

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT OF
PRESIDING JUDGE FOR THE CRIMINAL
DEPARTMENT

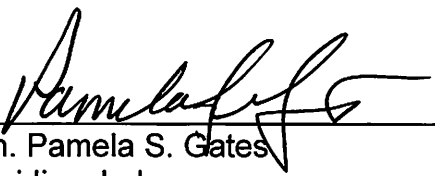
} ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2026-079

Rule 92 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 2017-79 authorize the Presiding Judge to make judicial assignments. Additionally, Maricopa County Superior Court Local Rule 1.2 authorizes the Presiding Judge to select Department Presiding Judges

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED appointing the Honorable William Wingard as the Presiding Judge for the Criminal Department, effective June 19, 2026, to manage the day-to-day operations and provide administrative oversight over all cases and judges assigned to the Criminal Department, direct initial and continuing training for the Criminal Department, and conduct regular departmental meetings. In addition, the Criminal Department Presiding Judge shall serve as the representative of the Superior Court in Maricopa County on any statutory or non-statutory committees related to the Criminal Department as appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED this Administrative Order replaces Administrative Order No. 2022-071 on its effective date of June 19, 2026.

Dated this 17 day of July, 2026.



Hon. Pamela S. Gates
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer, Chief Justice, Arizona Supreme Court
Superior Court Judges and Commissioners
Nany Rodriguez, Acting Clerk of the Superior Court
Kris Mayes, Attorney General
Rachel Mitchell, County Attorney
Rosemarie Pena-Lynch, Office of Public Defense Services
Lina Garcia, Public Defender
Michael Jones, Legal Defender
Steve Koestner, Legal Advocate
Shannon Burns, Public Advocate
Raymond L. Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Michael Cimino, Chief Adult Probation Officer
Bob James, Deputy Court Administrator
Nicole Garcia, Criminal Department Administrator