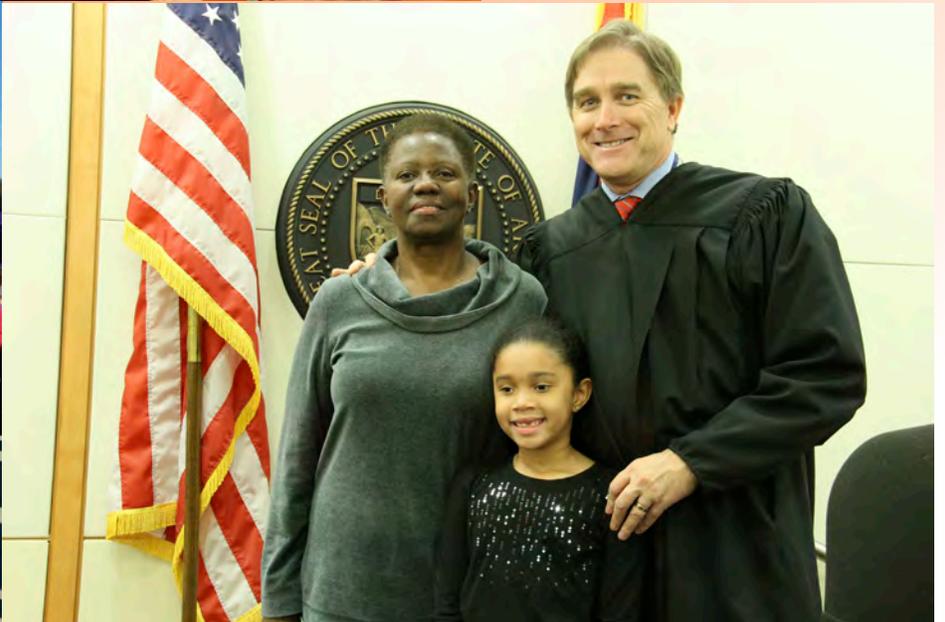
Above and Beyond



Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented Presiding Judge Janet Barton with the Above and Beyond Award. The award was presented to Superior Court for their outstanding service and continuing support to National Defense.

National Adoption Day 2015

On Saturday, November 21, two hundred and eighty children were adopted on National Adoption Day at Juvenile Court, Durango.



Investiture Ceremonies



Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales delivers the oath of office to Judge Theodore Campagnolo at his investiture ceremony.



Arizona Supreme Court Justice Ann Scott Timmer delivers the oath of office to Judge Joshua Rogers during his investiture ceremony.

JPD Kitchen Grand Opening



Juvenile Probation invited Judges, administrators and court staff to celebrate the opening of its new kitchen.

Caption Contest



Photo: An "ash tray" created by probationers to keep the grounds of Adult Probation in Mesa clean.

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.

30 Year Employee Service Awards

Maricopa County held a service award ceremony on October 28. Seven Judicial Branch employees were honored for 30 years of service. Not pictured - Ruth McNally, Craig Gildersleeve, Commissioner Lisa Roberts and Cindy Butler (35 years.)



Dennis Williams



John Wertsching



Faith Sawyer



Meri Romero



Tara Kramer



Kate Hansen

New Judge Q-and-A: Kerstin LeMaire



Hon. Kerstin LeMaire

Q. What has surprised you the most about making the transition from commissioner to judge? Please explain.

Nothing has surprised me in particular, but I was sincerely impressed and humbled at how dedicated everyone was to making the transition smooth. From the court facilities team who orchestrated the physical move; to CTS who coordinated the technology move; to the judicial staff from both the probate and civil departments; everyone has been extraordinarily kind and generous.

Q. Who has been the biggest inspiration in your legal career?

Alicia Franco and Estella Desarden, two amazing paralegals with Community Legal Services in Yuma, Arizona, who have dedicated their lives to ensuring equal access to justice for all have been a long standing inspiration for me professionally and personally. In addition to the services they themselves provide to the public, they have also trained a slew of staff attorneys, myself included, in the finer points of case development, client management, community outreach and effective advocacy.

Q. What's your favorite quote? (This can be something one of your children said to you, what you said to them, a line from poetry or something you wish you hadn't said).

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear – not absence of fear."
- Mark Twain

Q. If you had a day to spend with anyone (living or dead, real or fictional), who would it be and what would you do?

I would love another day with my godfather and uncle, Dr. Roger LeMaire, who passed away in 1999 at the far too young age of 63. He always knew when I needed a word of encouragement or a pat on the back. I would love to be able to share with him my successes and hear his perspective on my children, my career, and my life in general.

Q. What songs are currently in your playlist?

It is an eclectic mix from The Clash to Mumford & Sons. Right now I am listening to Mark Knopfler and Emmylou Harris' "All the Roadrunning."

Commissioner Wins Award



Commissioner Wendy Morton was awarded the Judicial Officer of the Year from the Arizona Family Support Council for her tireless work in collecting delinquent child support during the past five years in Enforcement Court and Accountability Court.

Court Hires Interpreters



Presiding Judge Janet Barton swears-in Grant Wietzel as a court interpreter. Wietzel has worked as a medical interpreter and translator for the Phoenix Children's Hospital. He is certified as a Spanish/English interpreter for the state of California.



Ana Stine, who was sworn-in by Presiding Judge Janet Barton, worked as a private Spanish/English interpreter and translator in the Phoenix area, including contract work for Superior Court's Interpreting and Translation Services.



Recruitment Judge Pro Tempore

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County is seeking qualified applicants for **Judges Pro Tempore in Superior Court**

For the appointment term
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Visit our website to apply on-line:
www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov

**Applications will be accepted from
January 4, 2016 to February 5, 2016**

For questions:
Patricia Schuler
(602) 372-2559

JPTprogram@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov

A Judge Pro Tempore serves on a volunteer, pro bono basis and must meet the following qualifications:

- Not less than 30 years of age
- Of good moral character
- Admitted to the practice of law in this state for not less than five years preceding his or her appointment

Judge Pro Tempore candidates are appointed by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court subject to the approval of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

NOTE: If you are currently a Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore, YOU NEED TO REAPPLY

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