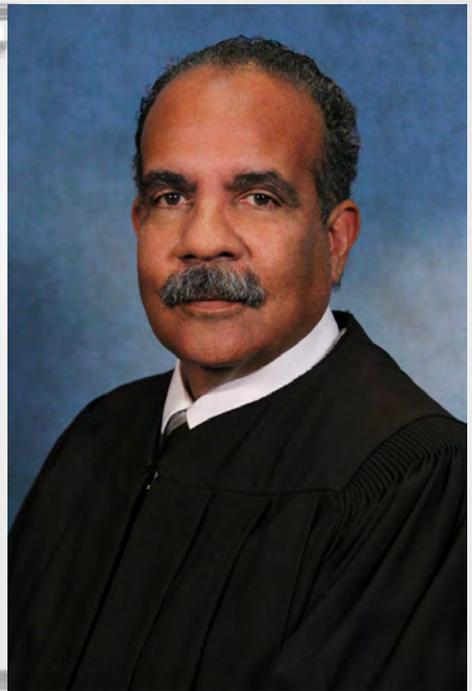
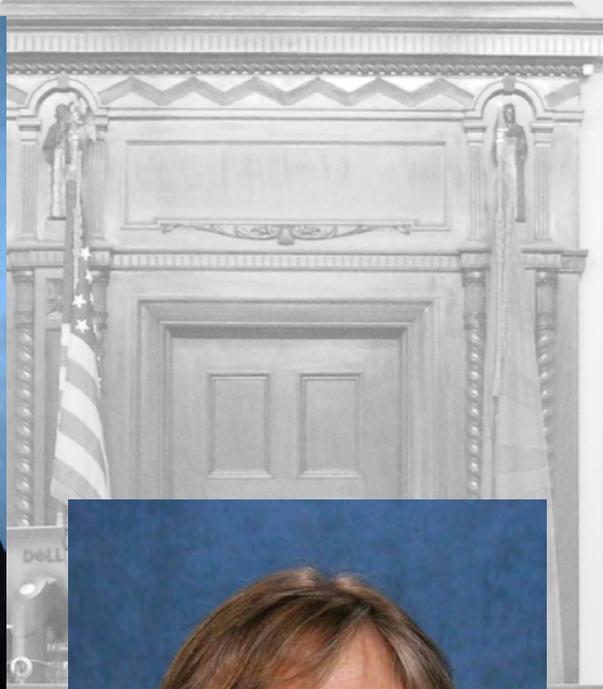


# Judicial Branch News

## Governor Appoints Five Judges





## Features

- 3 Governor Appoints Five Judges
- 4 Employee Anniversaries
- 5 New Judge Q-and-A
- 6 Judge Klein Wins Award
- 7 Juvenile Probation Department Opens Kitchen

**Cover** - Photos of the recently appointed Judicial Officers.

**Top** - (left to right) - Judge Alison Bachus and Judge Roy Charles Whitehead

**Bottom** - (left to right) - Judge Greg Como and Judge Howard Sukenic

**Middle** - Judge Kerstin LeMaire

## 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](mailto:karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov).

### Contributing Writers

Raymond Billotte  
Debbie Gilliland  
Todd Herrera-Ridenhour

### Contributing Editors

Karen Arra  
Vincent Funari  
Kelly Vail  
Mary Byrnes  
Nicole Garcia



Produced by the Media Relations Department

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

# Governor Appoints Five New Judges

Governor Doug Ducey appointed Alison Bachus, Greg Como, Kerstin LeMaire, Howard Sukenic and Roy Charles Whitehead to the Maricopa County Superior Court Bench.

Judge Bachus served as senior counsel for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Previously, she worked as an assistant U.S. attorney, clerked for Chief Judge Stephen McNamee of the U.S. District Court of Arizona and counseled veterans at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Judge Bachus has served as a lawyer-representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and as vice-president for the Ninth Circuit of the Federal Bar Association.

