

Judicial Branch News

Arizona Supreme Court Appoints Hon. Janet Barton as New Presiding Judge



Hon. Janet Barton

The Arizona Supreme Court has appointed the Honorable Janet Barton to a three-year term as Presiding Judge for the Superior Court in Maricopa County. She will begin serving as Presiding Judge on July 1, 2015. In the interim, she will be working alongside Presiding Judge Norman Davis to ensure a smooth transition in July.

“Judge Barton is the right person to lead Arizona’s busiest trial court, which also is one of the nation’s highest volume courts. She brings leadership experience from her service in the family, civil, criminal, and juvenile court divisions. She also has served on several statewide court committees, including the recently formed Access to Justice Commission,” Chief Justice Scott Bales said.

Presiding judges in Arizona take on extra duties and serve as the chief executive officer of the county courts, overseeing all aspects of court business. The Presiding Judge oversees case assignments and the court calendar and monitors performance of the courts to ensure that cases are processed in a timely manner.

“I am flattered and humbled by the confidence the Arizona Supreme Court has in me and the encouragement I have received from my colleagues on the bench,” Judge Barton said. “I look forward to working with the court’s many partners to maintain and promote our county court system’s national reputation of excellence and innovation.”

Judge Barton was nominated to the Superior Court in Maricopa County in 2000 by former Governor Jane Dee Hull. She first served as a juvenile court judge before serving rotations on the civil, criminal, and family court benches. She was in private practice with the firm Snell & Wilmer and had served as a Judge Pro Tem before being selected to serve as a superior court judge.

Judge Barton is active in the county, state and national bar associations and has served her community on a number of important committees and non-profit organizations including: the Arizona Tax Research Association’s Board of Directors; the Superior Court’s Jury Advisory Committee; the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce’s City Budget Task Force; Arizona Town Hall and Soroptimist International.

“I am flattered and humbled by the confidence the Arizona Supreme Court has in me and the encouragement I have received from my colleagues on the bench. My appointment as the Presiding Judge for the Maricopa County Superior Court is the greatest honor of my judicial career.”



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Judicial Branch News

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Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Rodrigo Arce, Adult Probation Officer
 Julia Vigil, Court Commissioner
 John Wistuber, CASA Coordinator
 Yolanda Escalante, Judicial Clerk Senior
 Alysson Abe, Court Commissioner
 Christine Grubb, Psychologist

10 Years

Jeanice McEwan, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Charles Lopez, Administrative Assistant
 Joshua Larsen, Juvenile Detention Officer
 Richard Harris, Court Recording Monitor
 Curtis Morgan, Conference Officer
 Robert Peck, Court Security Deputy Marshal Sergeant
 Christopher Pina, Security Officer II
 Jason Pina, Security Officer II
 Edward Soward, Trades Generalist
 Justine Grabowsky, Program Coordinator
 Pamela Bryant, Judicial Financial Clerk
 Ana Avila, Judicial Assistant
 Vivian Reagan, Office Assistant Specialized
 Valerie Valenzuela, Judicial Assistant
 Sherry Hampton, Judicial Clerk Senior

15 Years

Connie Delgado, Surveillance Officer
 Julie Nolasco, Judicial Clerk Senior
 Karen Lara, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Lynda Goode, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Robert Binder, Judicial Clerk Associate
 Patrick Gorman, Adult Probation Officer
 Susan Thomas, Judicial Clerk Supervisor
 Sarah Dorantes, Case Administrator
 Jessica Bracamonte, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
 Paula Carrillo-Colvin, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Maria Garcia, Surveillance Officer
 Amber Montanaro, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Gina Draper, Adult Probation Officer
 Beth Garrow, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Lolita Lewis, Adult Probation Division Manager
 Mark Pivonka, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Scott Skoropys, Adult Probation Officer
 Pedro Corrales, Juvenile Probation Officer
 Dawn Crawford, Administrative Assistant
 Vincent De Armond, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Angela Hopkins, Adult Probation Officer
 Antonio Mendoza, Adult Probation Officer
 Billy Jordan, Juvenile Detention Officer