She graduated from the University of Illinois in 1999 and received her law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law in 2005.

Judge Bachus will preside over a Juvenile calendar at Durango.

Judge Como has been a partner at the law firm Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith since 2005. Previously, he practiced at Lewis and Roca for 15 years, specializing in the areas of complex insurance coverage and bad faith litigation.

Judge Como obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education, magna cum laude, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1986. He graduated from Arizona State University College of Law, magna cum laude, in 1990.

He will be assigned to a Criminal calendar in Downtown Phoenix.

Judge LeMaire served as a Commissioner for the Maricopa County Superior Court in the Probate/Mental Health and Family Court divisions since 2013. Previously, she practiced at her own firm, LeMaire and Kennedy, in the areas of juvenile law and civil litigation. She also served as the Chief Judge for Cocopah Tribal Court.

Judge LeMaire obtained a Bachelor of Arts in German Literature and Language from Tufts University in 1990 and graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1993.

She will be assigned to a Civil calendar in Downtown Phoenix.

Judge Sukenic was an assistant U.S. attorney who worked in the Financial Crimes and Public Integrity Section, where he prosecuted cases involving fraudulent investment schemes, money laundering, taxation violations, and public corruption. He was formerly chief of the Southwest Border Section and chief of the Financial Crimes and Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office. He was also a prosecutor for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for 13 years.

Judge Sukenic graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Arizona State University in 1984 and received his law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1987.

He will be assigned to a Family Court calendar in Downtown Phoenix.

Judge Whitehead is a native Arizonan. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Management Information Systems major from the University of Arizona in 1982. In 1994, he received his law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law.

Judge Whitehead was a criminal defense attorney who has practiced at his own firm, the Law Office of RC Whitehead, since 2011. Previously, he worked at the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office. He also served as a Judge Pro Tempore for the Maricopa County Superior Court and the Tempe Municipal Court.

He will preside over a Family Court calendar at the Northeast Regional Court Center.

## Employee Anniversaries

### 5 Years

Stephanie Chaparro, Adult Probation Officer  
 Katrina Coon, Judicial Assistant  
 Ramon Grijalva, Bailiff  
 Ivana Budimirovic, Adult Probation Officer  
 Lorena Perez, Collector  
 Alisa Bryant, Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Jolene McCutchan, Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Monserrat Vejar, Judicial Assistant - Classified  
 Michelle French, Bailiff

### 10 Years

Mary Garcia, Registered Nurse  
 Veronica Burgos, Judicial Clerk  
 Kristy Marshall, Judicial Clerk Senior  
 John Hannah, Superior Court Judge  
 Jessica Ethington, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor  
 James Hearn, Adult Probation Officer  
 Tanja Josipovic, Adult Probation Officer  
 Brandi Moncovich, Adult Probation Officer  
 Jo Rourke, Adult Probation Officer  
 Megan Wiehn, Adult Probation Officer  
 Anthony Vaughn, Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Paul McMurdie, Superior Court Judge  
 Shauna Moore, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Matthew West, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Katrina Green, Judicial Assistant  
 Michael Gordon, Superior Court Judge  
 Michael Sweeney, Court Security Deputy Marshal  
 Andrea Newman, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor

### 15 Years

Jesse Andrews, Adult Probation Officer  
 Debra Bedolla, Adult Probation Officer  
 Shana Edmundson, Adult Probation Officer  
 Linda Marlowe, Adult Probation Officer  
 Manuel Martinez, Adult Probation Officer  
 Krista Piepenburg, Adult Probation Officer  
 Richard Rama, Adult Probation Officer  
 Amy Sarvela, Adult Probation Officer  
 Kendra Trobaugh, Adult Probation Officer  
 Colleen French, Court Commissioner  
 Chris Holly, Applications Development Manager  
 Donna Swistek, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Ralph Estrada, Courier  
 Joy Skaggs, Juvenile Detention Officer Supervisor  
 Raven Smith, Juvenile Detention Officer

## Employee Anniversaries

### 20 Years

Tracee Frick, Adult Probation Division Manager  
 James Frost, Adult Probation Officer  
 Stacey Lanenga, Adult Probation Officer  
 Laura Thomas, Adult Probation Officer  
 Kelli Reed, Adult Probation Officer  
 Saul Schoon, Deputy Chief Adult Probation Officer  
 Dawn Berg, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor  
 Gilbert Mendoza, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Ronald Rhynard, Juvenile Detention Officer  
 Sandee Spielberg, Court Conciliator  
 Chad Lehman, Juvenile Probation Officer

### 25 Years

John Burton, Juvenile Probation Officer  
 Olga Diaz, Office Assistant

### 31 Years

Jose Arenas, Juvenile Detention Officer

### 37 Years

Peter Anderson, Finance Manager

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

## eSentencing



Criminal Presiding Judge Sam Myers using eSentencing in iCISng. All judicial officers assigned to the Criminal Department will use eSentencing by the end of 2015. eSentencing has numerous advantages including the elimination of redundant data entry, immediate access to information and a reduction in the use of paper for Judicial Divisions, Court Administration, Adult Probation, Clerk of Court and our Justice Partners.

*Submitted by Todd Herrera-Ridenhour*

# New Judge Q-and-A: Judge Ronee Korbin Steiner



Hon. Ronee Korbin Steiner

**Q. What has surprised you the most about making the transition from private practice to judge?**

I wish I could say something obvious like how heavy motion practice is or how emotional people are in the courtroom. Having practiced in family law most of my career, I had expected that. However, the experience is making those things much more manageable. I suppose I am not so much surprised as I am happily in recognition of the amazing collegiality and support from other judges and staff. Everyone is immensely eager to help, offering guidance and even template rulings. It's an amazing group of professionals who work in this county. I saw it before from another angle. Now I know it from behind the bench.

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

I had no lawyers in my family. I looked up to a few law school professors and particularly the current Dean of my law school, who was a professor at the time. She inspired me to be the best lawyer I could be. My constitutional law professor also taught me how passionate you could be for a client.

**Q. What's your favorite quote?**

"A person who feels appreciated will always do more than what is expected." I have no idea who said it but I think about that all of the time and think it applies so significantly to the family law arena.

**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?**

This without question has to be a tie. My dad died 4 years ago and my mother died 4 months later. One of the hardest things for me in most recent times is not being able to share news of my appointment with them.

**Q. What songs are currently in your playlist?**

I have the most diverse playlist. You will find Broadway show tunes, current pop songs including Pitbull and Lady Gaga, classic rock (I have 5 older siblings, in addition to my twin, so I was exposed to a lot of classic rock), classical (having been trained classically in voice) and without question 80's tunes. I am a big Journey fan.

# Judge Andrew Klein Receives National Honor



**Hon. Andrew Klein**

Probate Court Presiding Judge Andrew Klein is now a member of a distinguished group of legal professionals.

On October 14, he joined the likes of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Arizona Supreme Court Justice Ann Timmer and renowned Professor James Casner of Harvard Law School as a recipient of the William W. Treat Award from the National College of Probate Judges.

"I'm honored to receive this type of national recognition for our Court," Judge Klein said. "This award is a reflection on our entire department and the excellent work that our Commissioners, administrators and staff do to make the department run so efficiently and effectively."

Judge Klein was honored for making a difference in the community through the implementation of a highly successful arbitration and mediation program. Under his leadership, the Probate Department is starting to change the culture of Probate Court, and attorneys are looking to mediate cases earlier than ever before.

"The early resolution of Probate cases through mediation saves significantly on litigation fees and costs, and keeps more money in estates and trusts for those who need it," Judge Klein said. "Early resolution also acts as a catalyst to repair fractured family relationships."