Employee Anniversaries

20 Years

Maria Ribera, Collector
 Patricia Murray, Judicial Financial Clerk
 Linda Lopez, Court Reporter

25 Years

Michele Albo, Adult Probation Officer
 Connie Koch, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 John Tennant, Adult Probation Officer
 Linda Waletzko, Adult Probation Officer
 Sandra Mason, Office Assistant Specialized
 Karen Bolton, Court Reporter

30 Years

Ginger Hopper, Quality Assurance Analyst

35 Years

Herbert Quezada, Juvenile Probation Officer

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

Northwest Presiding Judge



Hon. Kathleen Mead

Judge Kathleen Mead was named the Northwest Regional Presiding Judge, replacing Judge Eileen Willett, who was appointed as a Federal Magistrate. Judge Mead remains in her current calendar assignment.

“I appreciate her willingness to serve in this leadership capacity, and I know she will be effective in this new role,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Prior to becoming a Judge, she served as a Court Commissioner.

As a Commissioner, she handled initial criminal appearances and felony matters including: preliminary hearings, bond review and restitution hearings, and she adjudicated as many as 60 sentences per week. She also was an integral part of the team that launched the Maricopa County Search Warrant Center, a centralized court that reviews and issues search warrants for law enforcement.

2014 NACo Achievement Awards

In 2014, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County was selected as recipients of five awards from the National Association of Counties.

To recognize the creativity and imagination of counties, NACo presents a number of awards each year to county officials, their employees and the counties themselves. Below are summaries of Judicial Branch programs that won awards:

Probate Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Mediation Program Expanded



The Maricopa County Superior Court's Probate Department re-engineered both judicial procedures and administrative processes to enhance its oversight of the financial, mental and physical welfare of wards. Improvements to financial monitoring was accomplished using differentiated case management practices and implementing accounting protocols to identify those cases appropriate for alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The Court's objective, with expansion of the existing ADR services, is to expeditiously identify complex cases, exercise court control over them and settle those cases.

Electronic Search Warrant Application: eWarrant and eReturn



The Court developed a new innovative technology in response to the growing number of search warrants issued each year. The new application provides law enforcement with a quick and efficient way to secure a search warrant for a blood draw on a person suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In August 2012, the Superior Court and the City of Phoenix Police Department launched eWarrant, which allows police officers with specialized training to request a search warrant for a blood draw or the bodily fluids of a person suspected of driving under the influence. The request is made from a police officer's laptop with the eWarrant application and the Court's iCISng database system. The database is monitored by judicial officers in our 24/7 (365 days a year) Search Warrant Center located in the Initial Appearance Court. The same process is used to complete the eReturn.

Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Centers



The mission of the Maricopa County Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Center (C2C) is the removal of barriers for the purpose of integrated service delivery and expedited permanency for infants, young children and their families. This project directly addresses the co-occurrence of child maltreatment, substance abuse, domestic violence and parental mental illness with the implementation of a comprehensive approach enabling courts to address the complex needs of abused and neglected infants and toddlers. C2C has increased the number and rate of permanency decisions for children under three years of age. C2C also reduced dependency overall, through a greater rate of returning children to their original home as compared to dependency cases in other courts. This is accomplished through the services and assistance C2C provides to parents through this unique court and community partnership.

Field Re-Assessment Offender Screening Tool Refresher Training Program



Research has demonstrated the use of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) as an effective tool in reducing recidivism and creating safer communities. To sustain and enhance the ongoing implementation of EBP, and assessment of offender risk and needs, the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department (MCAPD) developed an automated assessment training program; not only meets, but exceeds, statewide requirements. Most importantly, it allows for enhanced quality assurance measures to ensure the accuracy and consistency in scoring the assessments. It provides effective methods to assess and monitor staff skills, creates opportunities for personalized skill enhancement via secondary classroom sessions and availability of mentors for staff identified as needing additional assistance.