The award will be presented at the NCPJ 2015 Fall Conference, November 11-14, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Established in 1978, the Treat Award is presented annually to one who has made "a significant contribution to the improvement of the law or judicial administration in probate or related fields." The award is named in honor of Judge William W. Treat, founder and President Emeritus of the National College of Probate Judges.

Judge Klein was appointed to the Bench in 2001. He has presided over many calendars, including Juvenile, Criminal, Civil, Family and Probate Court.

## Marshals Graduation



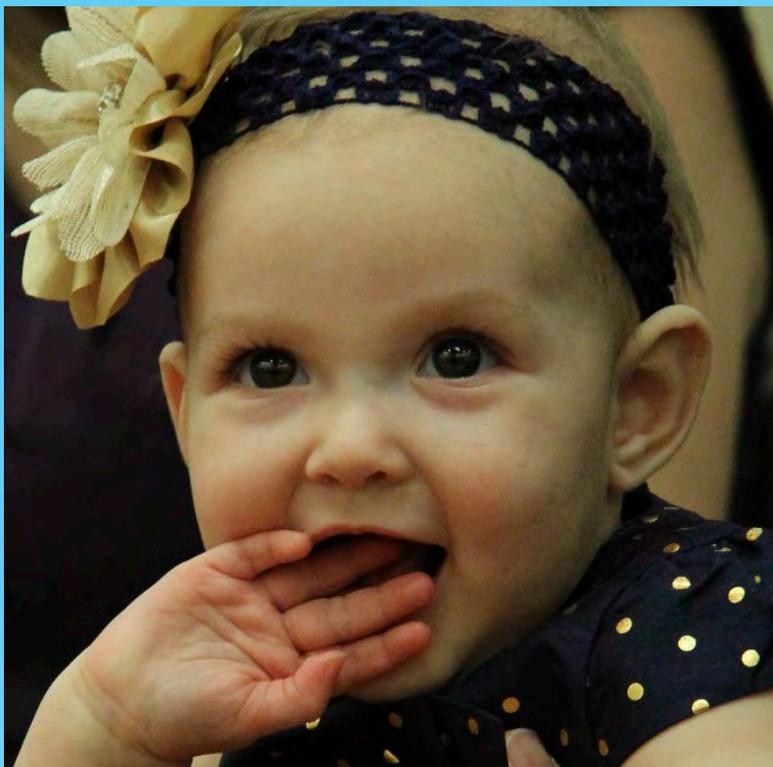
*Superior Court welcomes a new class of Deputy Marshals.*

## Investiture Ceremony



Arizona Supreme Court Justice Robert Brutinel delivers the oath office to Judge Dewain D. Fox (left).

## NAD: Save the Date



National Adoption Day is on Saturday, November 21st at the Durango Juvenile Court building in Phoenix from 9:00 am to 2:30pm.

## Caption Contest Winner

Last month's winner is **Virginia Sanchez** from Moon Valley Justice Court. Thanks to everyone who submitted a caption!



*Do you think they will notice I forgot to shave this morning?*

## JPD's New Kitchen is Open

On September 28, Juvenile Detention Food Services kitchen staff prepared its first meals for staff and youth at the Southeast Regional Facility and Durango.

The new menu consists of nutritious and tasty options for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

According to detention officers, the kids love the new menu. Officers have said there is less waste in the trays and kids are getting through their meal times faster because the food is delicious. As a result, the kids return to school and recreational activities on time and in a good mood.

Studies have shown that good, regular dietary habits are one way to ensure optimal mental and behavioral performance. In contrast, children and adolescents with poor nutritional status are exposed to alterations of mental and/or behavioral functions.

Thank you to all staff who have worked so hard to bring this to fruition. It is with great pleasure that we offer a sincere thank you and congratulations on the new program.

*Submitted by JPD Deputy Chief Michaela Heslin*

## Tower Cafe



On October 5, the South Court Tower opened Frullati Café & Bakery, featuring gourmet sandwiches and grilled paninis. The menu is very similar to Paradise Bakery or Panera.