Adult Probation: Empathy and Understanding



As an agency, the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department (MCAPD) strives to create a more positive and productive work environment by building relationships within the organization and by improving management's empathy and understanding of the problems faced by staff. Empathy and understanding directly impact staff morale and motivation, improving staff's willingness to approach their duties with enthusiasm and to perform at higher levels. This translates into better relationships with probationers, treatment providers, and other stakeholders. In turn, all of these factors influence the ability of probationers to positively change behavior, which increases the safety of our community.

CTS Servers Arrive



Tom Mosely and Craig Gildersleeve with a shipment of servers for Court Technology Services.

Enhancing Family Court Training



The Family Court Comprehensive Training Resource Team has been busy improving communication and identifying training needs and opportunities for its internal and external customers. The group has been coordinating Family Court Judge Pro Tem, Family Court Rotation and Refresher trainings. Soon, they will be producing a video introducing court processes to litigants. *Photo (Left to Right) Jamie Carr, Ricky McKaig, Adis Bosnic, Carol Lynn Fox, Cristina Chavez and Karma, Customer Service Canine Ambassador.*

Submitted by Adis Bosnic

Court Security Appointments

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed Jessy Summers as the new Director of Judicial Branch Security.

Summers has been with the Court Security Department since 2006, serving in a number of capacities including supervisor, manager and assistant director. Most recently, he was Acting Director of the department since December 2013. Prior to joining the Judicial Branch, he was an officer in the Marine Corps; served as a police officer in Kansas City, Missouri and worked in the airlines industry.

“Please join me in congratulating Jessy on his appointment and in wishing him great success in providing important security services for the Judicial Branch,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

Gary Bridget was appointed as Deputy Security Director over Administrative Services. In this role, he will be responsible for the Human Resource functions of the Security Department, policies and procedures and emergency management.

“With Gary’s experience in HR and administrative services, we are confident that he will only improve upon the outstanding service and top-notch security that the Court Security Department provides,” Judge Davis said.

Judge Selected as U.S. Magistrate

Judge Eileen Willett has been appointed to serve as a United State Magistrate Judge for the District of Arizona.

Judge Willett has had an exemplary career as a trial court judge, serving in all major departments of the Court during the last 16 years.

During her tenure, she served as the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court for three years, and handled a mixed calendar of civil, probate and family court cases as well as serving as the Northwest Presiding Judge.

“We will all miss Eileen’s clear intellect, positive demeanor, and enthusiastic disposition as she moves on to new challenges on the federal bench,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.



Adoption Day Volunteers Needed

Maricopa National Adoption Day, a non-profit entity, is seeking volunteers for the 2014 National Adoption Day event. The event will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at the Durango Juvenile Court building in Phoenix. Full-day volunteers are needed. A full day means 9 a.m. to approximately 2:30 p.m. with a break during that time. Please go to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup> and enter nadvolunteer@gmail.com to find open slots to volunteer. If you have any questions about volunteering, you can also email: nadvolunteer@gmail.com.



Adoption Unit Staff: Kristina Rogers, Cami Conzoner, Anne Parello, and Cecilia Kidd

Juvenile Court Adoption Unit

Streamlining the Adoption Process

Navigating the adoption process can sometimes be daunting and time consuming.

Recognizing the need to simplify adoptions and provide the best possible customer service to adoptive parents and community partners, the Maricopa County Superior Court created the Juvenile Court Adoption Unit.

“The Juvenile Court recognizes that the best way to improve outcomes for children is to provide them with safe, loving permanent homes. When birth parents are unable to provide this for their children and generous people come forward offering to provide a forever home, this new relationship must be established in Court,” Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Colleen McNally said. “We want to do our very best to ensure that all the protections of the law are provided for these families, while making the process as efficient and easily accessible as possible.”

Some of the new procedures include enhanced processing and tracking of the necessary criminal history and background checks; improved document management systems and specialized training of staff to answer adoption-related inquiries.

“My thanks go to Judge McNally, the Juvenile Judges and Commissioners, and Juvenile Court Administration for their efforts to establish the Adoptions Unit and to standardize, streamline and simplify the adoption certification process for the public and users of the court system,” Presiding Judge Norman Davis said.

The Adoption Unit is located at the Southeast Juvenile Courthouse in Mesa and the Durango Juvenile Courthouse in Phoenix.